

Addressing the impact of socio-economic factors on adult learning

Introduction

Socio-economic status significantly affects educational outcomes. This briefing paper explores how socio-economic factors influence adult learning in Aotearoa New Zealand, using information from the PIAAC report to propose policy recommendations.

The Manako programme is provided by Ako Aotearoa, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence (NCTTE), and was formerly known as the Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Cultural Capability (ALNACC) programme. The Manako programme continues our partnership with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to enhance educational capability across Aotearoa New Zealand. Embracing our roots and expertise in literacy, numeracy, and both Māori and Pacific cultural capability, the Manako programme expands our commitment to delivering inclusive and effective education, informed by the values and needs of all New Zealanders.

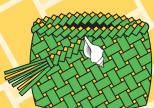
PIAAC is the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, and an initiative of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). The OECD is an international, intergovernmental organisation with 38 Member countries, whose message is “Better policies for better lives”.

Current initiatives

The Manako programme's initiatives to raise awareness of socio-economic disparities include financial literacy workshops, LLN (language, literacy, and numeracy) workshops, neurodiversity workshops, webinars, and research.

Impact on learning outcomes

The PIAAC report shows that socio-economic factors continue to create barriers to adult learning. These barriers include limited access to resources, financial constraints, poor nutrition, health concerns, and lack of support.



Recommendations for tertiary education and funding bodies

» Financial support:

- » Increase financial support for learners from low socio-economic backgrounds to support accessible education.

» Resource access:

- » Improve access to educational resources in all communities.

» Support services:

- » Enhance support services to address the specific needs of learners facing socio-economic challenges.

Conclusion

Addressing socio-economic disparities is crucial for equitable education. By raising awareness of current initiatives and presenting evidence-based, targeted policy recommendations, the Manako programme can support the tertiary education sector in reducing barriers and improving educational outcomes for all learners.

