

# Early Childhood Education Quality & Children's Development in Lao PDR

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## Introduction

- TKI conducts research with the goal of improving the health and wellbeing of children
- The Sustainable Development Agenda emphasizes the importance of *quality* in early childhood education

## Objective of Internship

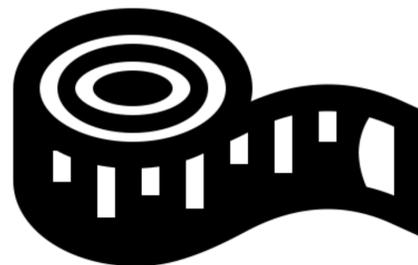
I wanted to work with a team to learn more about children's development and improve my quantitative and qualitative skills.

## Work profile

- Explore the relationship between ECE and development using the MELE instrument
- I conducted a literature review and basic data analysis to understand the relationship between ECE quality and children's development measures
- Also identified potential journals for publication

## Reflection

- The relationship I found shows that early childhood education quality impacts children's development, even when controlling for other factors such as ethnicity and socioeconomic status
- These findings are consistent with the literature and contribute to findings from low-income countries



- The MELE is a useful tool for measuring early childhood education quality
- However, the "Learning and Learning Activities" aspect needs to be better adapted to fit the learning schedule of different countries

- The findings suggest that there may be a minimum threshold of early childhood education quality crucial for improving child development outcomes
- Facilities and safety, teacher/child interactions, classroom arrangement, and learning activities are all important aspects of quality to consider

- Working with a research team was a great experience, and I learned so much from them both about ECE and development as well as about the different parts of the research process



## Looking ahead

- This internship reinforced my interest in children's development and improved my qualitative and quantitative research skills

## Questions

- What is the quality threshold that needs to be reached?
- How can quality be improved most efficiently with limited resources?
- How can we ensure that the most disadvantaged students are also benefiting from improved quality?

## Conclusion

- Higher ECE quality is associated with improved child development outcomes in Lao PDR

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