



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
HOUSING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT

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PLANNING AND DESIGN OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS
FOR SELF-HELP PROJECTS

a manual for the planning and construction
of education facilities under condition
of limited resources.

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INTRODUCTION

This manual includes guidelines for the planning, and implementation of school buildings with special reference to self-help projects in rural areas.

It is estimated that the total population of Kenya will reach 34 million by year 2000, and that 50 per cent will be in the pre-school and primary school age groups. The government has placed a high priority on the development of educational facilities in the five year plan period 1979 - 83, with the expected target of providing facilities for 95 per cent of primary school age children. But government efforts alone will not provide the required facilities, and it is expected that 'harambee' or self-help efforts and non-government organizations will provide a major part of the much needed schools.

Parents recognize the great importance of education for advancement in modern Kenya, and get together with community members to plan and 'build' on a 'Harambee' basis. However, many problems are encountered due to the lack of planning and construction expertise in the pre-stage phase of the project and the high cost of procuring professional assistance. Many schools implemented on a Harambee basis starts small with simple necessary sanitary facilities. Communities often wish to expand and upgrade their schools as enrollments increase and their economic conditions improve. The lack of pre-planning makes the task difficult as well as an expensive undertaking.

The advantages of having a pre-planned fully developed school layout plan prior to the process of expansion are obvious. Pre-planning not only avoids the misuse of resources but provides the development of an economical, physically and environmentally sound and functional institution.

In the preparation of this manual existing documentation on the subject has been drawn upon, as well as the collective experience of the HRDU on low cost housing, building materials and sanitation alternatives, besides the author's personal experience.

It is hoped that the main objective of this publication to outline the common problems in the planning process and to provide guidelines covering the full range of architectural activity from initial site selection to project completion, based on simple techniques, self-help, low costs and use of local materials, will especially assist communities undertaking to build their own schools.