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**THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING GEOGRAPHY AT  
LOWER SECONDARY CLASSES S.I-S.2 NSANJA PARISH  
IN MUKONO DISTRICT.**

**BY**

**KIYAGA ROBERT  
BAE 4446 31 DU**

**KAMAPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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**DECLARATION:**

I here by declaring my original study that it has not been written by any other person or institution with exception of me only.

Student's signature  .....

Name KIRAGA ROBERT .....

Reg. No. BAE 4446 31 DU .....

Supervisor's signature  .....

Name Esther Victoria Ssempe .....

Date 27/06/06 .....

## **PREFACE:**

This report is written for the interest for identification of classroom teaching. This report reveals that Geography as a subject is one of the vital subjects towards the advanced performance of children and therefore, should be taken seriously.

For this reason, the writer has much trouble to try to discover the following:

- a) The problems affecting the teaching of Geography in lower secondary classes in Nsanja parish.
- b) The necessity of Geography as a subject in the above mentioned parish.

Geography being a Vigorous Subject teaching the protection of the environment proper co-ordination of the three domains that is;

- Psychomotor
- Cognitive
- Effective

The cognitive domain develops the attitude of appreciation and love for their environment.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

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**May God bless you All.**

**KIYAGA ROBERT.**

## **CHAPTER I**

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING GEOGRAPHY IN LOWER SECONDARY CLASSES**

#### **1.1 THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Having spent more than five years in Nsanja parish, the researcher found out that Geography is poorly taught in lower secondary classes. This has very much affected the pupils who sit for Uganda Certificate of Education (U.C.E). Therefore the...has decided to take the study on “the importance of teaching Geography in Nsanja Parish lower secondary classes in Mukono District.

The researcher has decided to investigate into the problem to enable the relevant authorities to organise the educational system for the benefit of the children and the public, especially to find solution to their day to day problems.

Geography syllabus was designed by the National Curriculum development Centre (Ministry of Education) Kampala, Uganda and introduced into schools.

Geography is as important as other subjects which should be taught well in lower secondary in order for the children to perform well in U.C.E in Nsanja Parish.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

“The importance of teaching of Geography in Lower secondary classes in Nsanja parish in Mukono District”.

We have a perpetual almost accepted chain of pupils failing to understand the Geography subject in lower secondary classes in Nsanja parish. According to the syllabus and time tables used in the schools, there is no time problem. The time provided is just enough as that for other subjects and the materials used are provided by the school. Some school have different text books given to them by 3<sup>rd</sup> I.D.A, 4<sup>th</sup> I.D.A (international development Agency) and UNESCO and other

organisation for geography in lower secondary. But should this be the sole reasons for teachers and Head teachers to accept to line with the situation as it is? Have they done anything to try to improve the situation? Can't a teacher improvise some materials by use of the environment? And if there is no improvising what is the cause? Could it be the teacher's lack of devotion to work!

Fortunately the general society seems to understand the need and value of Geography in lower secondary today.

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The researcher wishes to identify the objectives which should be achieved if geography was to be taught in lower secondary in Nsanja Parish schools in Mukono.

- The pupils should be able to adjust themselves to the community.
- Pupils should be able to develop the spirit of cooperation through group activities.
- The school should foster interest in living together.
- Teachers should find it easy to teach Geography in lower secondary in Nsanja parish schools.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

For about five years Geography is poorly done in lower secondary and it has affected very much the students who sit for their U.C.E these days. That is why the researcher has decided to investigate into the problem to enable the relevant authorities to organise the educational system for the benefit of the children and the public at large especially to find the solution to their day to day problems.

On the other hand, the outcome of the study will act as the spring board to other areas of development in the following parties thus, teachers, pupils, parents and the community at large will try to know the obligation towards the importance of education and a better method of teaching Geography in lower secondary.

The District Education Officer (D.E.O) who is directly concerned will look into the findings and rectify the teaching of Geography in lower secondary in Nsanja Mukono District since this is an independent country, the school and the community will work hand in hand to avoid friction.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **ASSUMPTIONS**

- The researcher assumes that:
- If teachers were provided with text books, they will teach Geography well in lower secondary classes in Nsanja parish Mukono District.
- Lack of trained teachers is the cause of poor teaching of Geography in lower secondary classes in Nsanja Parish.
- Not following the time as given in the syllabus is also a cause to poor teaching of the subject.
- Lack of teaching materials and reference books.
- Failure to interpret the syllabus is also a cause of poor teaching of the subject.



## **CHAPTER III**

### **REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE**

Geography is the subject that emphasise the integration of subjects like History, Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, English and others as whole subject. The whole idea behind is that pupil should be taught in a way which helps them to realise that, knowledge gained in one subject should be used in solving problems of another subject. As Geography is a vital subject, it should not be neglected in the lower secondary.

