



Early Childhood Development Centres and Child Mortality Reduction in South Sudan Villages,

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Abstract

Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) have been introduced in several African contexts to address child mortality and promote early childhood development. A mixed methods approach was employed, integrating quantitative data from health records with qualitative insights from interviews and focus group discussions among community members and educators. Findings suggest that ECDs significantly reduced child mortality rates by 20% in the study area compared to pre-intervention levels, highlighting their potential as a key public health strategy. The mixed methods approach revealed nuanced understandings of how ECDs operate and their impact on community health outcomes. Future research should explore long-term effects and scalability of ECD interventions in South Sudan villages, with recommendations for policy makers to integrate such centres into broader public health strategies.

Keywords: *African geography, Mixed methods, Early childhood development, Child mortality, Community intervention, Qualitative research, Quantitative analysis*

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