

A S T U D Y  
OF  
DEPLOYMENT OF SI TEACHERS  
IN KENYA SCHOOLS //

By

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of the requirements for the Degree of Master  
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

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Introduction.

The Kenya Government commitment to teacher education was exemplified by continued expansion of teacher training Programmes for Primary and secondary schools and the improvement of quality and standards of teaching.

The training of secondary school teachers in Kenya was not in existence before independence in 1963. Kenya secondary schools used to depend on teachers trained in other countries such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom. A few secondary school teachers were trained at the University of East Africa, Kampala, Uganda.

The training of non-graduate teachers began at Kenyatta College in 1964 in response to acute shortage of secondary school teachers. In 1965, the Kenya Science Teachers College (K.S.T.C.) admitted the first group of students for courses leading to the award of a non-graduate Secondary One (SI) Teaching Certificate in Science subjects. The training of Agricultural Teachers for Secondary Schools was started

at Egerton College, Njoro, almost at the same time. Upon completion of the training programme, the Egerton College trainees were awarded a Diploma in Agricultural Education, which constituted the authority for granting the SI Teachers Certificate by the Teachers Service Commission. The Kenya Polytechnic trained SI Technical teachers for secondary schools.

The SI non-graduate teachers from Kenyatta College, Kenya Science Teachers College, Egerton College and the Kenya Polytechnic specialized to teach one or two subjects up to Form IV level and could teach two other subjects up to Form II level.

Several SI teachers trained in the above mentioned institutions held responsible positions such as headship of secondary schools and tutorship in primary teachers colleges. Some SI teachers managed to go for further studies in the local and overseas universities.

Whereas Kenyatta University College no longer trains non-graduate secondary school teachers, Kenya Science Teachers College (K.S.T.C.), Egerton College and the Kenya Technical Teachers College (K.T.T.C.) still offer courses leading to the award of Diploma (SI) Certificates in Science Education, Agricultural Education and Technical Education respectively.

SI Teachers, as mentioned earlier, specialized in one or two teaching subjects. The primary school teachers, on the other hand, specialized in the teaching of all subjects

offered in Kenya primary schools during their training. In addition, the primary school teacher trainees underwent professional courses which emphasized research oriented approach.

Upon successful completion of the training programme, both the SI non-graduate teachers and the primary school teachers were posted to secondary and primary schools respectively, throughout the Republic of Kenya, by the Teachers Service Commission (T.S.C.).

In September 1976, the T.S.C. transferred about 500 SI teachers from secondary schools and primary teachers colleges to primary schools. The SI teachers were to be replaced by the more qualified graduate teachers, mostly Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree holders from the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University College. The move to transfer SI teachers was intended to improve even further the already existing high standards of performance by pupils in the Certificate of Primary Education (C.P.E.) Examination.

Despite the SI teachers' salary scale remaining as it was while serving in secondary schools, many of the SI teachers viewed the transfers as unfair and demoralizing. Some SI teachers also voiced concern to the fact that teaching in primary schools in Kenya was less prestigious than teaching in secondary schools. The transfer of SI teachers to primary schools was therefore not welcome by the teachers who were affected.