



Social Emotional Learning and Inequalities in Academic Achievement

Based on a National Survey in Kenya and Young Lives Data

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Background

- SEL programs can improve academic outcomes (Cipriano et al., 2023) but little evidence from LMICs outside crisis and conflict settings
- More evidence needed on *which* SEL competencies are important for academic outcomes and *why*.
- Can SEL programs reduce educational inequalities?

Confidence and Curiosity – Associations with Education in Tanzania

1. In rural areas, teachers value confidence and curiosity as important for children to develop more than parents
2. Children of educated parents are rated as having more confidence and curiosity

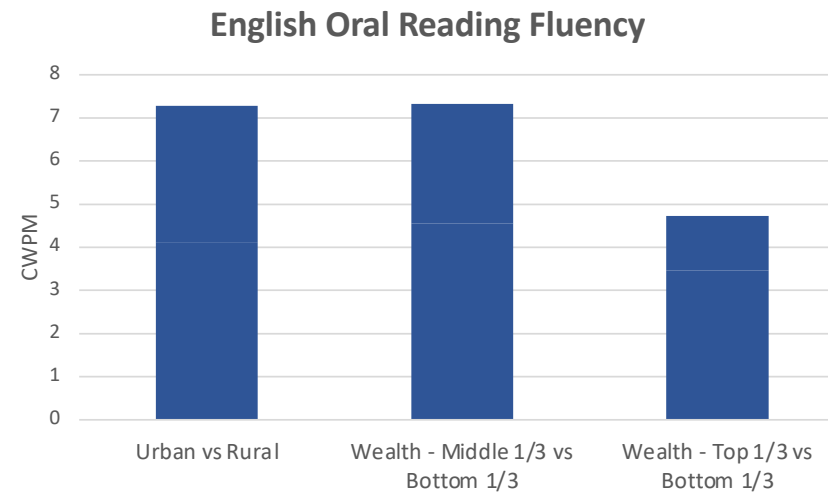
Jukes, M. C. H., Gabrieli, P., Mgonda, N. L., Nsolezi, F. S., Jeremiah, G., Tibenda, J. L., & Bub, K. L. (2018). "Respect is an Investment": Community Perceptions of Social and Emotional Competencies in Early Childhood from Mtwara, Tanzania. *Global Education Review*, 5(2), 160–188.

Jukes, M. C. H., Mgonda, N. L., Tibenda, J. J., Gabrieli, P., Jeremiah, G., Betts, K. L., Williams, J., & Bub, K. L. (2021). Building an assessment of community-defined social-emotional competencies from the ground up in Tanzania. *Child Development*, 92(6). <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13673>

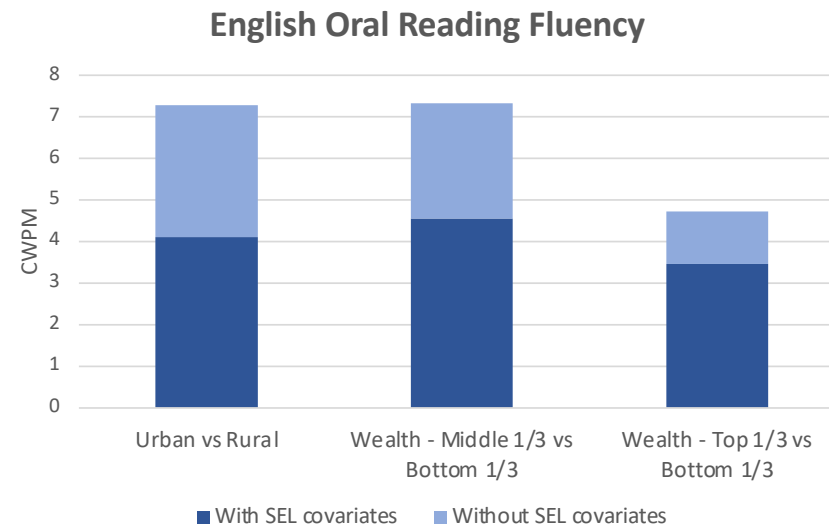
Domains Assessed

Domain	Overview	Source	Factors and Reliability	Associated with EGRA
<u>Confidence during assessment</u>	Assessor scores behavior of child	Pre-school self-regulation assessment	Single factor $\alpha = 0.85$ to 0.92	✓
<u>Confidence (self-reported)</u>	Children were read descriptions of two children (one confident; one not)	RTI	Single factor $\alpha = 0.45$ to 0.73	✓
<u>Relationships</u>	Children asked questions about friends in different scenarios	IDELA	Single factor $\alpha = 0.60$ to 0.74	✓
<u>Interpersonal negotiation</u>	Children respond to scenario involving conflict; responses in 8 types (3 levels).	SERAIS	3 factors $\alpha = 0.61$ to 0.68	✓
<u>Creativity</u>	Children asked to name as many alternative uses as possible for two items	Alternative uses test	n/a	✗
<u>Learning environment</u>	Questions for rating learning environment (positive and negative)	RTI/multiple	2 factors $\alpha = 0.59$ to 0.73	✓

