

### **The role of partnership experts in inclusive education**

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Given that literacy is considered essential for school and social inclusion, this study investigates how the literacy acquisition of immigrant children from minority backgrounds can be fostered by modifying the attitudes and practices of their families towards school and literacy events at home and by increasing their cultural references, with the help of partnership experts. The research methodology selected two primary schools where a great number of students came either from African or Indian minorities belonging to low SES families. The sample was composed of all the first graders belonging to those minorities and it was divided into the test and the control group. After characterizing their parents' attitudes and expectations, and the children' literacy development, the adequate intervention to target the students and families was chosen. This way, it was possible to develop strategies which promoted the involvement and school inclusion of "*hard-to-reach parents*". As they modified their attitudes towards school and the literacy events, they positively influenced both the students' literacy development and their educational inclusion. Thus, the use of partnership experts seems a powerful resource to be used in reducing the high rate of failure and exclusion which is common among most minority students.