



Impacts of TIMSS 2007 on Policy Making in IRAN

Islamic Republic of IRAN
Ministry of Education
Research Institute for
Education
(RIE)



Background of Participation in IEA's International Studies

- From 1991, Islamic Republic of Iran has joined the IEA as a member state, to both evaluate and promote its education system.
- Since then, Iran has participated in five TIMSS studies in 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007 and TIMSS Adv. of 2008, as well as two PIRLS studies of 2001 and 2006.
- Islamic Republic of Iran has succeeded to receive the Special Award of IEA for the exceptional performance in PIRLS 2006, Eighth PIRLS 2006 NRC meeting, Canada, June 2007.
- Islamic Republic of Iran, has been also recognized as one of the three best performing countries from among 56, in terms of Quality of translation and / or adaptations, Fifth TIMSS 2007 NRC meeting, Latvia, August 2006.
- Iran has also planned to participate in TIMSS and PIRLS 2011.



Most Important National Findings of TIMSS 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007

Increasing and Decreasing Trends in Mathematics and Science

Iranian Students' average scale score in Mathematics and Science, compared with International averages in TIMSS 1995,1999, 2003 and 2007

Lesson/Grade	Iran's average scale score in TIMSS 1995	Iran's average scale score in TIMSS 1999	Iran's average scale score in TIMSS 2003	Iran's average scale score in TIMSS 2007	1995 to 2007
	International average	International average	International average	International average	Difference
Mathematics 4 th Grade	$\frac{387}{520}$		$\frac{389}{495}$	$\frac{402}{500}$	+15
Science 4 th Grade	$\frac{380}{501}$		$\frac{414}{489}$	$\frac{436}{500}$	+56
Mathematics 8 th Grade	$\frac{418}{519}$	$\frac{422}{487}$	$\frac{411}{467}$	$\frac{403}{500}$	-15
Science 8 th Grade	$\frac{463}{516}$	$\frac{448}{488}$	$\frac{453}{474}$	$\frac{459}{500}$	-4

- Iranian students' performance in TIMSS 2007, has generally revealed an increasing trend, compared with previous studies.
- Iranian students' performance in science of grade 4th has been improved by 56 scores between 1995 to 2007.
- Iranian students' performance in science of grade 8th has decreased by 4 scores between 1999 to 2007, but it is not statistically significant.
- Iranian students' performance in mathematics of grade 4th has been improved by 15 scores between 1995 to 2007.
- Iranian students' performance in mathematics of grade 8th has revealed a decreasing trend (15 scores) between 1995 to 2007.

New Important Measures to tie TIMSS and PIRLS Studies to the Educational system of Iran in Recent Years

Most important step in utilizing TIMSS results in educational system of Iran has been approval of a Decree in Higher Council of Education in March 2009, and its verification by the President. This Decree is considered as a milestone in continuation of TIMSS and PIRLS studies in Iran.

- Taking lengthy and laborious measures to ratify a decree in Higher Council of Education on the necessity and justification of Iran's participation in national, regional and international educational evaluation studies and application of their results in the country's education system.
- Establishment of the National, Regional and International Studies Committee to undertake both complementary and secondary analyses on TIMSS and PIRLS international studies, as well as continuous national educational assessments.
- **Successful attainment to the approval of the Decree on Iran's Participation in National, Regional and International Educational Evaluation Studies and Application of Results in the Education System, by the Higher Council of Education.**
- **The Decree has also been signed and authenticated by the President of Islamic Republic of Iran.**

- Following the approval of the Decree, the regulation of its executive committee on Iran's Participation in National, Regional and International Educational Evaluation Studies was also prepared, and was undersigned by the Minister of Education.
- According to this regulation, head of the Research Institute for Education, as the chair of executive committee, three deputy ministers, general director of the Bureau for Scientific and International Cooperation, Iran's NRC for the TIMSS and PIRLS studies, and three faculty members proficient in international studies will form nine members of the committee. Secretariat of the committee will be also based in the Research Institute for Education.

- Dissemination of reports on TIMSS 2007 findings, especially at decision makers and program developers' levels, and making effort to enhance their cooperation to meet goals of the study. These reports has ended to decision for revising mathematics and science education curricula.
- Establishing a national center for educational assessment.
- Publishing the TIMSS 2007 and PIRLS 2006 results as a Research Special Issue, in order to strengthen dissemination and utilization of national and international findings.
- Establishment of the Secretariat for Utilization of Results at the Ministerial level and preparing its policy and detailed agenda within the three short term, medium term and long term plans.
- Informing universities, research institutes and researchers about the TIMSS and PIRLS results to persuade them to undertake complementary and applied research on these studies.

- Providing supervisory and financial support for students' dissertations at graduate level, with topics related to TIMSS and PIRLS.
- Developing standard indexes related to the goals of Perspective Paper of Iran in the year of 1404 (2025).
- Compiling and publishing series of articles, interviews, viewpoints and analyses on TIMSS and PIRLS national results and dissemination of these series both throughout the schools and through the decision makers at the Ministry level for utilization of applied points and specialized comments.
- Foundation of the Coordination and Supervising Council on TIMSS and PIRLS international studies to lay the ground for utilization and generalization of the studies results.
- Foundation of the Task Group on Improving Students Performance in TIMSS and PIRLS 2011.

Developments in Curriculum Policy

- Dissemination of released test instruments in the line level (teachers), and encourage them to use these test items.
- Fortifying school-based co-operations in implementation activities of the study.
- Providing special resources and budget for development of classroom teachers' knowledge and skills.
- Preparing an in-service training program for elementary and lower secondary (guidance) school teachers, based on the TIMSS test instruments.
- Paving the way to administer national examination tests based on TIMSS findings.
- Identifying the high performance schools in TIMSS 2007 as well as reasons related to their success, in order to introduce them as exemplary schools that could be replicated by other schools.

- Presenting TIMSS findings in the Research National Day Seminar, to inform researchers and educational administrators.
- Publishing series of TIMSS released items, along with percentage of Iranian students' correct answers to disseminate and apply new teaching methods and simulate standard test items in Iranian schools.
- Holding different meetings with curriculum development groups to reflect results of TIMSS in order to implement changes in curricula, structures and methods.
- Preparing a list of research subjects related to utilization of TIMSS results to be generally announced for interested and qualified researchers in the area of educational research.
- Adopting research project on analysis of science curriculum from elementary to lower secondary education, as a joint project with the science curriculum development group.