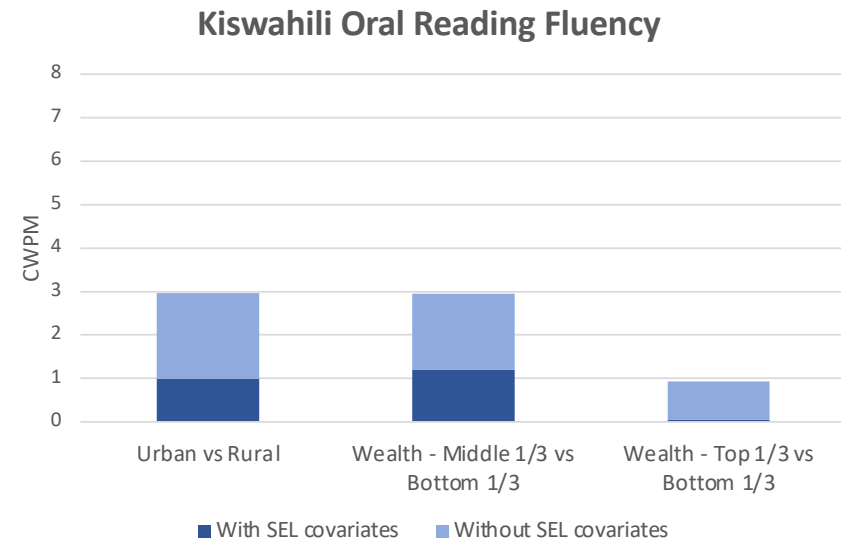
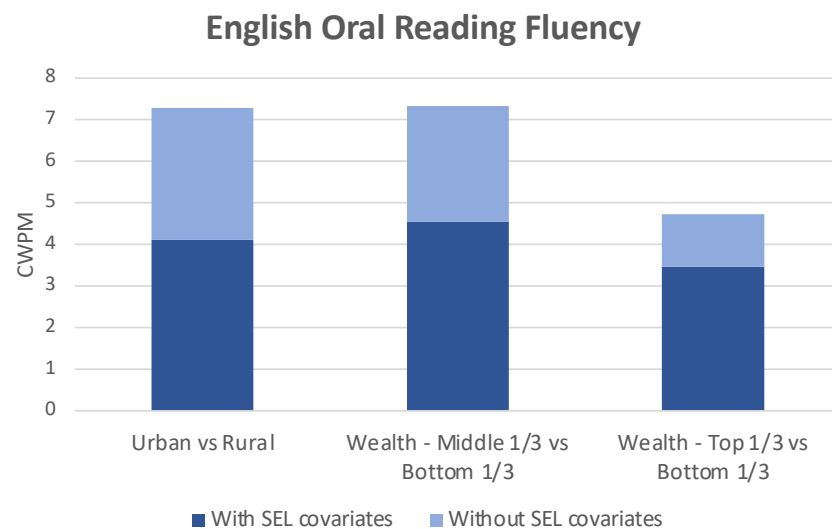
Inequalities in Reading Achievement: Grades 1-3 National Survey in Kenya



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Learning Environment, Academic Achievement and Gender





- Ethiopia, India, Peru, Vietnam
- 2002-2016
- 8 years – 22 years

I can improve my situation in life

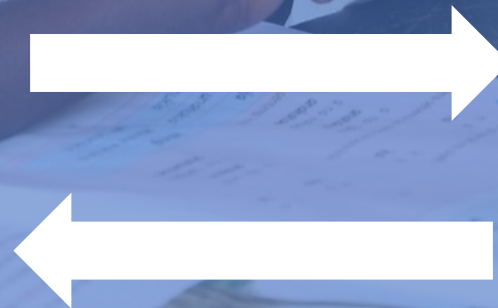
People in my family make all the decisions about how I spend my time

