Assessment of Key Mediating Factors of Learning Awareness

Measuring School Climate, Social-Emotional Learning, Gender Attitudes and School-Related Gender-Based Violence

What is it?

Students' experiences of school life play an important role in their ability to benefit from their education. When children feel safe and welcome at school, are encouraged in the classroom and have the confidence to seek assistance when challenged socially or academically, they will be in a good position to reach their potential. Unfortunately, many schools around the world are not positive or encouraging. Bullying, corporal punishment, sexual harassment and assault are the norm. Until recently, the measurement tools to assess many of the non-cognitive factors that mediate learning have not existed for the international education context. Since 2014, RTI has been working to fill these gaps and has developed valid and reliable instruments for measuring school climate and culture, gender norms, social and emotional learning competencies and school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) in low- and middle-income countries.

How does it work?

Through USAID funding, RTI developed a set of instruments for measuring these non-cognitive factors of a student's learning. A total of four survey instruments were developed for children 8–18 years of age, parents and teachers, including: Perceptions of School Climate, Gender Attitudes, Students' Social and Emotional Learning Competencies, and Student Experiences of SRGBV.

What's next?

Findings from studies measuring these individual and school traits and gender attitudes have informed policy dialogue and SRGBV prevention interventions in Uganda. With USAID funding, the four instruments will be consolidated into a Global Toolkit for measuring SRGBV and key mediating factors.

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