

Double Shift Schooling: *the Gambia experience*

Langsajo Mustafa Jadama

Lecturer

University of the Gambia

School of Education

Abstract:

As a result of the long standing query about the remuneration of the teachers in double shift schools, a survey research method was conducted to find out the reasons behind the query.

Literature search was conducted based on sub-Saharan African because not much literature could be found on the Gambia as the country of focus.

Questionnaires were administered and interviews conducted to ensure the reliability of the research.

Quantitative analysis has been used to ease the understanding of the people interested in the information.

Discussions that followed the findings were objectively done to ensure that conclusion is reliable.

Introduction

Background Information

Double Shift Teaching is an idea conceived in 1990 by the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education of The Gambia in order to make Education accessible to all Gambian Children. It is an efficiency measure in a sense that one structure is used by two categories of students at different times of the day and also with the same teachers in some cases. This makes it possible to fully utilize both structures and the teachers without straining the budget.

It was adopted in order to fulfill goal number six of the millennium development goals which advocates for universal primary education for all. It was deemed wise that, by operating double shift schools, every Gambian child will have access to schooling.

The few selected Schools such as Latrikunda Lower Basic School, Serrekunda Lower Basic School, Brikama Kombo Lower Basic School and Bakokoteh Lower Basic School, started the move paying their teachers only 20% of their basic salaries. These are Schools that could not accommodate all the pupils graduating from the Nursery Schools within their locality, so they decided that these Schools should operate a double shift in order to give access to all pupils. This means that, some teachers especially the senior ones will have to teach both in the morning and in the afternoon.

As it was demanding to teach both in the morning and in the afternoon shifts, teachers involve quarried that the allowance was small and with due consideration of their plight, the allowance has been increased to 50%. Today, any teacher involved in double teaching is paid an allowance equivalent to 50% of his or her salary. Despite this, magnanimous increase of double shift allowance, teachers still continue to quarry that it should be double salary for it is too demanding in terms of time, preparation and delivery. For this reason, and the fact that no single written document could be assessed as reference, motivated this scholars research to be carry out on **factors responsible for the improper remunerations of the teachers.**