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Challenges and their resolutions in the promotion and provision of adult literacy: A study case of Lufwanyama district, Copperbelt Province, Zambia

INTRODUCTION

This study aimed at investigating the challenges encountered by adult literacy in Lufwanyama district. The necessity to review the adult literacy programs steamed from the fact that the Zambian Government has committed to provide continued and distance education to its adult citizen for personal and national development.

Lufwanyama district is a vast area which was formerly part of the area known as Ndola rural. The total area is 9,849 square kilometers. But, the area has got fewer schools. This makes the high rate of illiteracy level among the adults in Lufwanyama District. To make this people overcome this disadvantage it was necessary for adult literacy to prevail. Adults would acquire the skills of learning and writing so that they are ushered into the process of adult Education and later form into the concept of lifelong education, so that they are able to interact with the development providence.

To underscore the importance of adult literacy, the ministers of education conference hosted by UNESCO (1965:5) *“observed that literacy was to be regarded as a way of preparing man for social, civic and economic roles in the community.”* This kind of literacy was to go far beyond the limits of rudimentary literacy skills of reading and writing. (UNESCO, 1965:5).

DEVELOPMENT

However, the adult literacy programs introduced by government and private practitioners were not doing well. This caused the researcher to institute an investigation.

A researcher designed a survey study because it is convenient to capture data on a large scale. It used both qualitative and quantitative method. Qualitative method was used to capture information such as ideas, opinions or expressions. Quantitative method was used to capture information which was quantifiable such as numbers.

Questionnaires were analyzed manually as well as through statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

In fact, the sample of 140 persons was used to capture information from a total population of 63185 in the district.

FINDINGS

The investigations revealed a number of findings. The findings include the following issues:-

- (a) that the relationship between the provincial workers and District officials was not strong this was because there was communication breakdown on a number of issues.
- (b) that there was no policy in the country which regulated the provision of adult literacy
- (c) that there was limitations of infrastructure such as roads and communication facilities.
- (d) that there were culture impediments among the people such as women not learning with men and adults with their children in learning centres.
- (e) that there the adults were adult peasant farmers who earned very little money to afford tuition fees.
- (f) that there were inadequate trained teachers
- (g) that there were inadequate teaching and learning materials
- (h) Government lacked a political will for the development of adult literacy
- (i) that wild beast were found as a threat to program organizers and learners
- (j) that there was low motivation among the people as they didn't know what adult literacy benefit would be.
- (k) that government as a leading organization in the provision of adult literacy was found to be working in isolation with Non-Governmental Organizations.

In respect of the challenges, this study proposes the following collective measures:-

- (a) that there be good collaborative between provincial and district officials in the area of literacy provision.
- (b) there should be a worked out policy to regulate the provision of adult literacy. The government should be in the lead of doing so.
- (c) that there government should improve road and network communication in Lufwanyama District.
- (d) that sensitization the people to overcome cultural impediments.
- (e) that the government to improve funding to adult literacy so that more peasant farmers can access adult literacy.
- (f) that there be enough trained teachers employed for the area.
- (g) that there should be increased funding would ensure adequate reaching and learning materials.
- (h) that the government gets committed to development of adult literacy in the area
- (i) that wild beast guard activities be intensified.
- (j) that people be sensitized about the benefits of adult literacy.
- (k) that government should work with Non-Governmental Organizations in the provision of adult literacy.

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that government has a leading entity in the development of adult literacy, must develop a political will. The political will, will enable it increase funding for the program which will overcome a lot of challenges such as tuition fees, teaching and learning materials, trained teachers etc.

Improvement of infrastructure such as road and network will also enhance the provision of adult literacy in the area. Literate adults will easily get connected to international way of living, which means that adult literate persons will easily participate in development programs.