

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

by:

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The foundations of lifelong learning are literacy and numeracy skills. These skills empower 21st-century learners to think critically and creatively and reach their full potential. In today's fast-changing world, both skills are essential in achieving independence and well-being, and provide the basis for sustainable societies with constant socio-economic progress.

According to the new policy brief by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), Literacy and Numeracy from a Lifelong Learning Perspective challenges the assumption that literacy and numeracy are skills to be learned within a set period. Every learner needs numeracy to solve problems and make sense of numbers, time, patterns, and shapes for activities like cooking, reading receipts, reading instructions, and even playing sports.

Learning to read is not all about reading the words. It is consequential for students to be able to read but more importantly to understand what they are reading. And be able to do this effectively they need to access texts effectively. Numeracy like literacy, is key for students to access and understand their world. Being able to calibrate and measure their environment in different ways will help them to make wiser judgements about the kind of actions to take in their lives.

The teaching of literacy and numeracy is an important responsibility of all teachers in the school. Improving literacy and numeracy skills for all students requires a collective focus, where all members of the school work together to adopt a whole school approach, supporting the teaching of literacy and numeracy across each key learning subject area.

Getting this right is an essential precondition for learners to succeed in their educational pathway.

References:

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