

The Importance of the Relevance of Language of the Library Collection for the Foundation Phase Learners in Vhembe District

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ABSTRACT This paper sets out to examine the importance of the relevance of the language of the library collection for the foundation phase learners in Vhembe District. The focus is on the language of the library collection used by Grade 3 learners who are supposed to do their learning in mother tongue to read. The qualitative approach was chosen based on the nature of the paper. Four teacher librarians were purposively sampled to participate in the study. Interviews were used as a method for data collection from each teacher librarian. The study revealed that the learners in the foundation phase are supposed to learn in their mother tongue before they are introduced to English. As a result, the school library for foundation phase learners should be well equipped with more books in the mother tongue. The paper recommended that the Department of Education should provide more books that are interesting to foundation phase learners in the mother tongue so as to build their confidence. This will also enable them to develop the love for reading as well as various reading skills.