

Measuring Young People's Workplace and Everyday Literacy and Numeracy Competencies in Uganda

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Introduction

- For the past decade, Uwezo has assessed the basic literacy and numeracy skills of children of school age (ages 6-16) in East Africa.
- In 2019 we wished to understand better the situation of young people aged 14-20 in relation to the literacy and numeracy demands of employment and everyday living.



Rationale for the assessment



To contribute to the existing assessment methods and approaches that accurately measure how outcomes of schooling match with skills required in the workplace and everyday life

Methodology



- Household survey
- **01** District
- **10 EAs** (5 rural, 5 urban) randomly selected
- **191** households
- **253** young people aged 14-20 assessed
- Computer-assisted personal interview



The assessment tasks

- Contextually relevant performance-assessment asks
- Through complex, but flexible and adaptable processes of referral from one task to another, each individual assessed was placed on one of five levels in literacy and one of three levels of numeracy.



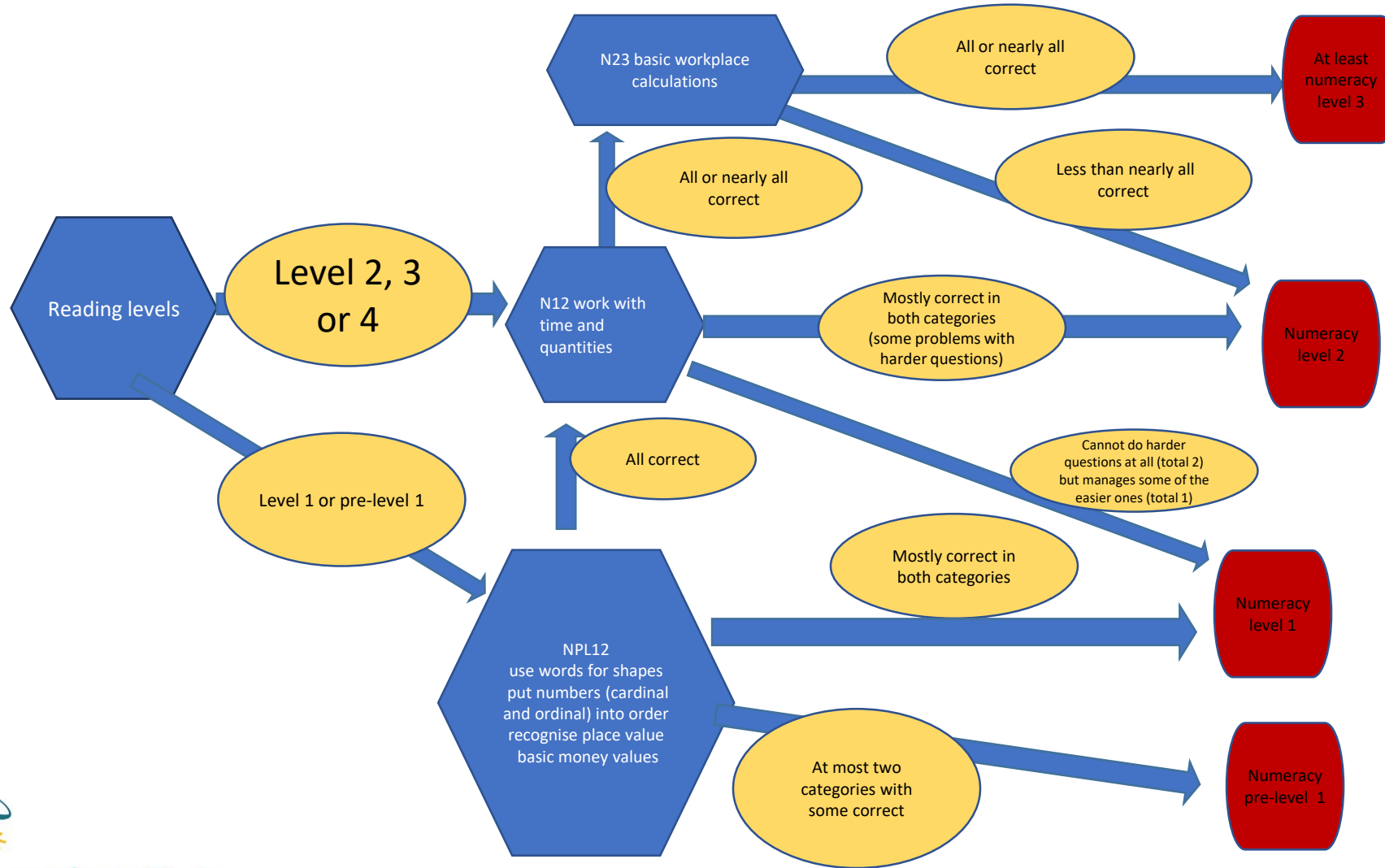
Overview of the Performance Tasks we developed