I like to make plans for my future studies and work

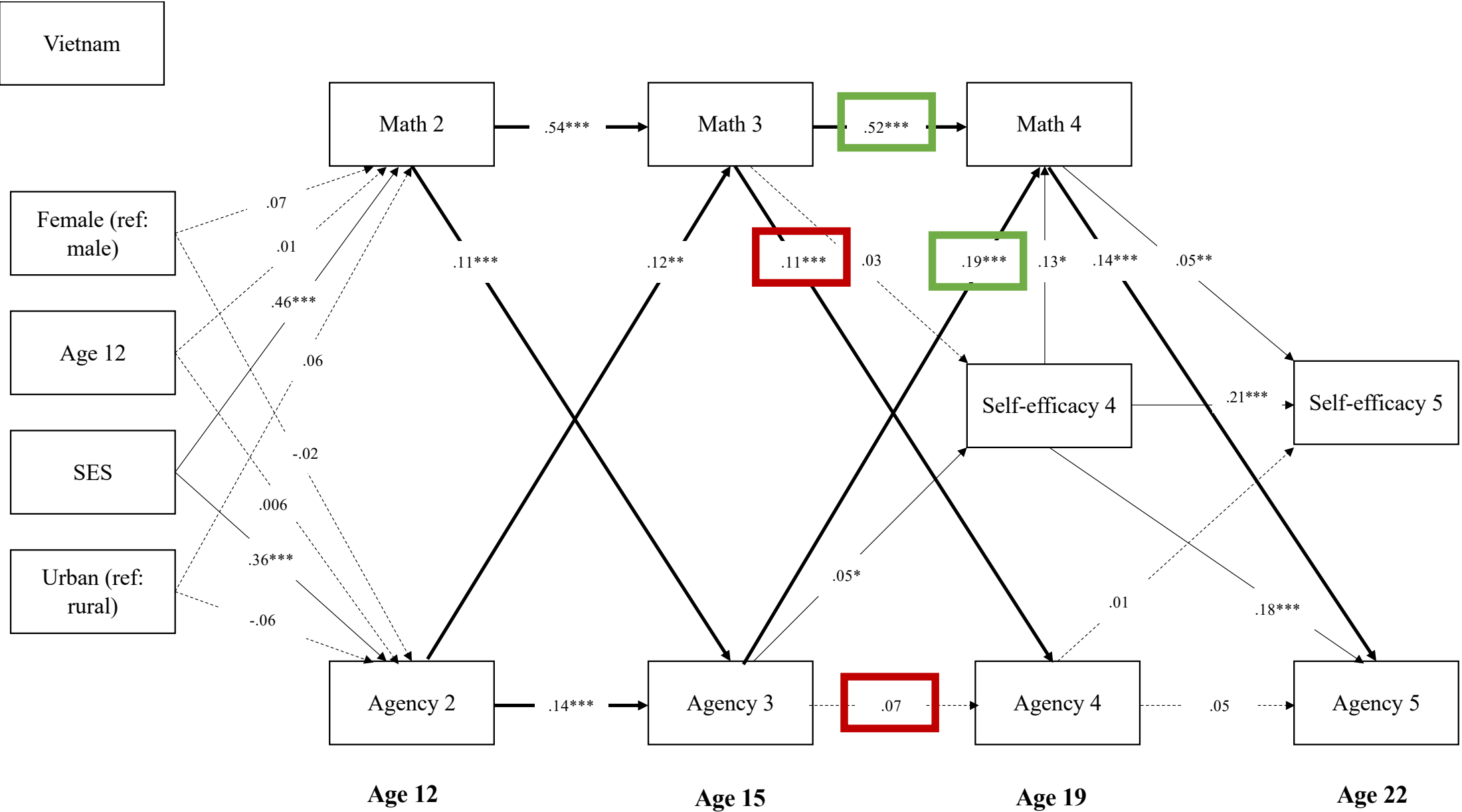
If I study hard I will be rewarded with a better job in the future

