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Panel 1.4: Language, Literacy, and Education

Open Educational Resources for Mother Tongue Literacy Acquisition

Language is a significant barrier in many developing countries across Asia-Pacific, where numerous cultures, language traditions, dialects and faiths coexist. Earlier research observes that those from culturally and linguistically diverse settings face significant difficulties in learning. This is especially the case of children whose mother tongue differs from their school's medium of instruction, where teaching usually happens in the national or state language. Yet, mother tongue literacy is crucial to knowledge acquisition and the learning of other languages. The purpose of this presentation is to explore the potentiality for education providers in utilizing open educational resources (OER) to address this problem. The opportunities and challenges for OERs to impact indigenous children will be discussed. In particular, this presentation will elaborate on the case of a literacy education provider, whose use of OERs for indigenous children has been improving their literacy skills, school enrolment rates, and educational progress.