

Chapter 5

Structure and Scope of Pre-service Teacher Education in East Africa

An appropriate level of pre-service training is normally required for appointment as a school teacher in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and this is mostly delivered by government-funded teacher training colleges (TTCs) and universities. Privately funded institutions are relatively few and often affiliated with religious organisations. Of the three countries, Tanzania has the highest number of teacher training colleges and also the highest number of privately owned institutions (46 public and 13 private). Uganda has 49 colleges, only two of which are privately owned, and Kenya has 21 public and nine private teacher education colleges.

In each country, a certificate in teaching is normally required to teach at primary level, while a diploma is required to teach at secondary level and a degree is preferred to teach upper secondary (or A-level). The entry-level requirement for the certificate course is a minimum of four years secondary education (O-levels). In Uganda and Tanzania, entry to diploma programmes requires six years of secondary education (A-levels), while in Kenya, where secondary school comprises four rather than six years, a minimum of C+ at secondary school examination is required. Curricula for the certificate and diploma courses are prepared centrally: by the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE) in Kenya, by the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) in Tanzania and by MOES/Kyambogo University in Uganda.

A Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree is offered by most universities in the three countries. In recent years, specialised degrees in education have become possible, such as a BEd in early childhood and development, BEd in library studies and a BEd in educational communication and technology. Uganda is the only country among the three that offers a degree in technical teacher education and that has a department of teacher education and development studies at a public university.

Table 5.1 Teacher training and certification in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania

	Kenya	Uganda	Tanzania
Certificate programmes	Primary teacher certificate (2 yrs) Offered by TTC ⁴	Grade 3 primary teacher certificate (2 yrs) Offered by TTC	Certificate in teaching (2 yrs) Offered by TTC
Diploma programmes	Diploma in education (2 yrs) Postgraduate diploma in education (1 yr) Offered by universities	Diploma in education (2 yrs) Offered by NTC ⁵ Postgraduate diploma in education (1 yr) Offered by universities	Diploma in teaching (2 yrs) Postgraduate diploma in education (1 yr) Offered by TTC
Degree programmes	Bachelor of Education (4 yrs) Offered by universities	Bachelor of Education (3 yrs) Offered by universities	Bachelor of Education (3 yrs) Offered by universities