

CRITICAL EVALUATION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION CASE STUDY IN TANZANIA

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ABSTRACT

Education is the most powerful weapon and integral part towards change in human life. Mwl. Nyerere the first president of Tanzania announced his several legacies amongst which was to fight against illiteracy. He thought there is a need of education and for that matter he imposed free education for all in initial level meanwhile secondary education fee was imposed. Henceforth, this became the first major problem towards high dropout in secondary education. This paper has discussed the problems that hinders secondary education causing to high dropout of students, it provides the findings, way forward to curb the withering problems affecting secondary education in Tanzania and solutions to the problems faced at secondary level of education in Tanzania.

Keywords: *High dropout and Secondary education*

INTRODUCTION

In the context of Tanzania, secondary education is divided into two tiers; Ordinary level (O level) which is of four years and Advanced level (A level) which is of two years. The mode of language used as medium of instruction in both public and private schools is English in all two levels. On 27, November 2015 Tanzanian government implemented latest reforms through the Education and Training Policy 2014 which directed the public bodies to ensure free secondary education for all the children of Tanzania. It included removal of all clerical forms of fees and charges which were earlier implemented in secondary education, expand secondary by building at least one secondary school in every administrative ward to expand availability of secondary education and ensure students could study closer to their homes. But despite all efforts, the government has suffered significant delays such poor infrastructure, due to insufficient financial resources allocated for schools and lack of rigorous implementation across the country.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The main objective of this research paper is to critical evaluate secondary education in Tanzania. The researcher has adopted an analytical type of research that use facts or information already available and analyze the given information in order to make a critical evaluation of the material. The authentic source used is Tanzanian's 2014 Education and Training Policy. The study area chosen for the research paper is secondary level of education in Tanzania due to number of problems encountered that led to high drop out of secondary students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study about the Tanzanian's 2014 Education and Training Policy.
2. To study the problems that led to high dropout at secondary education in Tanzania.

3. To study the solution of the problems faced at secondary level of education in Tanzania.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

1. Poor infrastructure and inadequate transportation

This is one of the barrier to access complete secondary school education in Tanzania. Public secondary schools mostly lack adequate classrooms, libraries, and adequate paving construction for children with disabilities. To some extent buildings which are incomplete are used as science laboratories with less laboratory tools to be used. Many students have to travel long distances to get to school which impacts student's attendance and performance in school henceforth leading to high dropout of secondary students.

2. Cost of secondary education

Tanzanian 2014 Education and Training Policy has only imposed free education for the lower secondary education but today even after the abolition of school fees, the cost of smaller items such as uniforms and learning materials are still imposed making many of the poorest students drop out from accessing secondary education. As for high level, secondary education is not free thus school fee is needed to attain higher level of secondary education, thus for students who come from below poverty line find it a dream to attain education, not allowed to sit for exams hence contributes to high dropout of secondary students.

3. Lack of accessible secondary schools

In Tanzania most schools are constructed with no consideration of the disabled children and as a result these students end up suffering and losing interest in education. They think they are not inclusive in accessing comfortable education as other physical students. Apart from the isolated marginalized group there is limited number of secondary schools especially at rural areas in Tanzania henceforth contributing to demotivation of secondary age students not to attain there basic education.

4. In adequate of sanitation facilities

In most of public secondary schools in Tanzania, there are no enough constructed toilets to accommodate both boy, girls and whole staff hence few constructed should be shared amongst all. Safe and adequate toilets and sanitation facilities are a basic component of an acceptable learning environment, but in many public secondary schools toilets do not meet any basic standards and for that this led to health related disease such as unitary tract infection (UTI) leading to regular missing of classes, failing due to regular missing of classes causing to high drop out.

5. In adequate resources for disabled students

Children with disabilities face many barriers from initial stage of their education to higher level of secondary education. Thus few children with disabilities attend secondary schools across the country. Most secondary schools in Tanzania are inadequately resourced to accommodate students with all types of disabilities. Many lack adequate learning materials, inclusive equipment, and support through their academic journey thus most of them end up dropping out of school.

6. Poor quality of education and qualified teachers

Tanzania secondary education system is struggling to deliver quality education at all levels particularly in rural or remote areas where students suffer from shortage of qualified teachers. The government allocates teaching staff to all public schools crosscutting the whole regions available but the issue is most of the allocated staff in remote areas don't report to the required school hence students suffer from accessing good quality of education. Hence number of students fail national exams leading to high drop out of secondary education in a premature stage.