I have no choice about the work I do

AGENCY



**ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT**





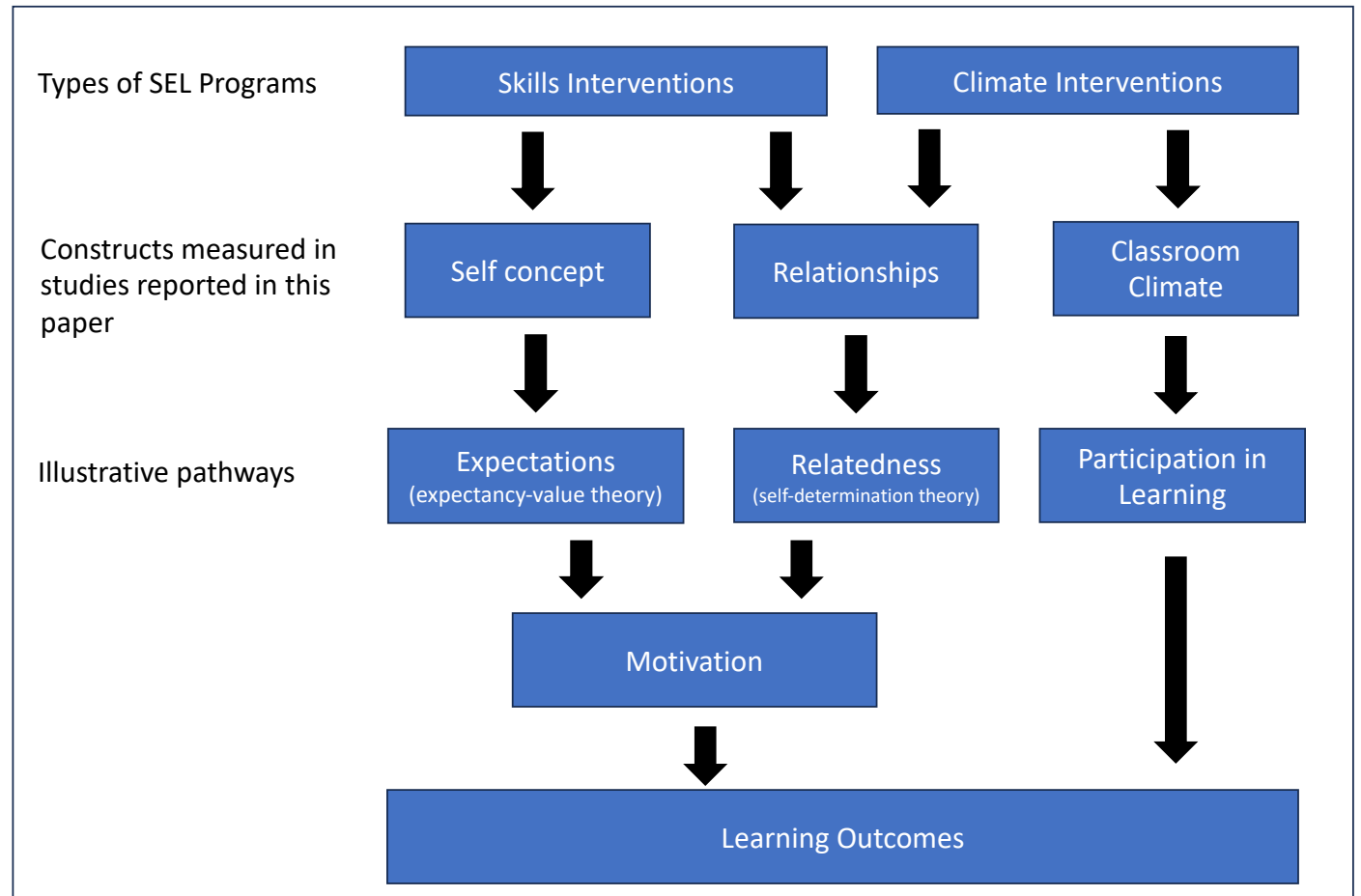
Promoting Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom

**A GUIDE TO EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES
IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES**



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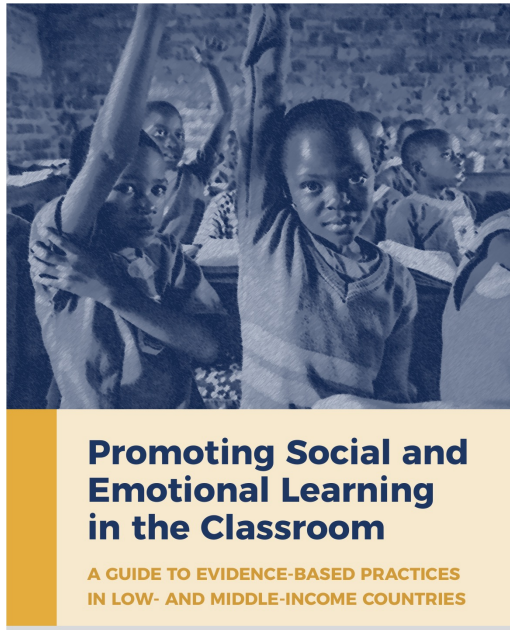
Mechanisms for the Impact of SEL programs on Learning Outcomes





Conclusions

- A range of SEL competencies associated with academic skills – let's get more specific about which skills are important and why
- Developing SEL could address inequalities of wealth and urbanicity in educational achievement
- Positive learning environment benefits girls's achievement more than boys



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Building an assessment of community-defined social-emotional competencies from the ground up in Tanzania

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