

Main Factors Contributing to Cognitive Growth in Preschool Children in Tanzania and India

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Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is a program that aims to create a holistic foundation for children from birth until the start of primary school with the goal to prepare them for lifelong learning and healthy development. ECCE supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development through a multi-faceted program, which provides children with nutrition, basic health-care, and education. ECCE plays an even more critical role in developing countries, where children facing poverty are more likely to lag behind their wealthier counterparts in development, and thus benefit tremendously from the kinds of holistic support that programs like ECCE offer. A focus on the early educational advancement of children leads to a better standard of living, helping to reduce the wealth gap. In this research, a comparative analysis was conducted of the ECCE in two countries, India and Tanzania, and the factors that contribute to an effective ECCE program was investigated. In addition to an in-depth interview with an ECCE field worker in India, personal field work experiences from India and Tanzania were also incorporated. The objective of this study is to bring more awareness to the global conditions of ECCE, and demonstrate how India and Tanzania, as case studies, shows both the issues and successes of their ECCE programs, and recommend best practices for potential scale-up projects and replication in other countries.

Education is a critical factor enabling the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working towards a better educated and more globally aware generation. Having an ECCE program that can foster and maintain itself sets a stronger foundation for future growth and decreases the resources needed to achieve the same standard at a later time; fewer resources are depleted when addressed at an earlier age, allowing for a more efficient use of these resources. In order to achieve SDGs, these programs have to improve on the basic academic courses currently stressed to encompass a more interdisciplinary approach. In this manner, education becomes a long-term tool that is both adaptable and applicable to global real-world issues. Through solutions such as an online database, countries can allocate less physical materials and resources, but advance and maintain higher levels in educational standards. In addition to academics, a child's mental and physical well-being must also be a backbone of SDG philosophy. Looking ahead to 2050, ECCE programs can establish itself as a stepping stone for a healthier generation that better utilizes technological and medical resources currently available to our society: a more inclusive globalized society.