FINDINGS

1. Insufficient budget allocation to secondary education

According to International standards, Tanzanian government should spend not less than twenty percent of total national budgets on education. But a year later after the suggestions given Tanzanian government spent less on the recommended figure of its national budget on education which was not sufficient enough to cater for good quality of education. The following budgetary year, the government allocated above stated figure of its total national budgets to education which exceeded the international standards and but still the condition isn't satisfying. More so, United Nations Children Fund's analysis was the government should progressively increase its budget allocation to secondary education since numbers of drawbacks are still noticed.

2. Financial barrier

In December 2015, his excellence President John Pombe Magufuli announced the government's decision to abolish all fees and additional financial requirements from initial stage tenth grade which is lower stage of secondary education. Whereas fees is imposed in high level of secondary school leading to high dropout in this specific stage of secondary education. As number of students come from poor families and at times below poverty line thinking how their parents and guardians can support them at higher level of secondary education as school fees and other contributions are demanded.

3. Lack of Qualified Teachers

In most public secondary schools there are few number of qualified teachers that demoralizes students morale to attend regular classes and eventually decide to quit or drop out thinking it's a waste and expensive to hire a private teacher. And it should be noted the system of secondary education in Tanzania is passing with minimum credits will guarantee a student to go for the next level without that it's all waste of time. With this reason of nature of exams and no qualified teachers makes the students demotivated to attend classes hence been irregular and later drop out and engage themselves in something else such as child labor.

4. Poor sanitation

This contributes to both high dropout cases of students at secondary education as well as shortage of teachers at rural areas or remote areas. The most affected schools with bad and poor health sanitation such as lack of enough toilets to accommodate staff and secondary students is mostly experienced in rural public schools. If a student is sick then he or she will start missing classes for medical treatment same to teachers they will also remain absent for medical treatment thus it should be noted human health is the most essential element, it should be taken care of since one barrier results to the other circumstances, poor sanitation led to shortage of teachers, high absentees that led to high drop out of students at secondary school.

5. Secondary education system

The nature of secondary education in Tanzania has been changing from time to time. A high number of students failing national examination are noticed from year to year. Tanzanian 2014 Education and Training Policy allows the dual use of Kiswahili and English as languages of instruction in secondary schools which isn't a problem solving. Secondary school exams are all conducted in English with this all subjects too should be taught in English with expectancy of Kiswahili as a subject unless otherwise this will result into confusion and in most cases it's a reason why students fail to communicate and write grammatical English statements since the system invaded in schools is not uniform.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Use of one formal language

One formal language should be used as a medium of instruction in secondary schools since secondary school exams are conducted in English. This will decrease the confusion and improve student's failure of exams due to hardship of interpreting questions, communicate and write grammatical English statements.

Tanzanian Education and Training Policy 2014 should standardize one formal language as means of instruction instead of dual to reduce the confusion.

2. Allocation of enough trained teachers to rural areas

On 13th October 2018, ITV a broadcasting media reported teachers escaped from teaching due to witchcraft or superstitions practice in Mara region, thus no safe working conditions and this stops the upcoming chosen teachers to refuse to allocate to such areas. Poor infrastructure and sanitation are also the contributors towards the problems facing secondary education in Tanzania. Henceforth the government should impose strictness on teachers allocated to respective teaching centers and improve such services like sanitation which makes teachers not to report and work on hard teaching environment.

3. Provision of teaching and learning materials

The government should provide good and enough teaching and learning materials to access good quality of education. Public constructed libraries should be provided with enough books and avoid expenses on students who can't afford to buy any for their academic purpose, more so provision of facilities like computers is important as most secondary school only end up learning such a subject in theoretical manner which isn't fair enough. Tanzania not only in the urban but also in the rural hence equal chances should be given to all secondary schools.

4. Provision of qualified teachers

Teachers are the most important element contributing to students learning. They contribute towards student's success henceforth any secondary school in Tanzania regardless rural or urban should have equal access to qualified teachers and most especially the science teachers who are noticed to be few as compared to other teachers. Thus, it's most important for the government to know that quality education requires qualified teachers in this manner more training for secondary teachers should be done.

5. Sanitation

Tanzanian government should overlook on the necessity of hygiene and sanitation in secondary schools such as construction of enough toilets. It should be noted that health is the most essential element that should be taken care of otherwise it may affect the regular attendance of the student and staff on school. Henceforth, it is suggested that the government should overlook on the issue of sanitation. This will boost up the reporting of teachers to their respective chosen schools, reduce the high dropout of students and regular missing of classes that affects student's results. Proper education goes hand in hand with comfortable learning environment be within or out.

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