

INNOVATIVE WAYS OF INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION SERVICES ESPECIALLY TO THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED (e.g CHILDREN OF TRADERS OR MARKETEERS)

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THE PRESENTER

- My name is Grace Phiri Bwalya, CEO of Tubbies Nursery & Pre-School.
- ✤ I am a Masters Degree holder in Early Childhood Education.
- Tubbies Nursery School has been in operation for more than 17 years.
- Tubbies is specialized in ECE services for children less than 7 years.
- Over 500 children have benefited from the solid ECE foundation that has been offered by our center.



INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY



Extensive research reveals that children who access high quality ECD are likely to improve in their lives and result in substantial economic benefits for society.



Due to poverty and lack of early stimulation it is estimated that 66% of children are at risk of not reaching their full development potential.



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Investment in early childhood education lays a strong foundation for better Human Capital outcomes manifested in improved health and well being.





Children of traders or marketeers are at risk if they are denied the access to quality ECD. One of the innovative ways of increasing access is by providing ECD centers at every market place.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

This study is based ona study that was conducted at Masala Main Market in Ndola, Zambia, in 2021.

The focus of the study was to assess the nutritional status of children who spend time at the market place with their parents as they conducted business.

Results from the study_ revealed that children at the market were quite well fed and healthy. However.....

90% of the interviewees indicated that children at the market lacked a safe environment to play and learn.



CONCLUSION

- It was established in the study that children at the market place needed a safe and secure environment to play and learn and develop.
- Early stimulation and learning is very important for all children, especially those coming from poor and marginalized families.
- Provision of ECE services at the market place could enable children to reach their full development potential and it would help them to be more resilient with a positive effect on society.
- Provision of ECE services at the market place will also promote high productivity among traders, and in turn have a positive impact on the economy..
- The school needs to revive itself to its former glory.



RECOMMENDATION

- Governments must establish and set up Early Childhood Centers at all major trading and market areas.
- □ The ECE centers must be located within the trading/Market area, or some place not very far.
- The charges for the ECE services must be affordable. They must also have flexible terms of payment, and for the traders who may not afford, they can be allowed to pay in kind.
- The ECE centers may also introduce a feeding program for the most vulnerable children. Growth and monitoring services can also be carried out at the ECE centers.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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