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## Better quality education

BY TANDIN PEM

Bhutan needs major reform to bridge the gap between the challenges facing its school system and its high aspirations, according to a report released by the Royal Education Council (REC) yesterday.

The report says the gap can be bridged through a thoughtfully designed and carefully implemented reform effort. If executed as

part of comprehensive reform package, they can achieve impact at the system level.

The report titled, "The Quality of School Education in Bhutan: Reality and Opportunities", was jointly prepared with IDiscover Education and Enterprise, an education firm based in Delhi.

"It took one and half years to do the research," said Gyeltsen Penjor, the Director of the RCE. He added that

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## Better quality education

this report presented not just problems, but also offered solutions.

The research was to develop an index of desirable quality for school education. It conducted a qualitative study to identify the strength and gaps in Bhutan's schools and recommended a plan of action to bridge gaps and create a high-performing school system.

The report looks beyond education outcomes as a measure of quality and focuses on quality of processes within the four walls of the

classroom.

The findings of this comprehensive study provide a strong basis to pursue education reforms in the country to meet the future needs of the nation as well as the aspiration of parents and students.

The study is based on the overall education reform goal to improve the quality of education and raise the academic standards. This will ensure that all students graduating from our school system have the level of knowledge and skills comparable to students graduating from the leading

systems in the world.

"There is no one particular thing which affects the quality of education. We should look into the entire spectrum and parents have a major role to play," said Gyeltsen Penjor.

He added said that the report was comprehensive and focuses more on what happens in the classroom. "The entire focus is on classrooms, school and policies," he said.

REC has already started looking at how the actions can be implemented.



Students of Gortshom Community Primary School in Lhuentse playing bullfight.