

Education in Zambia at Fifty Years of Independence and Beyond with the focus on History, Current Status and Contemporary Issues is a comprehensive critical reference guide to education in Zambia. Drawing on in-depth, evidence-based empirical and theoretical research from seventeen chapters, this book makes an impressive contribution to three key areas of provision of education in Zambia: a historical account of different phases and issues in education, the detailed discussion on current educational provision and finally, the future prospects of provision of education. Apart from examining education provision in the last fifty years and beyond, the book also critically examines cross cutting issues in education related to female education and fertility rates, gender issues, special education, civic education, the teaching profession, environmental education, language policy education, library and information science education and Religious Education. This book will be an essential reference to students, researchers, scholars, international agencies and policy makers at all levels.



Gift Masaiti is Assistant Dean in charge of research in the school of Education at the University of Zambia. He is an educationist in 'economics and management of education' with massive experience and networked locally and globally. He has authored a number of Journal articles and chapters in various educational publications.



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Edited by GIFT MASAITI

EDUCATION IN ZAMBIA

at Fifty Years of Independence and Beyond

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FEMALE EDUCATION AND FERTILITY IN ZAMBIA

by

Christopher Mapoma, Million Phiri and Elizabeth Nyirenda

Abstract

Education has a strong impact on the life of a woman, her family, community and nation. However, measuring such impact is not an easy task. The effect is seen in all areas of family life and in society and it reflects the multifaceted nature of the education experience. Using Demographic and Health Survey data for Zambia, this chapter presents evidence that shows that fertility reduces with an increase in education. Children Ever Born, total fertility and fertility preferences were used to explore the relationship between female education and fertility. The results show that fertility is lowest among women with the highest education attainments. This reflects the fact that educated women have knowledge of and access to family planning and have the impetus to make credible and reflective fertility decisions. Efforts to improve women's enrolments, retention and participation in education in line with the policies outlined in Zambia's national implementation framework for education are thus the surest way to reduce fertility, especially adolescent fertility which is very high and is a major cause of girls' drop-out from school.

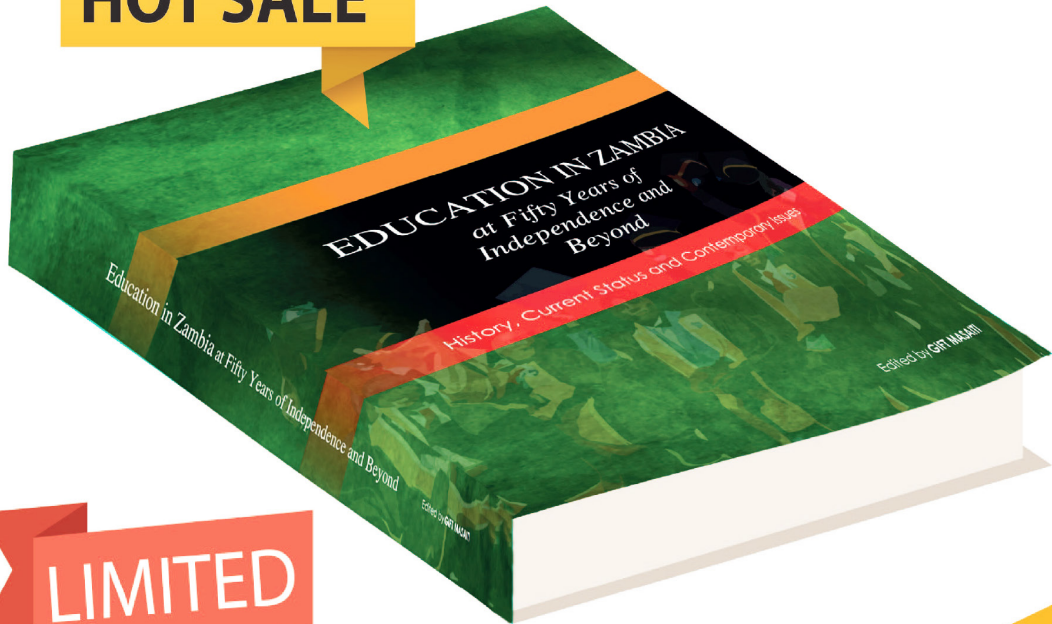
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