



Cuba's Yo Si Puedo Literacy Method and Timor-Leste's National Literacy Campaign

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UNO

ern Coastline of Timor-Leste, East of Dili





Edited Highlights



Cuban advisers, VM
& Adalfredo Sep 2006



Anti-Alkatiri graffiti, Dili 2006



FFDTL help out June 2007



PM & President open 1st class,
Metiaut 28 June 2007



Class in Vatuoro, Liqueca, September 2007

Local context: legacy of '75

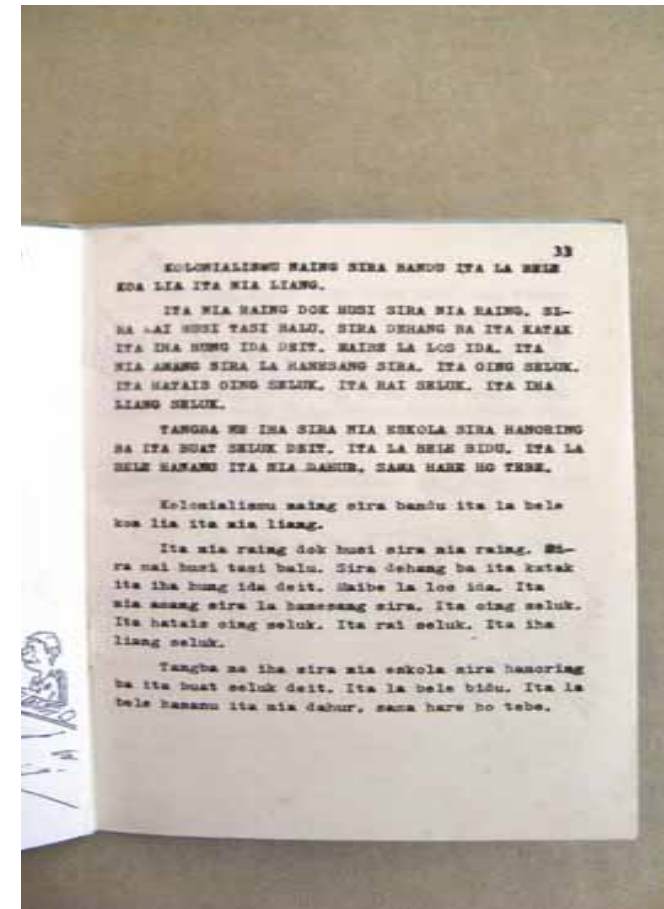
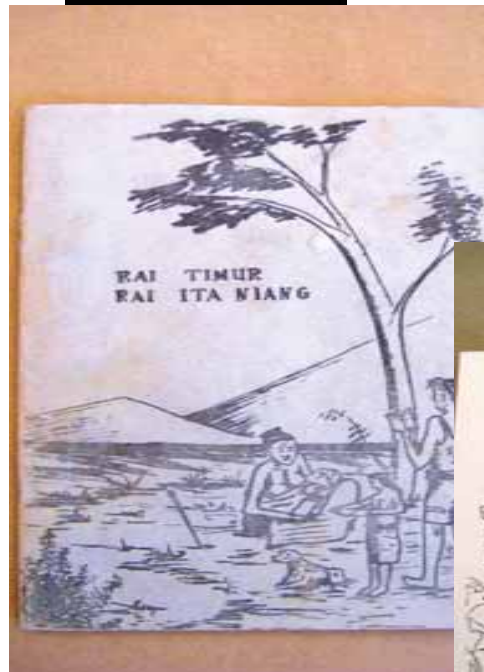


Freire & Sahe,
Bucoli Community Centre



- “Timor is our country” – FRETILIN literacy campaign
- Literacy in the resistance
- Sahe Study Club
- Dai Popular
- “Education for self-determination”

'Timor is Our Country'



Pages from 1975 FRETILIN Literacy manual.



