School readiness among Indigenous children

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ABSTRACT: There has been a significant change in the conceptualization of school readiness in recent years. The aim of this study is to investigate the readiness of Indigenous children from school to the tertiary education system. This research takes into account the context of Indigenous children and their education. This study also examines the school readiness among Indigenous children and parents' awareness regarding their roles in increased children's school readiness. Everybody has their right to get appropriate learning. This research inferred that parents should realize the significance of learning in their children's lives. It will inspire and afford an appropriate atmosphere for their children in order to give better learning and understanding.

Keywords: indigenous children; education; school readiness; parents' awareness

1 INTRODUCTION

Education will lead to social and economic changes in aboriginal communities towards a better life. Even the education system has been emphasizing on the importance of early childhood education since last few decades. But studies conducted by UNICEF (2007) have shown that there is no awareness among Indigenous parents to send their children to school.

Research done by Downer and Planta (2006) and Miles and Stipek (2006) has shown that early academic achievement has been related to future achievement as they make the transition from preschool to primary school. Children's language ability and literacy skills are related to their reading performance, and this tends to be continued in early and later adolescence (Cunningham and Stanovich 1997; Cunningham, Stanovich, and West 1994; Echols et al. 1996; Juel 1988; Lents 1988; Stanovich 1986). By comparison, children who enter primary school with good literacy and language skills are able to read faster and increase better reading skills, which will become a basis for future school success (Downer and Planta 2006; Princiotto, Flanagan and Germino-Hausken 2006). Indigenous children who just enter primary school at first year are also normally 'slower' compared with other children. It is because they do not have the exposure received by other children. For instance, not all Indigenous children have the chance to get early education at kindergarten. Therefore, they are not able to have reading and writing skills while entering standard 1. Not all of them have the opportunity to access all types of educational fun toys or television programs during preschool ages. Compared with other children who get these opportunities, early exposure and technology will bring them being left behind in academic performance (Kamaruddin and Jusoh, 2008).

The National School Readiness Indicators Initiative (2005) in the USA suggests a new concept for school readiness that involves the relationship between families, communities, services and school. These 4 components play an important role in developing school readiness among children. Families should provide an environment that encourages children to go to school. Therefore, societies must afford the properties and funds for families with young children. In addition, facilities should
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Economics, Social Sciences and Information Management

Chapter 20. School readiness among Indigenous children

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Summary

The 2015 International Congress on Economics, Social Sciences and Information Management (ICESSIM 2015), held 28-29 March 2015 in Bali, Indonesia, aimed to provide a platform for the sharing of valuable knowledge and experience in the context of changing economics and social settings.

Information technology has changed many aspects in our life, including how we communicate, working, socializing, education, and business. Along with the improvement of internet, information management is very important to keep the economy moving in a positive direction and to monitor social change in society. Information management business refers to the definition of control of the business by utilizing Internet media / information Technology to conduct business activities, or carrying out our business activities online. To utilize internet in economics, business and socializing, collaborations between engineering, the social sciences, and economics are absolutely necessary. Researchers should be more active in conducting research in all the fields and collaborating between one another across disciplines.

This proceedings volume contains contributions on the topics of business, economics, development studies, social sciences, and information technology, and will be of interest to a range of scholars, academics, practitioners, and business managers.

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Preface

The 2015 International Congress on Economics, Social Sciences and Information Management (ICESSIM 2015), was held 28-29 March 2015 at the Sheraton Kuta Bali, Bali, Indonesia.

The 2015 International Congress on Economics, Social Sciences and Information Management (ICESSIM 2015) aimed to provide a platform to scholars, academics, practitioners, and business managers to share their valuable knowledge and experience with each other in the context of changing economics and social settings. The objective of the conference was to bring people from academia and the business world closer so that they could share the latest developments in the fields of business, economics, development studies, social sciences, and Information Technology.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the Technical Program Committee who have reviewed the papers and developed a very interesting conference program as well as to the invited and plenary speakers. This year, we received 107 papers and after rigorous review, 30 papers were accepted. The participants came from twelve countries. There were four Parallel Sessions and three Keynote Speakers.

It is an honour to present the publication of ICESSIM 2015 by CRC Press/Balkema (Taylor & Francis Group) and we deeply thank the authors for their enthusiastic and high-grade contributions.

Finally, we would like to thank the conference chairman, the members of the steering committee, the organizing committee, the organizing secretariat and the financial support from the conference sponsors that allowed the success of ICESSIM 2015.

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