| Reading and Writing Tasks | Numeracy Tasks |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Completing a personal information form (START TASK for All)ii) Interpreting workplace signs and symbolsiii) Reading and interpreting public noticesiv) Reading and interpreting an official application form (loan application)v) Reading of two contrasting texts and writing of answers to show understanding of conceptual meaning in unfamiliar text | <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Using basic numeracy skills such as recognition of shapes, putting numbers in order, recognising place value as well as basic money valuesii) Working with time and quantitiesiii) Basic workplace calculations |

Assessment Approach: Flexible and Adaptable*



FLOW CHART: MATH



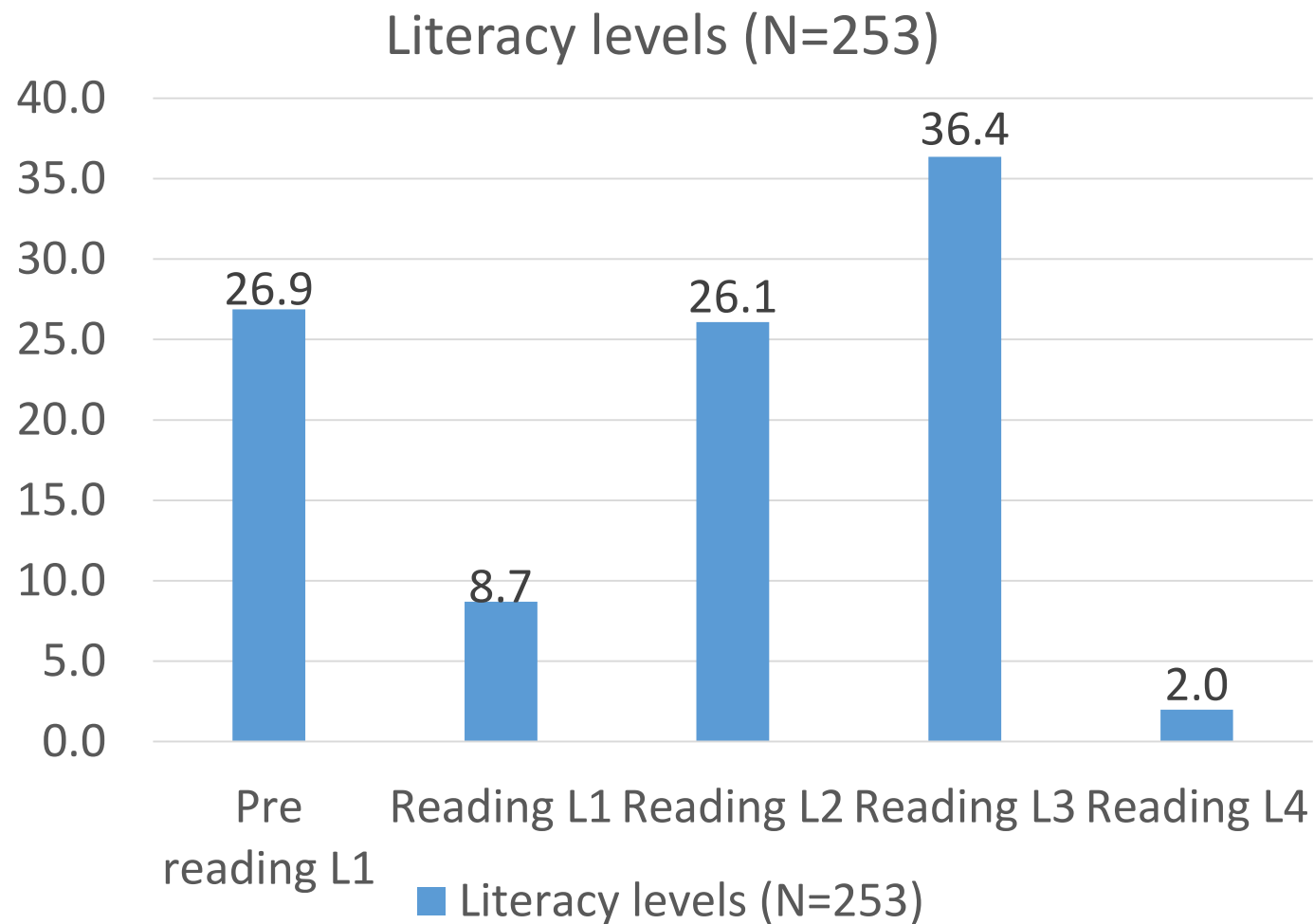


Selected findings from the assessment



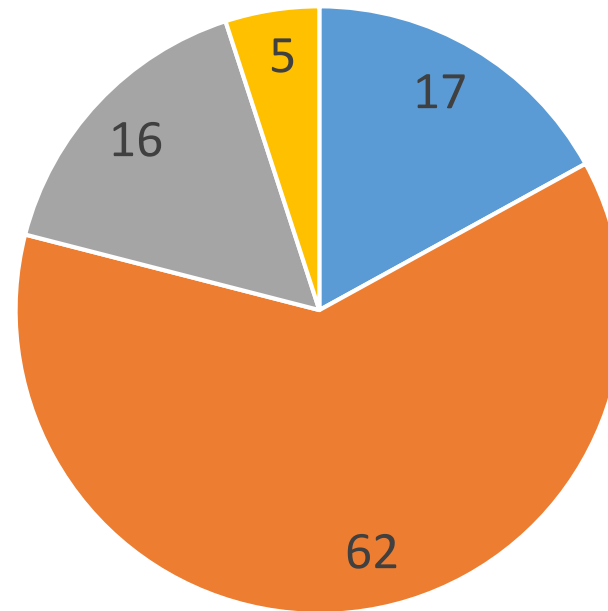


Young people generally demonstrated low skills on workplace and everyday literacy



