

**Quality of pre-primary school reading materials and their role in promoting prereading skills: the case of South district of Zanzibar.**

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This study examined the quality of pre-primary school reading materials and how they promote the basic pre-reading skills in pre-primary school children in Zanzibar. It explored the types, adequacy, appropriateness and relevance of the available pre-primary school reading materials. The study was based on a set of assumptions through a conceptual framework based on the improvement of pre-reading skills in pre-primary schools, the framework depends on three dimensions, namely adequacy, appropriateness and relevance. The study used a mixed method design to generate data through qualitative and quantitative methods. Therefore, data were collected through questionnaires, interviews, focus group discussions and observations. Simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used to obtain a sample of 5 pre-primary schools, 87 participants, including 40 children, 20 parents, 20 teachers, 5 head teachers and 2 pre-primary school education officers. The qualitative data were analysed through percentages and ratios. The results showed that pre-reading materials used to teach pre-reading skills were available in the school visited. Almost all three types of materials, Audio, Visual and Audio-Visual materials were available either from local resources, ZIE or donor. However, there was lack of enough materials, and the few available did not suffice to assist children to manipulate different activities, so they did not help children to acquire the basic pre-reading skills. Consequently, a majority of pupils completed primary school education unable to read in Kiswahili. It is concluded that only quality materials used in teaching and learning pre-reading skills would help pupils to acquire the basic pre-reading skills which help them to read. Thus, the education stakeholders should provide quality pre-reading materials for teaching and learning of pre-reading skills in pre-primary school children.