

Innovation Week Tanzania 2021
Teaching at the Right Level Workshop:
An Innovative Teaching Pedagogy to Improve Children's Literacy and Numeracy

About Innovation Week

Innovation Week is a platform which hosts a week-long series of collaborative events and exhibitions in Tanzania, curated by the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF), Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH), in partnership with other innovation stakeholders, and with hitherto the support from the UKAid. This year, HDIF and COSTECH are joined by another strategic partner, UNDP, to bring eventful and impactful week, and make the Innovation Week Tanzania as sustainable as it can be.

Why Innovation Week Tanzania?

The purpose of Innovation Week is to provide space to innovators, policy makers, funders, researchers, and other players in the innovation ecosystem to share what they have been working on, learn from and inspire each other, collaborate across sectors, and transform Tanzania through the scaling of innovation. The Week aims at inspiring the current and future leaders in Tanzania to take risks on new ideas, collaborate across sectors, and transform Tanzania using innovation. We have constantly seen that when stakeholders come together, formidable partnerships can be formed and positively impact innovators and the innovation ecosystem. Innovation Week events and exhibitions continue to be some of the most influential, educative and relevant platforms to share learnings and best practices on how to use technology and innovation for economic and social development.

Teacher Development and Support (TDS) Participation

Teacher Development and Support Thematic Group (TDS) is a thematic group in the Regional Education Learning Initiative, Tanzania Chapter, with the aim of advancing teachers' professional development and supporting good teaching practices to aid better learning outcomes for children. It is of particular interest to TDS to leapfrog learning and teaching challenges by leveraging innovative interventions and pedagogies such as Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL). TaRL is an evidence backed educational approach that helps children develop basic reading and mathematics skills. It is an innovative pedagogy that has been championed by TDS among RELI members, with the aim to inform and raise awareness, to show how TDS has become a community of practice for adoption and implementation and demonstrate the use of TaRL tools and methodologies for deeper understanding and engagement. From this ethos, TDS sought to now share pedagogy with the wider ecosystem in innovation and education during the Innovation Week Tanzania 2021 where through a competitive application process the concept to show TaRL was accepted for a 2-hour workshop.

The event was both physical and virtual, hosted by the TDS Lead, Faraja Kotta Nyalandu. It included a keynote speech delivered by Zaida Mgalla, Executive Director of Uwezo who shared the history and



mission of RELI Tanzania, TaRL as a pedagogy, the learning outcomes based on Uwezo's experience and the drive for adoption citing SAWA and OCODE who are also RELI members. The keynote was followed by a makeshift class comprised of students from Kumbukumbu Primary School who took part in an exercise to showcase TaRL in practice, facilitated by Dr. Shadidu Ndossa, Safia Mkubwa Abdalla, Benjamini Masebo and Said Yunus. Finally, the audience had a chance to enjoy Aya Stories, TaRL children's digital stories that support literacy coordinated by Berthasia Richard of Shule Direct and Umayra Said of SUZA supported the live streaming of the event. Credit goes to Dr. Maryam Jaffar Ismail from SUZA, the then TDS thematic leader, now the Country Leader of RELI Tanzania for working tirelessly with all TDS members to adopt and develop the whole package of TaRL resources that fit the context of Tanzania. Thanks to Zaida Mgalla for bringing the idea to RELI Tanzania and for introducing TaRL Africa. The RELI Africa network provided the opportunity to harvest learnings through collaboration and synergies with other RELI members.

All TaRL resources including the Literacy, Numeracy, Parents Guide toolkits and Aya Stories will be available online. Please register here to be the first to receive:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aeWo7erty6AOMWEzwB2mPBNSMXyuL6OotuTUmrC5SBI/edit#gid=0