



# Reports

# Edu-peg



Education Through Action

# Botswana 1<sup>st</sup> Term 2011



**let's make  
learning  
fun!**

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# Botswana



## Education Through Action

### Botswana

January to April 2011

#### STATISTICS

Number of schools	9
Number of pupils	4 958
Numbers of teachers and principals	152

Jason continues to be a welcome and valued external educationalist at all of the schools and projects in our Botswana cluster. His attitude, manner and sensitivity towards the teachers, who now regard him as a colleague, has ensured that he is always warmly welcomed into the class.

The school year commenced this year, with the cleaning of classrooms and moving of school furniture to accommodate the pupils in their new classes. As per the Botswana re-deployment system, there were once again staff changes evident, and new teachers to introduce to our Edupeg project.

Jason initially tidied and re-organized the central storage areas at the schools and made appointments to visit various classes. The teachers are very open and honest with Jason and often ask for advice and support with teaching certain concepts, not related to Edupeg.

This year Jason has been able, to date, to focus more specifically on Edupeg activities, and how these can

be utilized to develop the understanding and proficiency of the pupils, with respect to certain aspects, both mathematical and linguistic. Many of the teachers remain very focussed and concerned about covering the syllabus, as it is set out in the text books provided.

In all classes, from Standard 1 upwards, all teaching is "Talk and Chalk" and "Question and Answer" based. Many teachers continue to have the sense that a long and detailed explanation is required of themselves and which must dominate the input of the learners and must be of maximum time within the allocated period. With each class comprised of children with varying abilities, as well as varying learning styles (auditory, tactile, visual, etc.), a single teaching approach is far from ideal. With the lesson time dominated by the educator, there is very limited time for the children to participate and practice what they have been taught. Additionally, the teachers usually rely heavily on the brighter learners to answer the posed questions. This approach gives a false impression with respect to how much knowledge and information is understood, and by whom. The brighter children's ability frequently masks the weaknesses of their less competent peers. These latter pupils become increasingly withdrawn from classroom procedures and tend to revert to copying. Their very limited understanding of multiple concepts erodes their confidence and self esteem. Their non-participation in classroom activities also diminishes and stunts their communication skills, as they so seldom verbalize their thoughts. Creativity is also impacted upon, and creative thought as well as reasoning, is stifled. These issues obviously negatively impact





on the children when they are faced with examination/ assessment tasks and they are constrained by their lack of practice and resulting limited ability.

Jason has introduced Edupeg activities to many classes in our schools. Our goal during the second term will be to create situations where the children will tackle similar, related, yet differentiated activities, which will enable the brighter children to forge ahead and the less able pupils to revise and consolidate their learning.

Jason's impact and influence at Bana Ba Letsatsi has resulted in a warm bond being developed between the children at this project, and Jason. He plays marbles and football with them, as well as assisting them with homework, in addition to his weekly Edupeg intervention sessions.

The young British volunteer at Bana Ba Metsi relies a lot on Jason's input, and this young man has blossomed under Jason's tutelage. This outstanding project continues to be very well run, under the guidance of Steve Haupt.

I have invested a small amount of money in some additional educational and perceptual games for use in the Foundation Phase. It would be wonderful if we could find a co-donor to purchase such items for our schools as, when Jason leaves for the day, our games unfortunately go with him.

Unfortunately, a death in our family precluded me from fulfilling my planned visit this term but I will travel to Botswana to assist Jason in mid April.



We will obviously continue our work with these schools and projects.

### Principal Comments

- I am very grateful to have the Edupeg programme, and especially to have Jason Knott as the facilitator. He has been very supportive of Bana Ba Metsi School. Jason has been assisting us for several years now. He is very dedicated to his job and has helped me greatly.  
(S. Harpt - Bana Ba Metsi School)
- I am very thankful for the assistance that is provided to the school by Mr J. Knott, who always assists classes with the Edupeg materials.  
(Radisente Pekenene - Botswelole Primary)
- I really commend Mr Knott's efforts in his visits in this school. He is so committed and enthusiastic in the delivery of the subject matter, more especially in Maths.  
(Mr M.A.W. Masoja - Etsha 13 Primary)
- The Edupeg programme is very educational and the puzzles are useful in Maths as they open the children's minds in dealing with maths.  
(L. Modisaemang - Gxhabara Primary)
- Edupeg is a very important project for our pupils. The tutor for this is very kind and keen. He is willing to help our pupils in many ways. Pupils do understand much when he teaches them. He really helps a lot, especially in the upper classes.  
(Connie G. Modimoosi - Moremi Primary)
- I, Mrs Gopolang, on behalf of the school head, appreciate the lessons Mr Knott teaches in our school. He is doing a great job and we expect him to continue with this help. You are always welcome sir.  
(pp Mrs Mokobela - Nxamasere Primary)