Similarly, young people generally demonstrated low skills on everyday numeracy

Numeracy level

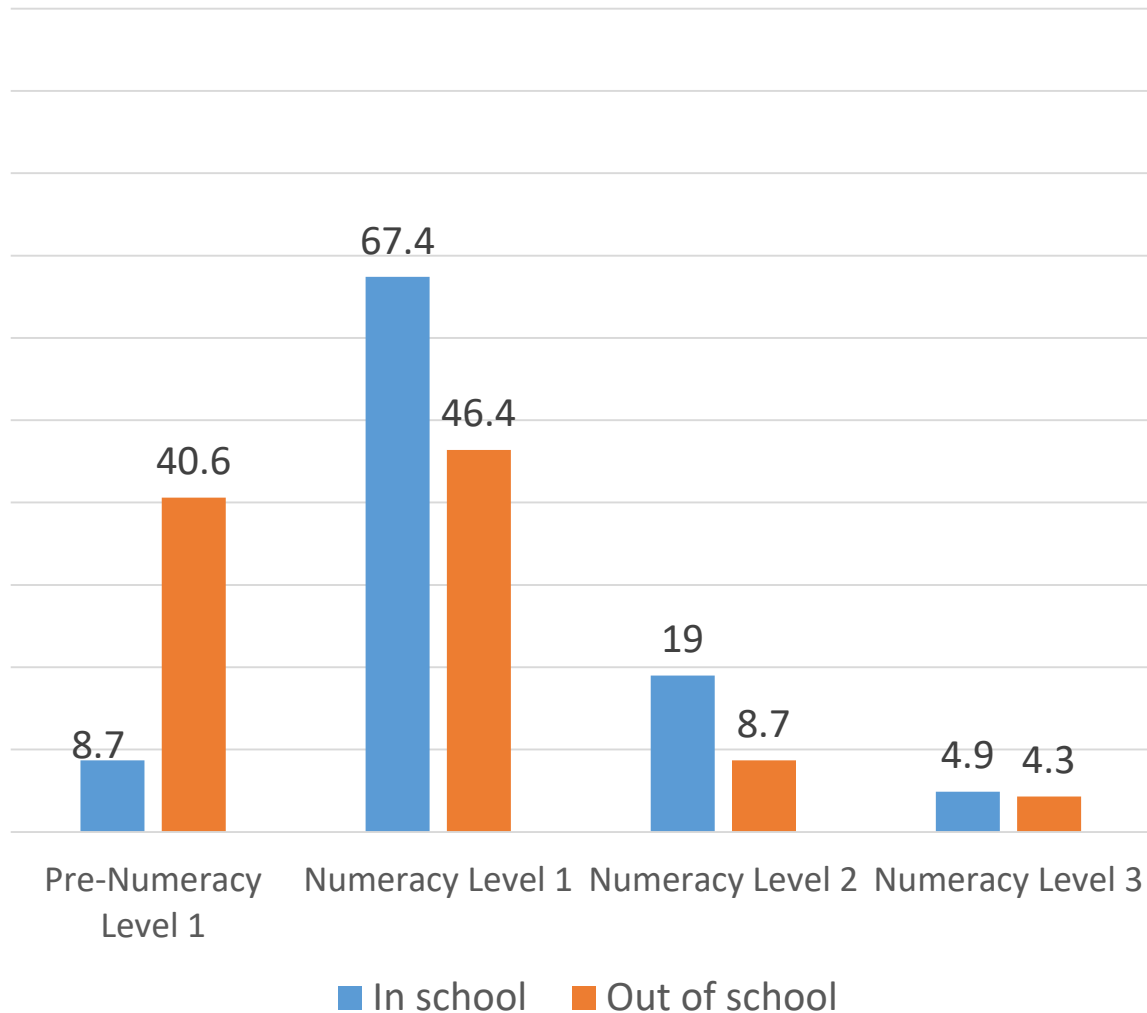


- PRE-1 Level (44)
- NUM-LEVEL 1 (156)
- NUM-LEVEL 2 (41)
- NUM-LEVEL 3+ (12)

