

E - STUDENTS' BACKGROUNDS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Socio-economic factors; aptitudes; motivations; personality factors; attitudes; opinions; values; behaviour patterns; physical and mental health; nutrition; child development

1. Title of Project

SELF CONCEPT AND EXPECTATIONS
AND CONFLICT OF PAPUA NEW
GUINEAN STUDENTS

Institution

University of Papua New Guinea.

Name of Person and Designation

C.J.S. Brammall, Lecturer in Education

Main Aim of Project

To research self concept of Papua New Guinean school students, their future expectations, and the extent to which their expectations match those of their parents.

Description

A questionnaire has been designed to assess self concept, expectations etc., and is being administered to students who might be forced to leave school at the end of their current year of schooling. It is anticipated that the data will yield information on the development of self concept with age (measured cross-sectionally), and the extent to which students see their expectations in relation to their perceived parental expectation.

Date of Commencement - August, 1973

Expected Date of Completion - August, 1975

Source of Finance

University of Papua New Guinea.

Method of Publication

Higher degree thesis and Journal articles.

2. Title of Project

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF
POPULATIONS THROUGH A STUDY OF
VERNACULARS

Institution

Educational Research Unit, University of Papua New Guinea.

Names of Persons and Designations

Dr. J. Jones, Lecturer, Educational Research Unit
Miss M. Levine, Research Assistant, Educational Research Unit
Personnel from the Summer Institute of Linguistics

Main Aim of Project

To provide information concerning the conceptualisation of various cultural groups, through a study of vernaculars and further to investigate directions for more meaningful teaching strategies.

The Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) has worked with about 100 vernacular groups in Papua New Guinea. A survey of the extent to which languages can cope easily with various concepts (length, time, mass, etc.) and quantitative/logical expressions will be carried out, through SIL personnel. The aim of the study is (a) to determine the 'strengths' and 'weaknesses' of various groups, so that teaching programmes may be more rationally designed. (b) to attempt to discover instructional resource materials which are most meaningful to different groups.

Date of Commencement - September, 1973

Expected Date of Completion - December, 1974

Source of Finance

University of Papua New Guinea

Method of Publication

E.R.U. Report

3. Title of Project

COGNITIVE ABILITIES OF SECONDARY
AND TERTIARY STUDENTS

Institution

Educational Research Unit, University of Papua New Guinea.

Name of Person and Designation

Dr. J. Jones, Lecturer, Educational Research Unit

Main Aim of Project

To determine the conceptual and cognitive development of students, and also to design simple research procedures whereby this may be accomplished.

Description

Pilot studies, in group situations, were run in a range of secondary and tertiary institutions. As a result of this, procedures were modified; an extended survey involving secondary and tertiary students in group and individual interview/testing situations

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is now nearing completion. It is intended to use the results of the survey to produce alternative curriculum and teaching designs.

Date of Commencement - April, 1972

Date of Completion - April, 1974

Source of Finance

University of Papua New Guinea

Method of Publication

ERU Reports, Journal articles

4. Title of Project

THE ATTITUDE OF VILLAGERS
TOWARDS EDUCATION AND THE ROLE
OF SCHOOL LEAVERS IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES

Institution

University of Papua New Guinea.

Names of Persons and Designations

Dr. J.P. Powell, Senior Lecturer in
Education

J.M. Wilson, Lecturer in Education

Main Aim of Project

To ascertain the attitudes and expectations
of rural communities towards education
with particular reference to those with
some schooling who remain in the village
environment.

Description

Groups of education students and staff
spent several weeks living with village
people and collecting information, both
by the use of questionnaires and informally,
on their understanding of attitudes towards
and expectation of the school system and
its relation to rural development. Later
it is hoped to initiate student-run
community education and development
projects in answer to the needs expressed
by the people.

Date of Commencement - June, 1972

Source of Finance

University of Papua New Guinea

Method of Publication

Papua New Guinea Journal of Education
and a special publication of student reports.

Title of Project

INTERESTS AND ATTITUDES OF SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PAPUA NEW
GUINEA

Institution

University of Papua New Guinea.

See J 2

Title of Project

ATTITUDE SCALE DEVELOPMENT, AND
THEIR UTILISATION

Institution

Educational Research Unit, University of
Papua New Guinea.

See C 2

5. Title of Project

ROLE PERCEPTION: A COMPARATIVE
STUDY - HOW FAR TEACHERS OF
ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN S.A. AND
N.T. SCHOOLS (RESERVE, MISSION
AND SETTLEMENT) SEE THEMSELVES
AS SOCIALISING AGENTS

Institution

Sturt College of Advanced Education,
South Australia.

Name of Person and Designation

P.A. Clancy, Lecturer in Charge of
Curriculum Studies

Main Aims of Project

- (1) Some useful data, perhaps, for
recruitment and preservice training of
teachers, teacher-preparation environment,
college curricula, school curricula.
- (2) Could be used as a basis for further
research into "culture shock", bi-cultural
role conflict etc.