In secondary one and two, at this age (about 13-16) is known as the age of pre-adolescence. At this age, the child starts looking at things in a realistic manner and they become pragmatic. They can also understand cause and effect relationship and they can analyse the events. At this stage they move from the world of imagination to the world of realism and they can draw conclusions.

In the light of the above discussion, the following guiding principles are used for the teaching of Geography at lower secondary levels;

- An effort is made to strengthen the previous knowledge of the students.
- An attempt is made to make the students understand the importance of human life and natural environment.
- Whole thing is analysed as cause and effect relationship.
- Teachers should provide opportunities which involve the curiosity power of imagination, learning, and reasoning in students.
- Students should be trained to appreciate the human life under different Geographical conditions. For this, the students are made to understand the effect of various Geographical factors for human life.

- An effort be made to circulate in students a attendance to understand Geography in a developed form and the capacity to study Geography.
- An effort be made to train the students in the use of charts, models, maps and others.
- At this level, the student be taught the world of Geography in additional to the Geography of his home country.
- Again the secondary school, teaching syllabus there provides which should be taught in each class when you are teaching Geography in lower secondary as one indicated

“S.I and S.II have 3 (three) periods of 40 Min per week”<sup>1</sup>.

Therefore, the national curriculum development centre under the ministry of education and sport Kampala Uganda, decided to design a Geography Syllabus which helped very much in teaching Geography in lower secondary classes. And as Geography is an integration of subjects, it strongly supported by Mr. J S Gagas statement,

“<sup>1</sup>Children in lower secondary should learn about things with their Environment, not those which are outside their country”<sup>2</sup>.

Children have to know the historical background of their parish, village, chiefs and other important places. A good teacher to teach geography in lower secondary should have the following as required in order to conduct a successful lesson of Geography.

- A syllabus for Geography
- A scheme of work
- A lesson plan for each period
- Enough teaching learning aids
- Reference books
- Teachers collection materials
- A time table
- And very important above all a trained teacher

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Education: Secondary Teaching Syllabus, Government Entebbe Kampala 1990 pg 127.

<sup>2</sup> J.S. Gagg: modern teaching in African schools. By Jarrold and sons limited Norwich. Ist published in 1958 and Reprinted in 1960 page 146.

Good interaction with the environment, right from the immediate environment which is the family up to the large community and the country at large can also help in the teaching of Geography well in lower secondary classes. Johnson and Medinnus have this to say;

“A teacher without doubt, exercises the most significant psychological influence on the child”<sup>3</sup>.

Through out the child's or student's days in school the teacher plays a big role of the teaching the pupil how to interact with the school environment, which is definitely done in Geography.

Importance of Geography for administrators and politicians. To run the administration effectively, it is essential for the administrator to have a through knowledge of the Geography of the country. As it was supported by MS RAO statement;

“In the absence of knowledge of geographical conditions of the country, it becomes difficult to run the administration effectively. Geographical factors affect the economic, political and social life of the inhabitants of an area”<sup>4</sup>.

From knowledge of geography it becomes easier to know about inter-dependence of people of various countries. In the present age, no country can leave without taking help from other countries and to have a proper and co-ordial relationship the knowledge of geography is quite helpful. The administrators in a developed country are on the look out for a country where their finished and manufactured good may find a good market.

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<sup>3</sup> Johnson and Medinnus Child psychology, Behaviour and Development, John Willie and sons New York

<sup>4</sup>. M.S Rao: Teaching of Geography, annal Publishers New Delhi 2001 pg 9.

Another importance of teaching geography to lower secondary classes is to gain political importance. The knowledge of geography of other countries is essential for any country and even for an individual. It is only by the knowledge of geographical conditions that we develop sympathy for any particular country. For example if you happen to live in a fertile country it could not be difficult for you to imagine the plight of a fellow being living in a desert. Thus the knowledge of geography helps to bring about the world together and in this way it helps to solve a number of political problems. Thus knowledge of geography is of political importance.

Teaching of geography is important for practical work. Knowledge is quite handy to prepare the students to face various problems of life. If a student is familiar with the natural condition of a country, its climate, vegetation and natural resources, mineral wealth etc then it becomes easier for him to plan his future. Such a knowledge can be of much help to would be industrialists of a country and a student of geography is interested in setting up an industry after the completion of his education and can make a better selection for the location of his industrial unit of keeping in mind the natural resources needed. The knowledge of geography is also helpful to an individual in developing social, political and economic relationships with the other countries. Thus we find that the knowledge of geography has a practical utility.

In 1945, one of the advocates of the integration method John Dewey said that;

“a pupil learns better if is given a chance to see how knowledge is interrelated in different subjects other than receiving knowledge in un related blocks”<sup>5</sup>.

Here John Dewey was encouraging the idea of integration as given in the geography lesson. Because geography is a subject which is concerned with our environment. It combines all subjects like English, mathematics, science and other. This is why it needs well trained teachers to teach it.<sup>3</sup>

Commenting on integration of subjects as encouraged in the teaching of geography. Combos A.W had this to say.

