

## THE EFFECT OF LITERACY IN REFUGEE CHILDREN'S VOCABULARY SKILLS

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### ABSTRACT

The present study aims to investigate the role of literacy in the acquisition of vocabulary in refugee children. Recent studies in bilingual children have found the beneficial role of literacy in lexical knowledge. In the present study participated ten refugee children with Greece as area of residence. Since 2015 over a million refugees came to Greece, either to stay or to continue deeper into Europe, the majority of which are from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Iran and the Democratic republic of Congo. For the purposes of this study half of the participants received literacy support in Greek through schooling (i.e. the control group), whereas the other half received additional literacy support (three hours per week) attending teaching interventions (i.e. the experimental group). The examination of the participants was conducted in three stages: a pretest stage, followed by three-month teaching interventions and ended with the administration of a post-test. The participants were tested in vocabulary skill (i.e. expressive vocabulary) in both test and teaching intervention stages. The findings demonstrate better performance of the control group on vocabulary in the pre-test. However, this performance of both groups appeared equal after the end of the teaching interventions.

**Keywords:** Refugees, vocabulary knowledge, literacy.