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.

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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