

We are delighted to invite you to
BALID's 31st Informal Literacy Discussion, on
Thursday 18th October 2018, 5-7pm.

Katy Newell-Jones

will lead on the topic of



Enhancing community development through the literacy dimension

at *Feed the Minds, The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, Vauxhall, London SE11 5RR.*

Community development projects often explicitly target the most marginalised, who are frequently those with less exposure to and experience of literacy and numeracy. In resource-poor contexts, literacy and numeracy practices are increasingly beneficial for income generation, securing rights, supporting families and protecting the environment. They are also highly valued skills in the recruitment of project implementation teams.

Such teams are often faced with the challenge of either selecting people who have had the greatest access to education for key roles in development projects, or of providing adult literacy programmes to develop the skills required. However, both of these approaches have drawbacks. Those with the highest level of education are often less connected with the most marginalised in a community, and literacy programmes run in parallel with development projects are notoriously difficult to recruit into or maintain.

This BALID Informal Literacy Discussion will explore an alternative approach in which enhanced awareness of the literacy dimension within a project, and of the practices of key stakeholders, can increase the effectiveness of the project by meeting its stated goals as well as supporting the development of literacy practices among stakeholders.

Examples will be shared from a vocational training project in Rwanda, maternal and child health projects in Nepal and Pakistan, and work to reduce female genital cutting in Somaliland and Kenya.

Katy Newell-Jones, PhD, is chair of the BALID and has worked in both the higher education and international development sectors. Katy was previously Programme Director for Feed the Minds, a UK-based NGO with a focus on literacy, and has over 30 years' experience as a literacy facilitator, evaluator and researcher in community development, primarily in Africa and South East Asia. Increasingly, her focus is on the literacy dimension of community development projects, rather than discrete literacy initiatives.

Katy's publications include Storytelling: a tool for peacebuilding (2012), Education and rights: a toolkit for facilitators (2013), Literacy and numeracy for trade (2014), co-authoring a UNESCO family learning resource pack Learning together across the generations (2017) and Female genital cutting in Somaliland: a baseline assessment (2018).