

THE CITIZEN

Dar es Salaam Wednesday, 11 June, 2008

Yes, HakiElimu report makes a lot of sense

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The education lobby HakiElimu yesterday released a detailed report based on research it commissioned to review the state of education, especially in the primary school section.

The idea was to establish to what extent primary school pupils develop the fundamental reading, writing and practical skills they will need later in life.

While lauding government efforts to build more schools and classrooms under the Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) to raise enrolment in schools, the report highlights a myriad of problems facing the education sector. More specifically, it dwells on the shortage of teachers, textbooks and other teaching aids, which have combined to lower the quality of education. Most interviewees in the study were rightly of the opinion that it is not enough to put an extra million children in school without providing enough teachers and textbooks, unless the emphasis is quantity rather than quality.

In fact, many people take PEDP as nothing more than an ambitious plan to reintroduce the Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme that was rolled out by the Government in the mid-1970s, but which it could not follow through.

Like the previous education programme, the PEDP scheme fully depends on the Government to single-handedly provide textbooks, and teachers, and meet running costs – as well as make up for the lack of school fees. Nowhere in the world has such an undertaking ever succeeded!

That is why we see some sense in HakiElimu's call for an open national discussion to develop a clearly-defined vision on education. Lack of such a vision has made many people, including parents, think that they need not make any contribution to the education of their children, arguing that this is the sole responsibility of the State. This is, of course, utterly wrong.

Education quality in free fall: study

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By Polycarp Machira and Festo Eger

The quality of education in the country is on decline despite measures taken by the Government to improve it through the ambitious Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) and Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP).

A report on research commissioned by HakiElimu has shown that much as more schools and classrooms have been built, thus boosting enrolment, many people have raised concern on the quality of education children are receive in the schools.

The report launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday also states that children are not learning essential skills needed to help them in life.

"While PEDP and SEDP policy guidelines include a commitment to improve education standards, most efforts appear to have been directed at increasing quantitative inputs," reads the report part.

The research was meant to explore levels of education at local level and to examine people's opinion on quality.

According to the report, findings from the six the districts covered by the study show that parents and school committee members, were particularly critical of the quality of education offered.

Most respondents agreed that



Students from Kilimanjaro Region Amenipa Sengele (left) and Angela Hussein read a report on the quality of education in Tanzania unveiled by the NGO HakiElimu in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

PHOTO/SALIHIM SHAW

schools were far better now to develop capabilities in reading and writing in Kiswahili than in English.

The report says that while occa-

sional bright spots are clearly evident, many interviewees spoke about overcrowded classrooms, absent teachers, lack of access to books, corporal pun-

ishment, unqualified teachers and passive learning—in addition to—high dropout rates.

The report added that children who

complete schooling often have not learned practical essentials they need for creative work for themselves, their communities or contribute to national development.

The situation in schools reflect that Government's efforts have largely been directed at quantity with quality sidelined.

It appears that more funds are available for building schools and enrolment and the expense of actual learning.

Speaking during the launch of the report, Ms Elizabeth Misokia, executive director, HakiElimu, said the study sought to establish to what extent primary and secondary school students are developing some of the foundational skills they need in life.

She said the exercise was conducted through individual interviews, focus group discussions, survey of learners' capabilities.

Individuals who were interviewed included district education officers, district executive directors and district academic officers who are responsible for monitoring and guiding the development of education in their respective districts.

She said most of the interviewee indicated that the quality of education could be improved by building more schools, ensuring that there are enough teachers, students are provided with more books and sports facilities, which are a rarity in most schools.

Govt reviews education policy

D. News 11/10/08 PG. 3

By **DAILY NEWS**
Reporter

THE government is reviewing Education Policy of 1993 in order to accommodate emerging issues including the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools.

This was revealed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Professor Hamis Dihenga, during the launching of a research report on quality education in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

In a speech read on his behalf by the Director of Primary Education in the Ministry, Ms. Efrasia Ntukamazi-na, Prof Dihenga invited various stakeholders to contribute ideas towards improving the policy.

He also said that his ministry had also approved Teachers Development and Management Strategy (TDMS) that addressed the training and recruitment of teaching staff.

The report followed a research conducted by HakiElimu in six districts of Tanzania Mainland. The research has established that the quality of education in most schools is generally poor despite efforts to increase the number of teachers and schools, improvement of learning environment and increase in pupils and students enrolment.