Description

(1) Statement of Problem: It is assumed that
education policies and school curricula and
practices for Aboriginal children in Special
Schools (Reserve, Settlement and Mission)
are based on the "needs" of aboriginal
children. But it could be that (i) these "needs"
are inaccurately perceived by white
educational planners, administrators, etc.,
Or (ii) that teachers of Aboriginal children
cannot accurately perceive the behaviour
required of them, Or (iii) that teachers are
either (a) under low motivation or (b) too
highly motivated - giving rise perhaps to
either low professional interest, for (a),

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or perhaps a projection of the teachers' own desires or needs on to others, for (b) etc. Therefore, the PERCEIVED ROLE of teachers of Aboriginal children would seem to be an appropriate area for educational research.

It is also a vast area, and this study will investigate one part of that area, that of the teacher's perception of his role as a SOCIALISING AGENT.

(2) Delimiting the Problem; Socialisation defined; aspects of socialisation - cultural, cognitive, behavioural; socialisation, effect and cause; the teacher an agent and the school an agency; internalisation of norms, resulting in acquisition of attitudes and expectancy of certain behaviours. Cultural direction of agents' socialisation activities, and the strength of commitment to a directional role - the study attempts to measure the strength and direction of the teachers' commitment in socialising the Aboriginal child to either Western culture or Aboriginal culture, or to both cultures.

(4) Sampling: (i) Target population: the teachers in Special Schools in S.A. and the N.T. (ii) Sample: With reference frame the ACCESSIBLE Special Schools in S.A. and N.T. (that is, all but far N-W of N.T., East Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt), a stratified random sample, (iii) Stratification in terms of Inspectorates (iv) and types of school. (S.A. Schools all fell within the reference frame, and a census was taken).

(5) Instrument: Personal interview, structured, but open-ended, probing attitudes of the teacher towards HIS role as it is and as it ought to be, and THE role as it is and as it ought to be.

(6) Analysis: The study will concentrate on establishing CATEGORIES from the data.

Source of Finance

University Research Grant

6. Title of Project

A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE PIAGETIAN CONCEPT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MORAL JUDGEMENT IN RELATION TO A SELECTED GROUP OF CHILDREN IN SRI LANKA

Institution

University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya Campus.

Name of Person and Designation

Miss K.S. Rajaratnam, Lecturer

Main Aim of Project

To examine the development of moral judgement among children in the Primary School in Sri Lanka, in the light of Piagetian concepts.

Description

Using the interview method and selecting a small mixed sample of children from the lower grades, the Piagetian type stories to test the level of moral judgement had been administered to the testees.

Date of Commencement - 1969

Date of Completion - February, 1972

7. Title of Project

PARENT - PEER GROUP INFLUENCES ON ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN SRI LANKA

Institution

University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya Campus.

Name of Person and Designation

Mrs. F.S. Niles, Lecturer in Education

Main Aim of Project

This study has been undertaken to examine the nature and extent of peer group and parental influences on adolescents.

Description

A stratified sample of around 1,000 adolescents in Sri Lanka have been selected for this study, and standard tests will be used in the interpretation of data. Various factors such as attitudes to parents, peers, social class, intelligence, age, status, nature of peer affiliations etc., will be examined in this study.

Date of Commencement - October, 1973

Expected Date of Completion - 1975

Source of Finance

University Research Grant

Date of Publication - 1975 or 1976

8. Title of Project

A STUDY OF ATTITUDES TO HOME AND SCHOOL AMONG SCHOOL-GOING ADOLESCENTS

Institution

University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya Campus.