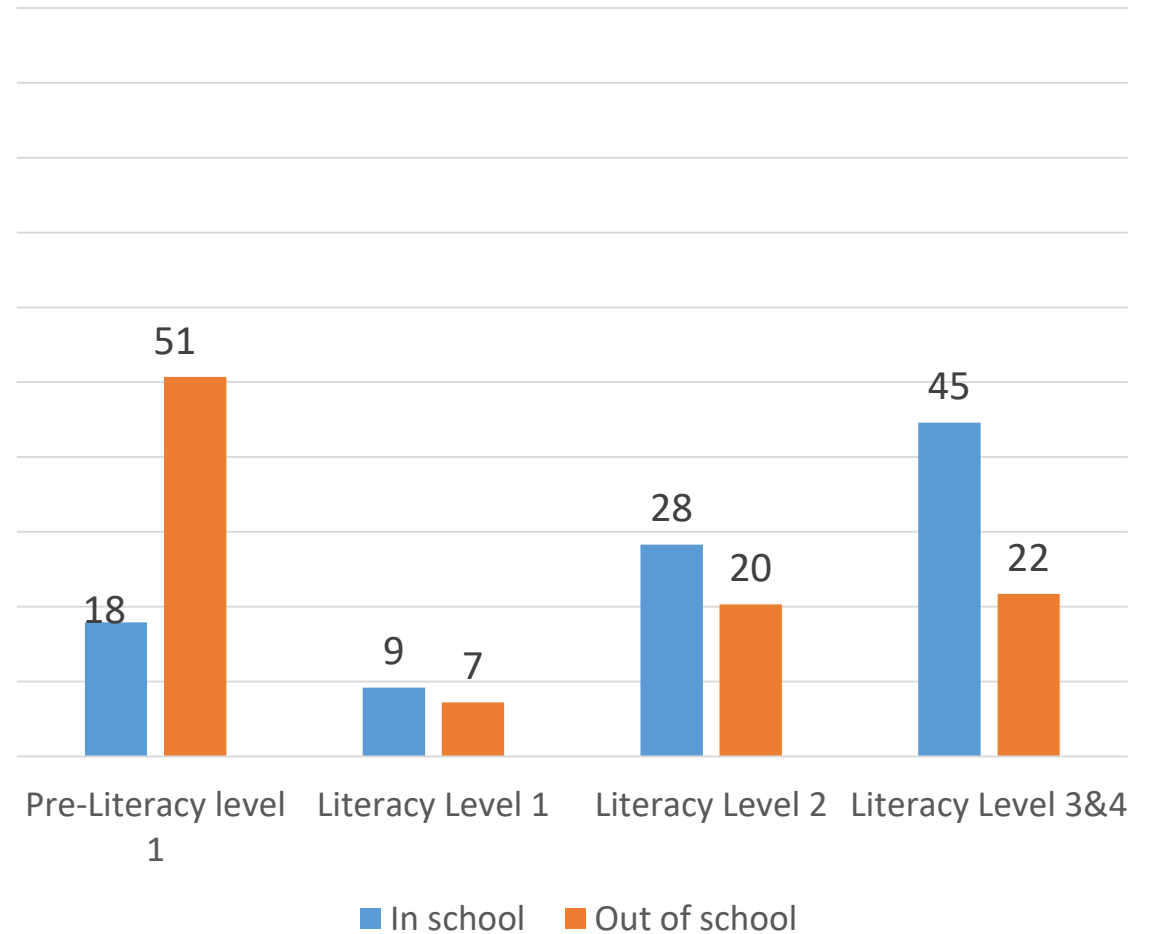


Skill levels varied according to schooling status

Numeracy



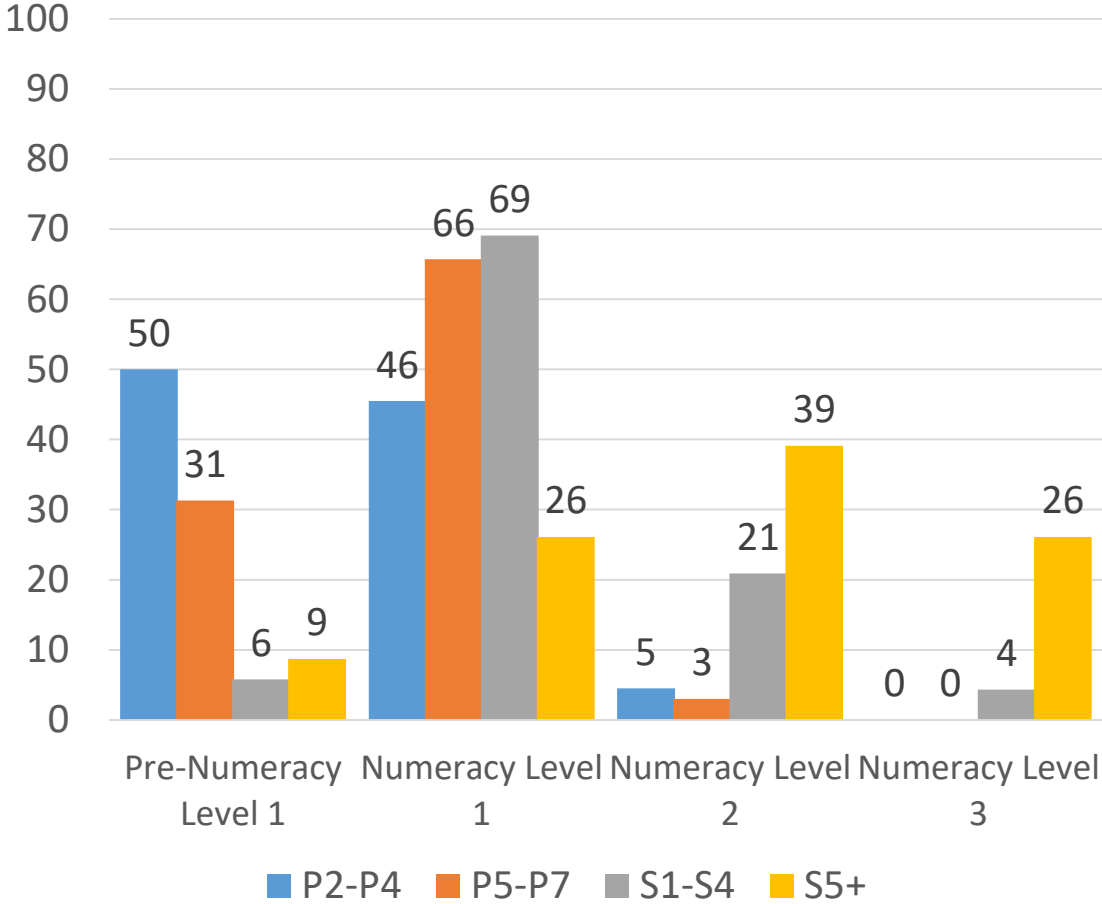
Literacy



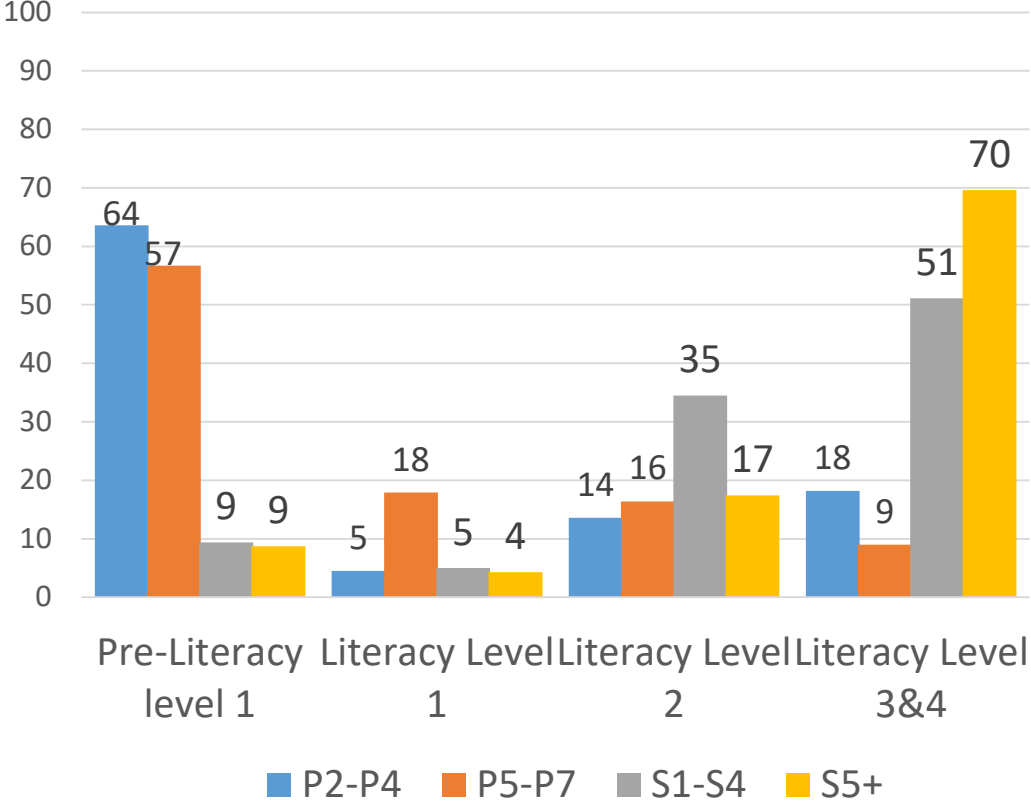