National Campaign Model: Three Elements

- Socialisation & mobilisation – the Commission structure
- Initial classes – 65 one-hour lessons on DVD, 12 people/class, suco-based monitor, strong control
- Post-literacy phase – formal, non-formal, functional literacy activities – a ‘culture of literacy’



Illiteracy by District, 2004 Census

<i>Districts</i>	<i>Popn</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Illiterates</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<i>Ermera</i>	103322	54737	37210	68.0
<i>Bobonaro</i>	83579	47930	30360	63.3
<i>Baucau</i>	100748	56708	29783	52.5
<i>Dili</i>	175730	106446	21762	20.4
<i>Viqueque</i>	65449	36960	21663	58.6
<i>Oecusse</i>	57616	33406	19390	58.0
<i>Liquica</i>	54973	30563	17972	58.8
<i>Ainaro</i>	52480	28211	16877	59.8
<i>Lautem</i>	56293	30031	15923	53.0
<i>Covalima</i>	53063	29340	15182	51.7
<i>Maufahi</i>	45081	24950	12015	48.2
<i>Manatuto</i>	36897	20697	11889	57.4
<i>Aileu</i>	37967	20286	11278	55.6



Ceremony to open 1st class in Dili 26 June 2007, attended by new President, FRETILIN Prime Minister and Cuban Ambassador

President Horta gave commitment that literacy campaign would continue, regardless of election result





Achievements 2007–2010

- Feb 2008 changeover of advisers; campaign was losing momentum
- April 2008 new team arrived (35), campaign began to recover
- By November 2008, classes running in all but 35 'sucos'
- 2009 Minister decided to pilot accelerated campaign in Atauro & Oecusse
- January 2010 classes running in 558 sites, and 45,285 people had graduated





Achievements



Secretariat meeting with VM



Training Ermera monitors



Coordinators training session



Class in progress in Liquica



Literacy class Bobonaro District November 2008



Literacy class, Venilale, Baucau District
2007



Cuban advisers

- Experts: High quality pedagogy & excellent control
- Very close to community
- Strong work ethic
- Stayed during crisis despite attacks & threats
- Very respectful of community staff and students
- Diverse – men, women, younger, older
- Involve Cuban doctors in program





Financials (1)

- Cuba provides methodology, expertise at no cost; & shares cost of DVD production
- Advisers receive an allowance to cover basic living costs, out of Timor-Leste Ministry of Education budget; & return travel to Cuba
- TL Ministry of Education pays cost of books, materials, equipment, transport
- TL Ministry pays for monitors and district and sub-district coordinators (US\$85–\$100/month)
- TL contribution
 - 2007 US\$800,000
 - 2009 US\$1.2m (approx)
- Cuban contribution – not specified



Financials (2)

- Cuban program costs significantly less than programs developed by UNICEF and other agencies
- Biggest difference is in 'adviser' cost. Average international adviser costs US\$5000 – \$12000 per month (Donors pay)
- Cuban advisers cost \$750 – \$1000 per month
- Because TL government pays, program does not depend on donors or international agencies



Issues and challenges (1)

- Poor understanding and commitment to post literacy phase of campaign
- No longer a National Commission or Secretariat
 - Too much Ministry of Education control
 - No involvement of other Ministries, NGOs etc
 - No development of Timorese expertise at national level
- Low participation by youth especially young men
- Low numbers of women monitors; and coordinators (1 / 65)
- Program being over-extended
 - New government wants classes in every 'aldeia', to eradicate illiteracy before 2012 election
 - Advisers and coordinators spread too thin
 - Insufficient monitors or budget



Issues and challenges (2)

- YSP Program not understood or supported by international community in Timor–Leste, including UN agencies (e.g. UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, ILO)
- World Bank, US & its allies (including Australia) promoting more neoliberal ‘human capital’ education model; USAID study critical of YSP
- Low capacity inside Ministry of Education, nationally and at regional and local level



Post-Literacy

- Ministry has a UNICEF-funded literacy program and a primary school 'Equivalence' program in Portuguese and Tetum
- Some people thought students could go straight from YSP to 'Equivalence'
- In one place (Atauro), UNICEF literacy program is being used successfully now for post literacy with YSP graduates
- But, the UNICEF-funded programs are not well coordinated & controlled like YSP
- RISK: If no co-ordinated post-literacy, YSP graduates will lose literacy, Cuban program will be blamed, and money will have been wasted



Timorese Campaign Secretariat November 2008



Conclusions

- Achievements of Cubans in Timor–Leste are outstanding and inspiring, and not matched by any other program anywhere in world
- YSP and Cuban School of Literacy deserve to be better known in English–speaking academic adult education and literacy field
- Question: Could a campaign based on the Cuban model be undertaken in Australia?

