



Impact of Free Education on Quality Education In Iringa Municipality



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Introduction

This study was aimed at assessing impacts of free education to quality education in Tanzania. The study was conducted at Iringa municipal council Iringa region. The study was guided by four objectives including capitation grant, teaching and learning materials, enrolment rate and quality of education. Findings of this study expected to give insights to the government and education stakeholders towards providing effective strategies for better implementation of free education policy in Iringa and national as whole.

Most studies reviewed basing on the abolition of school fee, focused only on addressing just the impacts of free education but no study showed how these impacts implicated to the provision of quality education. From this point of view we had decided to conduct a study based on assessing the impacts of free education to quality education in Tanzania a case of Iringa Municipality Iringa Region.

Method

This study used both qualitative and quantitative research design for collecting, organizing and analysing data. Random sampling was applied to obtain sample respondents who provided information related to that of population. A total of 50 respondents comprised of 24 teachers, 20 students, 4 parents and 2 head of schools were obtained. Two (2) data collection techniques were used, questionnaire and interview. Data analysis and results used different formats such as charts, graphs, tables and quotes.

This is a technique that involves the use of structured and unstructured questions for individual respondents to write answers and return to researcher (Cresswel, 2012). In our project we used this technique to collect data from teachers and students. 24 questionnaires were given to teachers and 20 questionnaires were given to students, however only 20 questionnaires returned from teachers and 18 questionnaires returned from students. This method was chosen due to its ability to motivate respondents as it serve time and provide opportunity for respondents to express their feelings based on variables of our study.

In our study we interviewed 2 head of schools and 4 parents. This method was selected so as to get first hand information from participant's natural setting as well as participants perspectives on the impacts of free education.



Image 1: Supplying questionnaire to student



Image 2: Interviewing a parent

Results

Results of this study indicated that, free education had positive impacts on students' enrolment which in turn caused shortage of teaching and learning materials. Shortage of fund and little capitation grant is another conclusion made under this study. Finally study revealed that quality education at Iringa municipal council is declining as the result of shortage of teaching and learning materials, poor financial resources, and overcrowded classes.

Study recommended government to increase budget for free education and education stakeholders should support government in implementing free education by buying text books, tables, chairs, chalks and constructing classrooms and staff houses.

Figure 1: Teachers assessment on enrolment rate

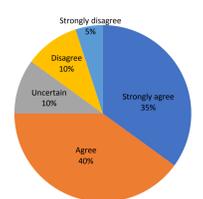


Figure 2: Teachers assessment on capitation grant

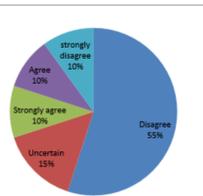


TABLE 2: Teachers assessment on enrolment rate

Aspect assessed	(Number of respondents was 20)				
	Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Form one students enrolment has been increasing every year from 2017-2020	7	8	2	2	1

The study showed that 7 (35%) teachers strongly agreed and 8 (40%) teachers agreed that, the enrolment rate of form one students has been increasing every year from 2017-2020, 2 (10%) teachers were uncertain on the enrolment rate, 2 (10%) teachers disagreed and 1 (5%) teacher strongly disagreed that there is an increase in the enrolment of form one students. These results were summarized in the figure 1 below:

Table 6: Teachers assessment on quality education (number of respondent 20)

Aspect assessed	(number of respondent 20)	
	Yes	No
A Do you think classroom environment promotes students creativity?	6	14
B Does the whole learning process promote learner's future self reliance?	7	13
C Does the number of students in class favours effective participation of each student in learning process	8	12

Table 7: Students assessment on quality education (number of respondent 18)

Aspect assessed	(number of respondent 18)	
	Yes	No
A Does every student able to participate fully in learning process in class?	7	11
B Does the learning environment facilitate student's creativity?	8	10

Adding information on capitation grant, an interview made to heads of school showed that there is a problem with financial matters in school institutions. One head of school said that, the allocation of capitation grant did not consider other miscellaneous activities such as joint examinations, UMISETA, and pre national examinations. He said it very difficult to fix budget to cover all these with the little amount of money they get. He added that money allocation for every month does not come on time.

Conclusion

The study concluded that, free education had positive impact on student's enrolment as result of increase in form one enrolment. However increase in enrolment caused negative impacts on teaching and learning materials as most of schools in Iringa Municipal claimed shortage of text books. The study also concluded that Tanzania government does not provide enough capitation grants to schools to run different activities smoothly. Finally study concluded that there is decline of quality education in Iringa municipal caused by poor learning environment, overcrowded classes and shortage of teaching and learning material.

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Acknowledgments:

We wish to acknowledge with profound gratitude our teacher Mr. Haji Jumbe for the valuable guidance he offered to us at various stages of this project