

UoN and University of York hold workshop on peer-tutoring

The University of Nairobi in partnership with the University of York are holding a workshop on peer-tutoring in the teaching of reading among cross-age pupils in standards 4 to 6.

Through the College of Education and External Studies (CEES) and Effective Education Institute, the two universities secured a grant from ESRC-DFID to implement the innovative service delivery programme that will, re-ignite in the pupils a love of reading for pleasure and for information.

While officially launching the three-day workshop on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Prof. Henry Mutoro, urged the scholars to share knowledge with others upon completion of the workshop. He expressed satisfaction that the collaboration between the two universities has started bearing fruit. Prof. Mutoro challenged the two universities to continue looking out for more opportunities for improving the quality of literacy education in Kenya through scientific and technological innovations through the newly approved Early Grade Reading Institute, which will be held accountable in this respect.

According to Prof. Hedrick, the best way to learn is to teach and this in turn will enable the older children master the art of reading and learning at an early age. The workshop will see older children trained to train younger children is a collaboration effort by the two Universities to help children improve their learning experience especially reading. Cross-age peer tutoring consists of student partnerships in which an upper primary pupil is trained to work with a younger child to conduct reading sessions. The program has been very effective in high income countries and it is now being piloted in Kenya.

Agha Khan Foundation representative, Ms. Terry Njoroge, highlighted the main areas of collaboration they have had with the University, key among them; Abracadabra. In this module, it was discovered that children learn to read between zero to eight years and from there henceforth, they read to learn. Abracadabra focuses on reading, comprehension and sound recognition among young children. The piloting of this study was done in Westlands and Kilimani primary schools where it was found that it had significant improvement on children's grades.

Also present during the workshop held at Kenya Science Campus was Prof. Isaac Jumba, Principal, College of Education and External Studies, Prof. Horace Ochanda, Deputy Principal, College of Education and External Studies and Dr. Justus Inyega, the Project Principal Investigator.

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