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Proceedings of the 36<sup>th</sup> ISTEAMS Accra Bespoke Multidisciplinary Innovations Conference

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## Language and Literacy Campaign as a Tool of National Development In The Former Soviet Union And Modern Russia

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### ABSTRACT

It has been observed from available literature that developing countries have the greater number of illiterates. Consequent upon this assertion, governments and countries that have found themselves in this precarious situation devote a lot of resources; revenue, energy, political campaigns and manpower toward the eradication of this social menace that is a bane of nation building and national development. This paper thus investigates the campaign against mass illiteracy in the former bilingual Soviet Union, upon the fall of the Russian empire. The Great October Socialist Revolution of 1917, otherwise known as the Socialist Revolution marked a basic change in world history, trend and transformation, and furthermore in the historic destiny of the Russian empire and modern Russia. This paper investigates how the Bolsheviks (majority revolutionaries) used language and campaigns of “down with illiteracy” as strategies of gaining popular support and also enhancing socio-economic and political progress, nation building and national development in the former Soviet Union and modern Russia.

**Keywords:** Nation Building, Language, Literacy Campaign, National Development, Multilingualism

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#### Proceedings Citation Format

Omotade, K. (2023): Accessing the level of Total Productive Maintenance Implementation: The Case of a Nigerian Fabrication Company. Proceedings of the 36<sup>th</sup> iSTEAMS Accra Bespoke Multidisciplinary Innovations Conference. University of Ghana/Academic City University College, Accra, Ghana.  
31<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023. Pp 378

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