MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY
21 FEBRUARY 2016

UNESCO GLOBAL EDUCATION MONITORING REPORT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHER TONGUE EDUCATION FOR QUALITY EDUCATION:

*Language is the most powerful tool we have to preserve and develop our shared culture. Teaching through mother tongues encourages linguistic diversity. Moreover, it promotes tolerance, dialogue and ultimately peace.*

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In multi-ethnic societies, imposing a dominant language in school systems has frequently been a source of grievance linked to wider issues of social and cultural inequality.

According to the World Inequality Database on Education...

 страна | результаты
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**Ethiopia**

- Schools combine... mother tongue instruction with Amharic and English.
- This improves learning in subjects such as math, biology, chemistry, and physics.

**Guatemala**

- Students in bilingual schools have:
  - Higher... lower...
  - Attendance
  - Promotion rates
  - Test scores
  - Dropout rates

**Burkina Faso**

- Children from bilingual schools score equally or higher than those who attend French-instruction schools.

**Mali**

- Children starting school with mother tongue instruction...
  - End up with better mastery of the official language, French.
  - They score 12% higher on French tests at the end of primary school.

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Language is the most powerful tool we have to preserve and develop our shared culture. Teaching through mother tongues encourages linguistic diversity. Moreover, it promotes tolerance, dialogue, and ultimately peace.

Education policies should recognize the importance of mother tongue learning.

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Let’s celebrate lifelong learning in our own languages!

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From early childhood...

...through literacy...

...to teacher education...

...to gender equality.

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#MotherLanguageDay