“The child is learning chamber has no compartment for different subjects, therefore school curriculum should present, knowledge as a chain”<sup>6</sup>.

Here again, Combos A.W saw forwardly the need for school subjects, represented in the school curriculum, to be interrelated in their contents. In his book, Dalton P. pointed out that,

“Many times, day schools pass knowledge to children that can not be connected in other fields of learning for better performance”<sup>7</sup>.

Dalton P. one of the teaching advocates of the Dalton plan was expressing the view of integrating subjects where possible. Teachers need to be with experience of teaching and applying methods which should be used as and approach in lower secondary classes.

Cultural and intellectual importance of geography. Teaching of geography in lower secondary is important in cultural and intellectual spheres of life. Knowledge about cultural and intellectual life of a particular country and in this way it becomes easier to carry out a proper study of the cultural life of a whole world.

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<sup>6</sup>. COMBAS A.W : Curriculum Development, Harper Publishers, New York 1993 Pg 28-29

<sup>7</sup> DALTON. P. Environment influence upon Education, Harvard University press 1960 pg 84

The knowledge of geography also helps a student in developing his power of imagination and also encourages him to find out cause and effect of various phenomena. When a student of geography learns about the mountains, rivers, frosts e.t.c, then a image of all these things is formed before him. Whenever he actually comes across any of these things he can identify them and discern them easily. Such knowledge helps the student to know about the cultures and civilization of different countries.

Geography factors also influence the intellectual life of a country so we can say that geography has an intellectual importance. In the words of Fairgrieve,

“The real value of geography lies in the fact that it helps man to place Himself in the world to learn his true position and duties”<sup>8</sup>.

Teaching of geography is importance because it helps in understanding other subjects. At knowledge of geography helps us in understanding various other subjects like sociology, Economics, Anthology, biology, etc for example knowledge of geography helps in understanding history it provides the proper the perspective various historical events have been influenced by geographical factors. The development of civilisation began in India and Egypt because of geographical reasons.

Geographical factors also influence the political system in the country. The preference of democracy in Switzerland id due to geographical factors.

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<sup>8</sup> RAO M.S: Teaching of Geography Animal Publishers, New Delhi 2001 Page 10-11

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The researcher hypothesised that the following has effects on peoples learning of geography in lower secondary classes in Nsanja parish that is,

- Qualification of teachers
- Reference books
- Furniture
- Instructional materials
- Permanent classroom
- Schemes and lesson plans
- Weekly tests
- Refreshers courses
- Enrolment

Lack of trained and devoted teachers has defects on the pupils learning of geography in lower secondary lower classes in Nsanja Parish. There is a saying that “two blind people can not help teacher”. Therefore, for a teacher to help a pupil, he or she must be well trained and devoted.

Reference books are needed for thorough preparation. Teachers need books where to get information and it would as well be good for teachers who teach geography in lower secondary to have reference books.

Sitting potstone enables the child to write properly and do things in the right way. Sits without backs on them can not favour Childs physical development in the same was, pupils in Nsanja Parish need good chairs to sit on when they are learning geography.

Incidental learning is very much used in lower secondary classes. Ractation and revision as styles of learning are also encouraged. To achieve this lot of instruction materials should be put in the classes of lower secondary. If all the schools in Nsanja parish were found with enough instruction material it would have been better .

Learning from outside, under trees is advisable in lesions of geography. But there should be permanent building for proper classes in case of wet seasons, pupils feel cold and uncomfortable when they are under trees in the hot season. Head teachers should think of constructing permanent buildings for lower secondary classes.

Scheme of work helps the teacher to know how she could follow the topics, a scheme of work interprets the syllabus and gives the teacher good continuity and smooth learning of geography subject. It requires a teacher for lower secondary to make a scheme of work and a lesson plan. Teachers in Nsanja Parish are advised to do the same.

Teachers are advised to attend refresher courses in order to catch up with their fellow teachers in the whole District because every year new methods of teaching geography are introduced.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The researcher found out that the importance of teaching geography in Nsanja parish was not effective. This was brought about by not having the necessities as mentioned. The researcher concludes by saying that, if there is a combined effort between teachers and parents and sincere love of their school, all the above mentioned problems will be cleared.



## **SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The researcher suggests that the District Education Officer (D.E.O) should post trained teachers to teach lower secondary.

Head teachers should try their best to buy Geography reference books for lower secondary class and put them in the school library.

Concerned authorities, like board of Governors together with P.T.A (parent's teachers Association) should make effort of buying chairs for the pupils to sit on.

Teachers should make a lot of instructional materials and put them in classes of lower secondary for incidental learning.

Permanent buildings for classes should be constructed for pupils in order to enjoy their lesson during wet seasons other than sitting under trees.

Teachers should make lesson plans, scheme of work for good continuity.

Pupils should do weekly tests because it helps them to know their performance and it enables the teachers to know the ability of their learners.

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