

The Policy and Practice of Education Provision for Pastoralists in Tanzania



Elizabeth Bishop
e.bishop@ucl.ac.uk

Presentation Outline

- Demonstrate that challenges insufficiently acknowledged or met in policy
- Explanations related to national context
 - national level policy environments which affect pastoralism and pastoralists, comparing Tanzania with Kenya
 - the history and ideology of education provision in Tanzania
- Realities of education provision

Pastoralism Policy Environment

- Increasing donor interest
- Proliferation of pastoralist NGOs
- Donor insistence on broad based participation in PRS process
- MDGs, high incidence of 'poverty' in pastoralist areas
- Tanzania, policies remain hostile to pastoralism
- Kenya, pastoralism seen as a more significant policy issue

History of education provision

- Historical neglect
- Expansion of conventional, unresponsive schooling
- Boarding schools
- Legacy of Tanzanian education policies

Challenges for education provision for pastoralists

- Low population densities
- Pastoralist mobility
- Household economy dependent on child labour
- De-motivated teachers
- Cultural antagonism

Current Policies: Kenya

- National Commission for the Education of Pastoralist and Nomadic Communities
- Plans to devise special provision for pastoralists

Current Policies: Tanzania

- No recognition of the unique challenges
- COBET
 - To cater for ‘out-of school youth’, including “nomadic Communities, street children, disabled, orphans and out of reach” – not specific for pastoralists
 - Characteristics
 - Only short-term

In Practice

- COBET
 - Not functioning
- Boarding
 - Very limited impact
- De-motivated teachers
- Cultural antagonism and curriculum relevance

Conclusions and Policy Implications

- Insufficient special provision for pastoralist areas in policy or practice
- Relative unwillingness to address the specific challenges due to:
 - Unwillingness to make policy on seemingly ‘ethnic’ lines
 - Agenda towards pastoralism
 - Pastoralists’ lack of political voice
- Neglect will have poverty implications
- Changes in policy and practice needed

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