

Does the Infrastructures In Mpanda Adhere to the Free Education Policy of Tanzania?



Kasimba Secondary School

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Abstract:

As per circular; "Provision of free education means pupils or students will not pay fees or other contributions that were being provided by parents or guardians before the release of new circular." With great advantage, the abolition of school fees, examination fees and other contributions has increased the enrolment and attendance of students in schools. This project is aimed at investigating whether the available infrastructures and teachers in Mpanda municipal secondary schools meets the demands of free education policy of Tanzania as far as the enrolment of students in schools is concerned.

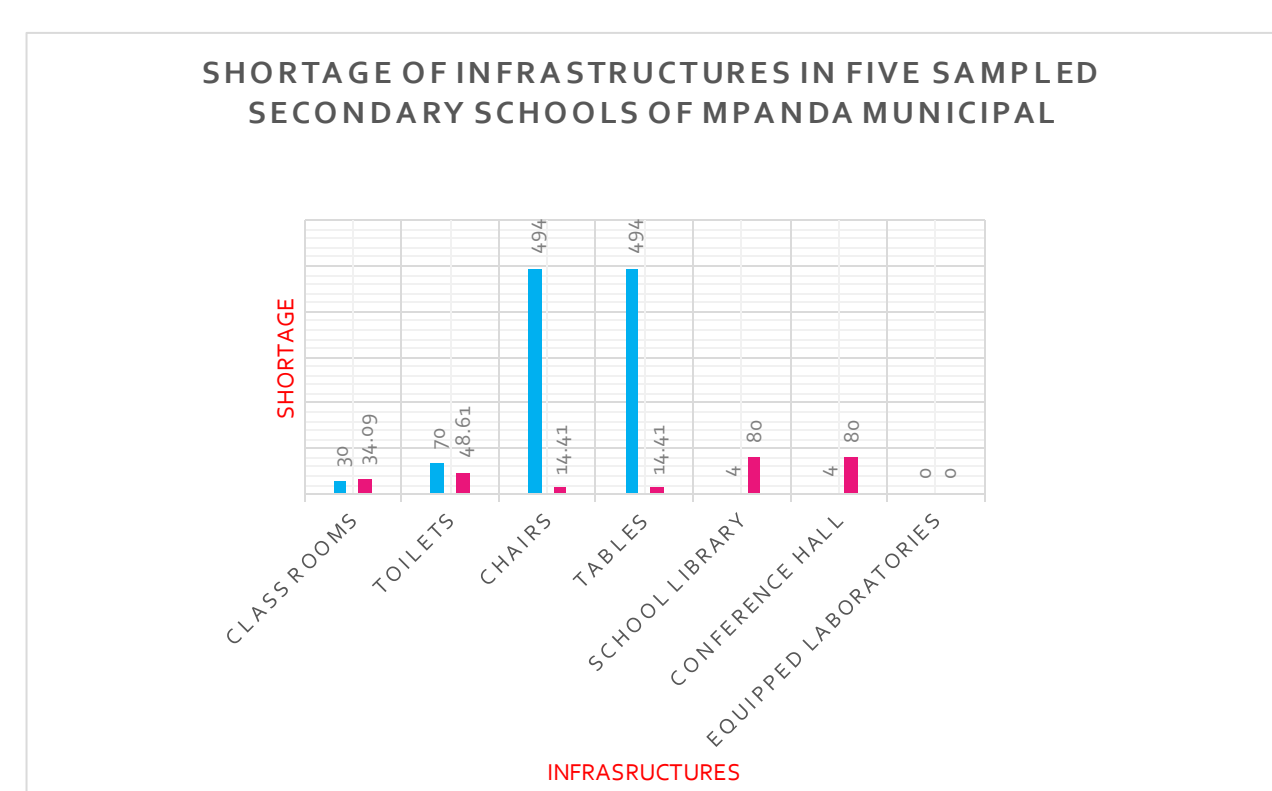
Method: Key Questions

Questionnaire and observation were chosen to be the methods for data collection. The results obtained shown that the available infrastructures in most secondary schools do not adhere with the free education policy of Tanzania. Ten questionnaires were prepared to be accomplished by ten heads of schools which were chosen as sample schools. Five heads of schools completed the questionnaire. The data for five sample schools out of ten government Secondary schools present in Mpanda Municipal are shown in table 1 below.

Results:

Apart from the recognizable and appreciable effort done by the government of Tanzania to implement free education policy in primary and ordinary secondary schools, still there are some notable number of shortcomings in implementing this policy. Shortage of some infrastructures in schools for both primary and secondary schools has been reported which hinders in one way or another the provision of quality education. It is true that many students are enrolled in schools nowadays but the question comes; what level of quality education are they achieving after school time? The following tables shows the extent to which the infrastructures are available in schools, Mpanda municipal council as the case study.

Infrastructures	Required	Available	Shortage	Shortage in %
Class rooms	88	58	30	34.09
Toilets	144	74	70	48.61
Chairs	3428	2930	494	14.41
Tables	3428	2930	494	14.41
School Library	05	01	04	80
Conference hall	05	01	04	80
Equipped Laboratories	15	15	00	00



Infrastructures	Shortage	Shortage in %
Class rooms	30	34.09
Toilets	70	48.61
Chairs	494	14.41
Tables	494	14.41
School Library	04	80
Conference hall	04	80
Equipped Laboratories	00	00

As the results of shortage of classrooms, students are congested in classrooms as indicated in the questionnaires completed by the heads of schools in appendices i – v. This leads some students to sit outside the classrooms during the time of examinations.

Conclusions:

From the results obtained, it is an evidence that the available infrastructures in most secondary schools do not adhere with the free education policy of Tanzania. Quality education cannot be achieved to the situations where students have nowhere to sit as well as well as having insufficient number of classrooms. People who are doing educational research have to come up with evidence which will help the government to allocate resources which are relevant to the demand. To bring about a meaningful free education, parents should be involved in building classrooms in cooperation with the government. The government should educate the society that education is not free as they think rather it is paid indirectly through tax

References:

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