The key to unlocking future aspirations

Literacy and numeracy are prerequisites for subsequent learning, and for reaching full potential in professional, civic, and social life.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

LITERACY

Mastery of literacy requires:
- Comprehension
- Fluency
- Phonics
- Phonemic awareness
- Vocabulary and background knowledge

NUMERACY

Mastery of numeracy requires:
- Number sense
- Operations
- Measurement
- Data and chance

Foundational skills are necessary in both literacy and numeracy.

CONCEPTUAL & PROCEDURAL

Understand and apply

In any subject area, children need both conceptual understanding of key principles, and procedural competence in applying these principles. Neither of these can be achieved through rote learning.

Understanding and applying mathematical concepts helps students develop procedural skills.

MASTERY

Learn to read, so you can read to learn

New knowledge and skills need to be practiced to the point of mastery. Once mastered, prior knowledge can be applied to new situations and can facilitate subsequent mastery of more complex knowledge.

Similar mastery is necessary in mathematics as well.

EARLY

Learn early, get farther

Low learning trajectories emerge early and accumulate over time. Children who fall behind early rarely catch up. Steeper learning trajectories are needed early to reach goals.

In India, children fall behind early:

- More than half of Grade 5 students cannot read a Grade 2 text.

In Indonesia, if students have not mastered foundational numeracy by Grade 5, they rarely acquire it later on.

UNIVERSAL

Learning for all

In many countries, most children lack foundational skills even after several years in school. Ensuring universal skills requires prioritising steeper learning trajectories for most children.

In low- and middle-income countries, an estimated 52% of children cannot read proficiently.

From the...
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Jomtien Declaration (1990)
- Sustainable Development Goals (adopted 2015)

Global education goals have always been universal.

Across more than 50 low- and middle-income countries, 1/2 of women who completed primary school (but had no secondary education) could not read a simple sentence.

CONCEPTUAL & PROCEDURAL

Mastery

Procedural

Conceptual

0 1 2 3 4 5 6

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How long is the key?

86% of surveyed youth in India get it right

<40% could give the right answer

What is the length of this pencil?

1/2

RISE

For more, see the RISE Insight Note: https://riseprogramme.org/uecpmfs-insight

Citation information available at: https://riseprogramme.org/UECPMFS-infographic-sources