**“Good timber does not grow with ease. The stronger the wind the stronger the trees.”**

J Willard Marriott

### Teacher Comments

- Mr Knott comes to this school, to help me with the remedial Maths class on Tuesday afternoons, and also the first lesson on a Wednesday morning. It is very useful and he is helping the boys and myself progress through the course. (Stewart Thompson - Bana Ba Metsi School)
- Pupils were enjoying and participating well in the lesson. (Miss Mokgotetse - Botswelero Primary)
- It was a good lesson as pupils enjoyed the presentation on animals. (Mrs Manja - Botswelero Primary)
- The materials are very educational and interesting for pupils. (Miss Maramotsana - Botswelero Primary)
- This Edupeg programme is very useful. It has helped my pupils a lot. Even the slow learners enjoyed the lesson. I wish that it can continue because it assists our pupils a lot. Mr Knott is very helpful to us. (Mr Moswetsi - Botswelero Primary)
- More materials should be supplied as they assist a lot in teaching children with difficulties. (Ms Balapile - Botswelero Primary)
- Edupeg materials are very useful as they help to re-inforce concepts learnt by pupils. I enjoyed Mr Knott's lesson on addition, calculated mentally. (Mr Moekejo - Botswelero Primary)
- This is an excellent programme, and I suggest that Mr Knott should continue with it. He is a co-operative person. (Mr S. Maoto - Boyei Primary)
- The kids enjoyed the lesson. This was observed during and after the lesson. The teacher worked well with the pupils. He taught me something on how to talk to the small pupils when teaching them English. (Mrs S.O. Mwenya - Boyei Primary)
- Edupeg is very enjoyable materials. My students who are deaf are benefitting from the pictures used because they are visual learners. (Miss Agnes - Boyei Primary)
- All the materials are very good for younger learners. They are motivating. Learners become actively involved. (Miss Karesaza - Boyei Primary)
- Mr Knott taught the Standard Five pupils (my class) using Edupeg and I was very happy for that. (Miss Pabelelo - Etsha 13 Primary)
- Edupeg proves to be the very best remedy for learners because it is so easy to comprehend as the materials are concrete and easy to use. (Mr Mosime - Etsha 13 Primary)
- The lesson was good and the equipment motivates the pupils. It was also fun while learning was in process. (Miss Gabautlwane - Etsha 13 Primary)
- Edupeg is good material and very educational for teaching maths. (Mrs Jamieson - Gxhabara Primary)
- The lesson fully involved pupils participation, through discussion and workings out. The pupils really enjoyed it and understood the content because the exercise I gave them afterwards was done well. (Mr Matshameko - Gxhabara Primary)
- Edupeg offers very helpful lesson. Maybe you should think of increasing the number of lessons taught in a term. (Miss Masheto - Gxhabara Primary)
- Edupeg is a very good programme for the kids. It is very educational. What I have observed is that, during the lessons pupils are fully involved, i.e. they participate well and also do it with a lot of interest. Edupeg is doing great. (Miss Chonga - Gxhabara Primary)
- Edupeg activities are very good for teaching mathematics especially for struggling learners. I intend to use them again in the future. (Miss Kapaletswe - Letsholathebe Primary)
- The lesson was very interesting and exciting, and involved all learners. It was practical. I encourage the facilitator to come again. (Mr Poroga - Letsholathebe Primary)



### Teacher Comments cont.

- The Edupeg materials helps a lot because learners enjoy the activities and learn at the same time. (Mr Kuwana - Moremi Primary)
- Edupeg is very good because it teaches and encourages pupils to work on their own. Pupils enjoy it very much. Keep it up! (Miss Mokgotetse - Botswelelo Primary)
- I thank Mr Knott for his help in my class. The learners were happy and understood what he was teaching. They were able to follow him and repeated what he said. I hope that he will be given a chance to continue with us in the coming session. (Miss Gopolong - Nxamasere Primary)
- I think Edupeg is quite educational and helpful for the children. Pupils enjoy while learning so I think teaching incorporating Edupeg creates a very conducive learning environment. (Ms Kaaruka - Nxamasere Primary)
- The Edupeg lesson was a commendable lesson as it was a child-centred method of teaching. I highly recommend the Edupeg materials to be used as they motivate and build pupils interest in learning. (Miss Hwede - Nxamasere Primary)
- The lesson was well presented and learners participated well. Teaching aids were well used. Come again to help - we need you. Thanx. (Mr Nawa - Nxamasere Primary)
- Mr Knott's teachings were superb. He used all methodologies to elaborate the topic he was teaching, to bring light to those who have learning problems. The topic was number patterns. (Miss Elias - Nxamasere Primary)
- The teacher (Mr Knott) managed the class well and the pupils participated fully well and there was good communication. It was a maths lesson (number patterns) and he demonstrated and explained well, as he used a student centered approach. (Miss Masebetsi - Nxamasere Primary)
- Mr Knott's facilitation was of so much help to the pupils. His methods of teaching were helpful and the teaching aids were useful as well. He taught maths. May I ask you to allow him more time to visit us again. (Mr Andreek - Nxamasere Primary)