

Gains for Illiterate Adult Learners from Lifelong Learning

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ABSTRACT The research question for this study was: Why is there a need for lifelong learning for illiterate adults? A literature review was done in this regard. The findings included possible gains that illiterate adults, in especially developing countries, can get from attending literacy programmes. These adult learners may for instance gain socially, politically and economically when engaging in lifelong learning. They derive social gains in the sense that after becoming literate, they will be able to participate in the social affairs of their various communities, becoming responsible citizens within specific contexts. Adult learners can learn to contribute ideas and help make decisions for the good of the broader society in the political sphere of their lives. In the economic sphere, literate adults are able to contribute to the economic development of their country.