Six-country project on language and literacy education
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the best model for estimating relative peak \( VO_2 \) was:

\[
\text{peak } VO_2 (\text{ml} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}) = 95.56 - 3.345(\text{walk time}) - 0.174(\text{Wt})
\]

The SEE was 3.84 ml kg\(^{-1}\) min\(^{-1}\) and adjusted \( R^2 \) was 0.64. The best model for estimating absolute peak \( VO_2 \) was:

\[
\text{peak } VO_2 (\text{1} \cdot \text{min}^{-1}) = 2.90 - 0.176(\text{walk time}) + 0.031(\text{Wt})
\]

The SEE was 0.38 l min\(^{-1}\) and adjusted \( R^2 \) was 0.87.

Results indicated the RFWT is a reliable field test for the sample tested. Reliable peak \( VO_2 \) measures can be obtained if consideration is given to providing sufficient familiarization and practice. Prediction equations developed in this study should be further tested and validated. Further studies with subjects of different age, gender and IQ levels need to be conducted to confirm the appropriateness of the RFWT as a valid cardiovascular field test for individuals with intellectual disability.

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**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**Six-country Project on Language and Literacy Education**

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This research project, first initiated by the University of Pennsylvania, is a collaborative project among six different countries, viz. Singapore, Germany, Switzerland, China, Japan and the United States. The Singapore project is coordinated by NIECER. The objectives of the research project are:

- to identify the contexts and conditions for language learning and literacy in each country,
- to identify and to obtain language teachers' assessment of the adequacy of the support systems/structures for language learning and literacy,
- to identify and describe the processes of language education and literacy in the classroom and to show how they are related to success in language learning.

The project has three phases. Phase 1, which will be completed in March 1997, consists of a review and description of the socio-cultural context for language learning in Singapore. Phase 2 is the fieldwork phase and will include qualitative and quantitative studies of a sample of schools. This will take place between 197-1998. The last phase, post-1998, will be the collation and writing-up of results.