"The government initiated Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) and Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP) in order to address shortfalls in our system such as access and equity, quality, capacity and institutional arrangements," said Professor Dihenga.

He said a number of studies had indicated that about 3 million children of school going age were out of school and that the quality of education was deteriorating.

He, however, said there had been remarkable

improvements since the launch of PEDP Phase One.

But Professor Dihenga admitted that during PEDP and SEDP implementation various stakeholders including HakiElimu expressed concern that the ministry had not given due attention to the quality of education.

He said the Ministry was impressed by stakeholders' move to research on the quality education adding that concerted efforts were needed to ensure the problems exposed by the researchers were solved.

"We therefore expect researchers to take another step to facilitate efforts to address those challenges" said the PS.

In its report, HakiElimu recommended a national debate on quality education in order to develop a clearly-defined vision of quality. It suggested further that the quality of education needed to be redefined in terms of the outcome and capabilities.

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DAR ES SALAAM students who attended launching of a report on the Quality of Education by HakiElimu in the city yesterday follow proceedings of the function (Photo by Bernard Rwebangira).

HakiElimu

yabaini

udhaifu

unaoshusha

elimu nchini

Habari leo 11/06/08

Na Mwandishi Wetu

pg. 5

UTAFITI uliofanywa na taa-
sisi isiyo ya Kiserikali ya
HakiElimu kuhusu ubora
wa elimu nchini, umebaini
kuwa kuna upungufu mwingi
unaochangia kushuka kwa elimu.

Akitangaza matokeo ya utafiti
huo Dar es Salaam jana, Mkurugen-
zi Mtendaji wa HakiElimu, Elizabeth
Missokia alisema moja ya sababu zi-
nazochangia kushuka kwa elimu ni
ukosefu wa moyo wa walimu.

Missokia alizitaja sababu
nyingine zilizosababisha kushuka
kwa elimu kuwa ni ukosefu wa
maabara, mabweni na vifaa vya
darasani. "Mapungufu hayo ndiyo
huwa vipingamizi vya watoto kupa-
ta maarifa, hadi wengine wamemal-
iza shule bila kujua kusoma wala
kuandika," alisema Missokia.

Utafiti huo ulihusisha wilaya sita
za Tanzania Bara na kila wilaya
shule nne, mbili zikiwa za msingi na
mbili za sekondari.

Missokia alisema utafiti pia ume-
baini kuwa somo la hisabati kuwa ni
tatizo kwa wanafunzi wengi. "Zaidi
ya nusu ya idadi ya wanafunzi am-
bao walijaribiwa hesabu rahisi, wali-
pata chini ya wastani, shule za kata
zinafanya vibaya zaidi," alisema.

Alisema katika jaribio la kuwapi-
ma wanafunzi uelewa wao wa
lugha, ilibaini kuwa karibu asilimia
75 yao wanatambua vizuri
Kiswahili, lakini Kiingereza ni tatizo
kwani ni asilimia 20 tu ndiyo wali-
jaribu kujibu vizuri. "Kuna shule
moja ya msingi ndiyo ilifanya vibaya
zaidi kwani karibu watoto wote wa
darasa la sita hawajui kusoma wala
kuandika," alisema na kuomba hat-
ua zaidi kuchukuliwa kupunguza
hali hiyo.



Mkurugenzi wa Elimu ya Msingi, Bi. Euphrazia Ntukamazina (kulia) akizindua kitabu cha Taarifa ya Utafiti Kuhusu Mitazamo ya Wananchi na Stadi za Msingi za Watoto, Dar es Salaam jana. Kushoto ni Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa Taasisi ya Hakielimu, Bi. Elizabeth Misokia. (Picha na Rajabu Mhamla) Maswa 11/06/08 pg. 24



PARAPANDA Arts group performs during the launch of report on the quality of education by Haki Elimu in Dar es Salaam yesterday. (Photo by Bernard Rwebangira)

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Habari leo 1106108 pg. 29

Wasanii Mrisho Mpoto na Eva Nyambe (kushoto) wakiandaa mashairi kabla ya kupanda jukwaani wakati wa uzinduzi wa ripoti ya Hakielimu ya utoaji wa elimu bora Dar es Salaam jana. (Picha na Athumani Hamisi).