Skill levels varied according to level of education completed

Numeracy



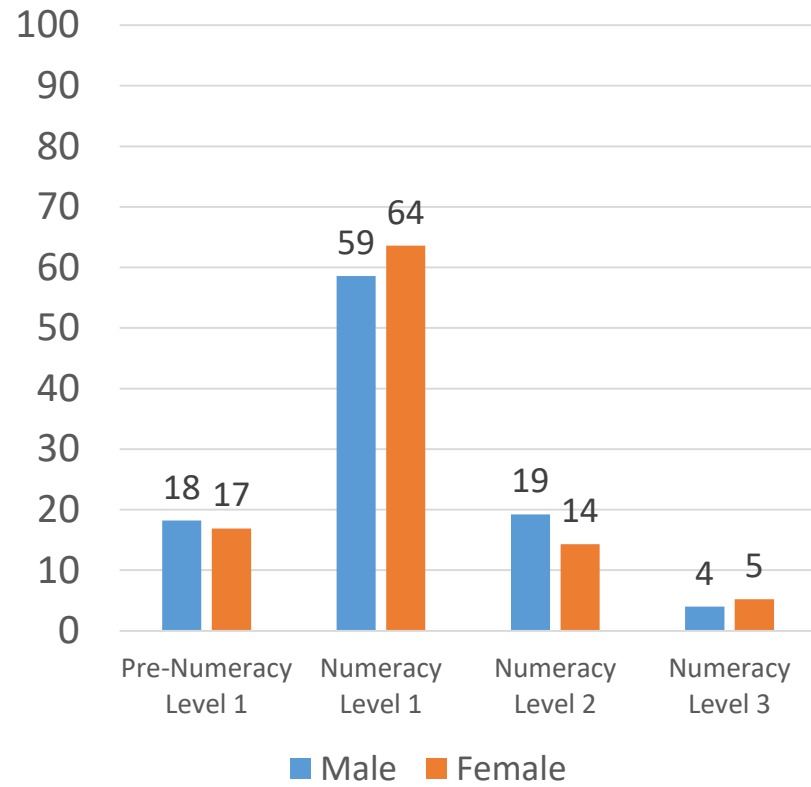
Literacy



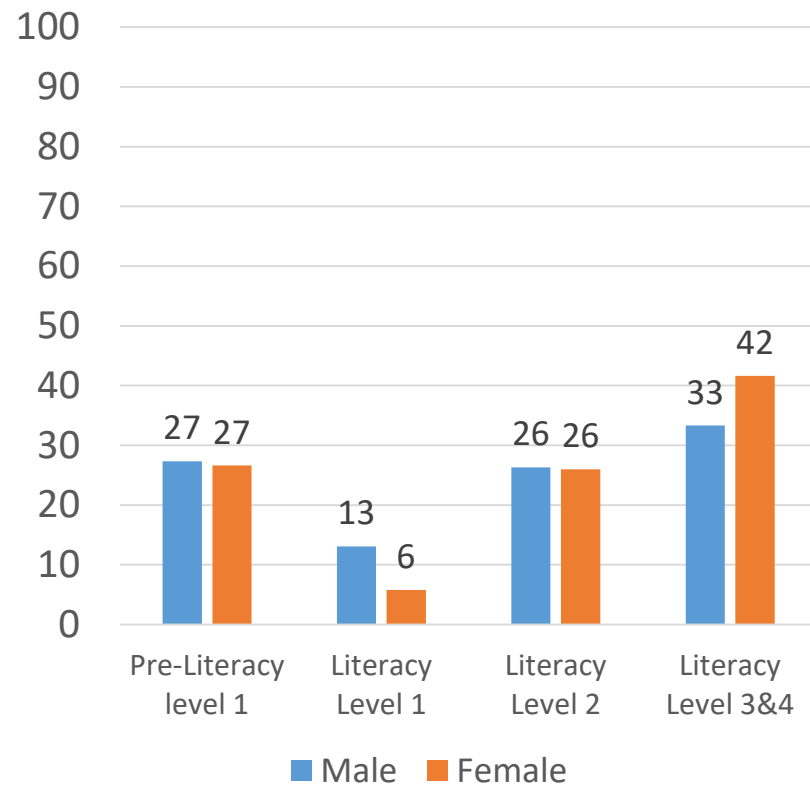


Skill levels did not vary much by gender

Numeracy



Literacy





Critical observations from the assessment

The findings suggest low workplace literacy and numeracy skills:

- Especially among those who have left school
- Implying that a large proportion of school leavers seem to remain 'unskilled' for employment purposes
- Functional abilities lowest in mathematics: suggesting a more general failure of numeracy education and a need for action in this area

Thank you!

Contact Us!

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