School Readiness Assessments & IDELA

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Discussion for today:

- School Readiness Assessments globally
- IDELA Development
- IDELA Today
- IDELA as a global goods
- Next steps
School Readiness Assessments
Defining a broad term

Global tool characteristics

- Ages 3+ to ~6 years old, or entry into primary school
- General agreement that they should include multiple domains of development
- Focus on pre-academic skills
- Usually focused on continuous outcomes, except screeners for developmental disabilities

Examples of global tools

- Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)
- Early Development Instrument (EDI)
- East-Asia Pacific – Early Childhood Development Scales (EAP-ECDS)
- Regional Project on Child Development Indicators (PRIDI)
- Measuring Early Learning and Quality Outcomes (MELQO)
- International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA)
IDE LA Development Context
Taking you back to 2011…

Save the Children’s expanding ECE portfolio required an assessment tool for 3-6 year old children

• Feasible in low-resource settings
• Affordable
• Internationally applicable
• Holistic
• Psychometrically rigorous in low-resource settings

Direct child assessment
• Parent-report is not reliable for school readiness skills
  • Parents are not reliable as children acquire more advanced skills and if the parents are disadvantaged\(^1,2,3,4\)
• Teachers are not present everywhere in LMICs
  • Enrollment in pre-primary education was 19% in low-income and 57% in middle income countries in 2012\(^5\)
IDELA Development Process
Field testing from 2012-2015

Qualitative
• Contextual relevance
• Alignment with national curricula and/or ELDS
• Feasibility with assessors/consistency of administration
• Appropriate for 3-6 year olds
• Adaptability
• Materials required

Quantitative
• Internal consistency
• Test-retest reliability
• Inter-rater reliability
• Convergent validity
• Construct validity

Field testing from 2012-2015
IDELA Today
www.idela-network.org

~100 user groups
~65 countries

IDELA Projects by Country
- 1 project
- 2-4 projects
- 5 or more projects
IDELA as a Global Good
Enabling better data on school readiness from the Global South
IDELA as a Global Good
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IDELA as a Global Good
2018 analysis of 38 datasets with over 21,000 records

Source: Save the Children, 2018
IDELA as a Global Good
Understanding equity issues in ECE

Gender
- By and large, no gender differences. Where they exist girls more often outperformed boys in literacy, social-emotional, and motor development. Boys and girls were equally likely to display a skill advantage in numeracy development.

Family wealth & home learning materials (books & toys)
- Learning materials are twice as likely to predict IDELA scores as SES

Home learning behaviors & discipline
- Directionally as expected, similar magnitude of relationship

Source: Save the Children, 2018
Next steps
What do we need in the future?

Freely available resources to help practitioners and policy makers collect **good** data

Guidance for data-driven advocacy and policy systems level

Focus on quality & equity

More tools

Focus on cross-country comparability
References


THANK YOU

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