About Nal'ibali Reading Clubs

Evaluating the quality, outcomes and sustainability of Nal'ibali Reading Clubs

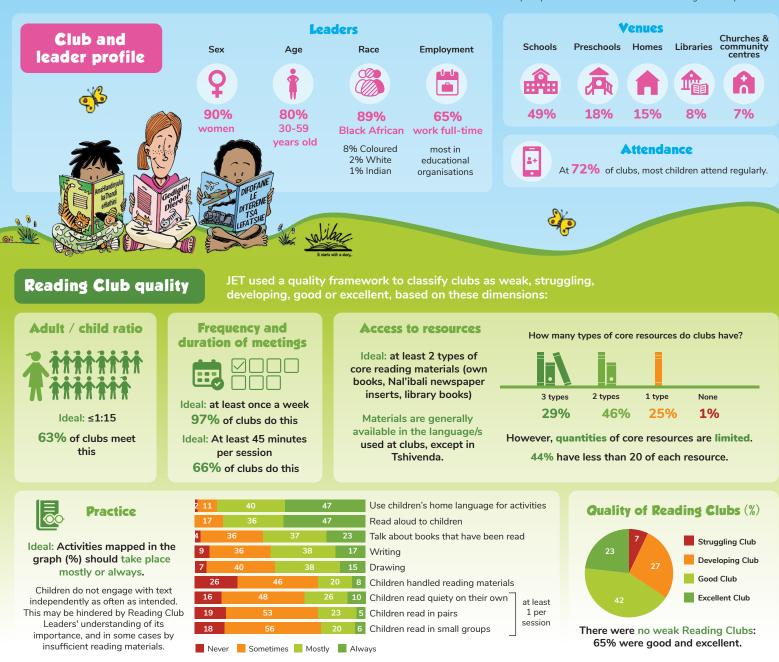
Reading Clubs are safe, informal spaces run by caring adults where children can engage freely with books and stories.

In December 2018, Nal'ibali had 4 839 active* Reading Clubs. JET Education Services was contracted to evaluate the quality, outcomes and sustainability of Reading Clubs.

Research methods

Telephonic survey – 349 active and 50 inactive Reading Club Leaders Site visits – 25 clubs in 9 provinces, including Reading Club session observation, interviews and focus groups.

*The study sampled 2 706 clubs confirmed active via re-registration by June 2019



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Perceived outcomes

Some of the changes most frequently reported are that children are spending more time reading for enjoyment and their reading skills have improved.



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More than **two thirds** of Reading Clubs **stop running within a year of registration**.

Threats to sustainability are:

Departure of Nal'ibali staff when a focused project ends.

Challenges of attracting volunteers in communities with high unemployment.

Difficulty balancing curriculum demands and running a school-based Reading Club.



Conclusion and recommendations

Cost-effective strategies identified include:				
STRATEGY	COST PER CLUB/YEAR*			
Face-to-face training which better emphasises ideal practice	R1 654			
1-year supplement subscription (15 editions) to increase reading resources	R1 350			
Stipends for Nal'ibali staff to monitor and support clubs	R894			

*Assuming an average of 30 children per Reading Club

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