

# Education Ministry in The Gambia Awarded World Bank Grant

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The Basic and Secondary Education ministry of The Gambia in partnership with the New Jersey Centre for Teaching and Learning (NJCTL) has been awarded \$492,000 World Bank grant to provide training for teachers and students in maths and sciences.

The pilot program aims to train 48 teachers in The Gambia in Progressive Science Initiative (PSI) and Progressive Mathematics Initiative (PMI), two innovative instructional programs developed by NJCTL that have proven to improve student performance in science and maths.

In a statement issued here, NJCTL Executive Director Bob Goodman said “this grant will allow us to share an internationally recognized curriculum developed by accomplished teachers with a country that recognizes the need to vastly improve their maths and science programs.”

He said the pilot program can become a model for the reform of science and maths education across the continent, Goodman said.

The Education permanent secretary Baboucarr Bouy said "my hope is that one day every classroom in our country will be learning maths and science using the innovative approaches developed in New Jersey."

Nathalie Lahire, Task Team Leader for The Gambia Education Portfolio (World Bank), said around the world, maths and science are subject areas that are not well mastered by teachers with a spillover effect on student learning outcomes.

She noted that this project provides for a cutting edge yet simplified approach based on evidence of success in low income and disadvantaged settings.

PSI corrects the sequence of high school science instruction from biology-chemistry-physics to physics-chemistry-biology; a change that is recognized as highly desirable but practically difficult to implement due to a shortage of physics teachers.

The result is a much greater level of student learning and teacher effectiveness, as well as enhanced satisfaction for students, teachers, parents and administrators.

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