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# THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MOTHER TONGUE BASED MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION (MTB MLE)

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The students are learning in MLE class (bangkok.unesco.org, 2017)

## ABSTRACT

Education for All (EFA) is a significant movement made by leaders of 155 countries to ensure quality education for all children and adults in 1990. After 30 years, however, slow progress in achieving this goal is found in ethnic minority communities. One main reason for this problem is students do not understand the language used in the school (UNESCO, 2010). Accordingly, Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education is designed to overcome this issue. UNESCO reported four studies that show the program is effective in improving students' academic achievement in Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

## INTRODUCTION

According to UNESCO (2019), Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTB MLE) is an educational program for helping ethnic minority children that rarely speak the national language. Firstly, in early grades, children will learn only in their native language, with other language(s) added in later years. The research studies presented here examine the effectiveness of MTB MLE program. Therefore, the multilingual education model should be more widely adopted in countries around the world.

## METHODOLOGIES

- The MLE schools in these studies were Kom and Lubuagan (Lub) in Philippines, Patany Malay (PM) in Thailand, and Viet Nam school in Vietnam.
- Researchers assessed students' progress both in MLE and non MLE schools (selected as sample) for over six years.
- More than 20 field settings were used to test students (each year) based on government curriculum.

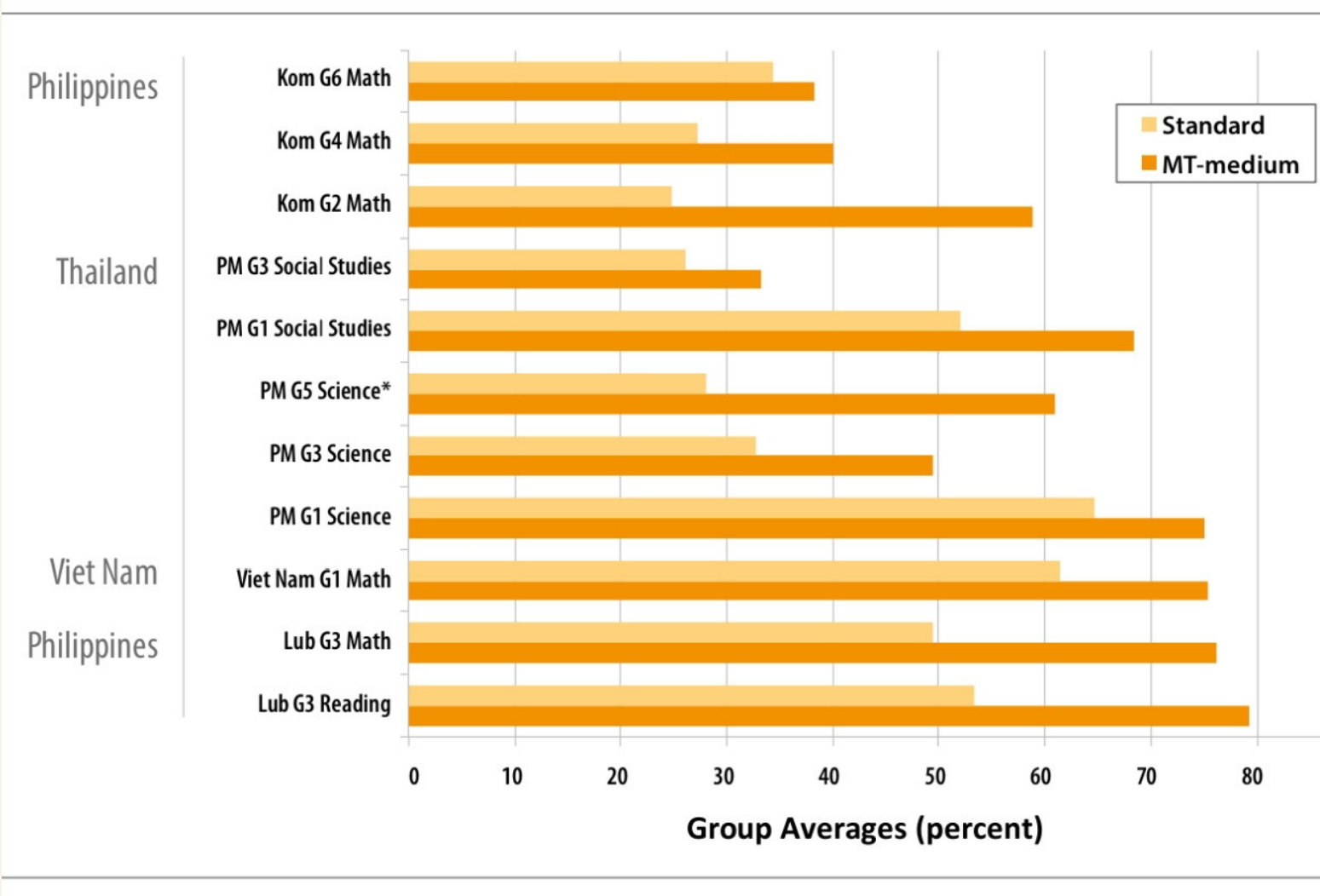
## FINDING

The MLE students have higher achievement:

- 25% in Reading
- 3 - 35% in Math
- 15 - 30% in Science
- 10 - 20% in Social Studies

MLE students attained higher scores in all subjects.

Comparison of MLE and non-MLE students in learning academic content



(UNESCO,2019.p.31)

## CONCLUSION

Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education can significantly improve students' achievement because it provides students with teaching and learning that is easily understood and closely related to their life. Governments should consider this program as one of the solutions for equity and quality education.

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