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- Name of Person and Designation
Mrs. E.P.R. Alles, Lecturer
- Main Aim of Project
The study is designed to study the attitudes of Adolescents to Home and School. Geographical, Social, Economic and other related factors are examined in the context both in regard to boys and girls.
- Description
Standard Test Techniques would be used in this study.
- Date of Commencement - 1972
- Date of Completion - 1974
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9. Title of Project
AN INQUIRY INTO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PUPILS' ATTITUDES AND TEACHER INFLUENCE IN THE CLASSROOM
- Institution
Centre of Advanced Study in Education, Faculty of Education and Psychology, M.S. University of Baroda, India.
- Names of Persons and Designations
Professor M.B. Buch, Head, Centre of Advanced Study in Education
Mrs. Y. Patel, Research Scholar
- Main Aim of Project
To study the relationship if any between the teacher influence in the classroom and the development of attitudes among pupils.
- Description
For the purpose of the study, a random sample of hundred teachers was selected and observed on Flanders' Interaction Analysis Category System (FIACS). From this data twenty five cases of most indirect influence were selected for studying pupils' attitudes. Study of pupils' attitudes involved personal anxiety, motivation and classroom organisation, attitude towards reward and punishment, independence, attitude towards the teacher, classroom climate and attitude towards school. T-test was used to analyse the data. Teacher influence was found to effect pupils' motivation and classroom organisation, attitude towards teacher and classroom climate. Personal anxiety of a pupil is affected by the teacher influence when content is not taken into account and same is true about independence too.
- Date of Commencement - August 1969
- Date of Completion - November, 1973
- Source of Finance - Self
- Method of Publication
In summary form by CASE
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10. Title of Project
THE ATTITUDES OF PROSPECTIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL/PRIMARY SCHOOL MATHEMATICS TEACHERS' TOWARDS MATHEMATICS
- Institution
Bureau of Educational Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Name of Person and Designation
G.S. Eshiwani, Assistant Lecturer, Educational Communication and Technology
- Main Aim of Project
To investigate the relationship between the attitudes of the prospective teachers of Mathematics towards Mathematics and their effectiveness in teaching as judged by their tutors and students.
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11. Title of Project
THE ATTITUDES OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS MATHEMATICS
- Institution
Bureau of Educational Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Name of Person and Designation
G.S. Eshiwani, Assistant Lecturer, Educational Communication and Technology
- Main Aim of Project
To investigate the attitudes of Kenyan High School Students towards Mathematics and other school subjects, and to find out if there is any relationship between these attitudes and their mathematical reasoning ability.
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12. Title of Project
IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHER TRAINING INSTITUTIONS
- Institution
Bureau of Educational Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya.

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Names of Persons and Designations

Dr. A.J. Maleche, Acting Director
Mrs. A. Krystall, Research Fellow

Main Aims of Project

Survey of current content and methods of courses dealing with Child Development in Teacher Training Institutions; Identification of needed improvements; Dissemination of research findings about Child Development in Kenya collected by the Child Development Research Unit of the Bureau of Educational Research; Encouragement of further research on the part of students and staff in Teacher Training Institutions.

Description

Collection of current syllabi dealing with Child Development; Personal interviews with staff responsible for these courses to determine their needs for additional materials; adaption of current research findings for inclusion in courses; Identification of further research projects staff and students can undertake; and Organisation of feed-back and in-service training workshop for staff.

Date of Commencement - October, 1973

Expected Date of Completion - December, 1974

Source of Finance

Bureau of Educational Research, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Title of Project

A STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF HISTORICAL THINKING IN SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA

Institution

School of Education, University of Zambia.

See J 10

13. Title of Project

STUDY OF DEVELOPMENTAL TRENDS IN THE LEARNING AND PROBLEM SOLVING BEHAVIOUR OF NIGERIAN CHILDREN IN A MULTIPLE CHOICE SITUATION

Institution

Department of Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Name of Person and Designation

Dr. J.O.O. Abiri, Lecturer

Main aim of Project

To discover the age and other personality correlates of the ability to formulate and test hypotheses in a problem solving situation.

Description

The subjects confronted with a set of keys on a machine from which he has to discover which one produces certain results. As the principles on which results are obtained vary from time to time, the subject has to find out on which principle the machine is operating at any given time. An attempt is made to discover the relationship between the subject's behaviour in this situation and his age, intelligence, educational level and physical development.

Date of Commencement - April, 1972

Source of Finance

Partly supported by the University of Ibadan Research Grant

Title of Project

PREDICTORS OF SCIENCE - ACHIEVEMENT IN IBADAN UNIVERSITY 1965-1970

Institution

Department and Institute of Education, Ibadan University, Nigeria.

See C 5

Title of Project

THE CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS' ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND THEIR PERFORMANCE IN DEGREE EXAMINATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

Institution

Department and Institute of Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

See J 12

14. Title of Project

FACTORS OF HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT IN THE SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN NEW COUNTRIES

Institution

Njala University College, University of Sierra Leone.

Name of Person and Designation

Professor O.M. Ferron, Head, Department of Teacher Education

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Main Aim of Project

To ascertain the optimum conditions for Scholastic Achievement of children starting school in a developing country like Sierra Leone.

Description

This work was a continuation of the following research project for which a Doctorate Degree of London University was awarded in 1964:

"A study of Certain Factors relating to the tested intelligence of groups of some West African children".

The present study focuses attention on the pre-school level and the beginning stages of Education. Evidence is produced to indicate the extent to which children in developing countries are handicapped in the development of Western type scholastic skills even before their formal schooling commences. The results of the Controlled Experiment seem to explode the long cherished theory of educationalists in Africa that the root of the problem lies in the high percentage of unqualified and poorly qualified people who constitute the teaching force in Africa. At Njala, optimum conditions of environmental stimulation were secured for the experimental group, yet a year's exposure indicated that the gains, if anything were quite minimal. A follow-up study four years later indicated that the few remaining members of the original experimental group returned lower scores than children in the Njala Control Group.

In September 1970 the Njala i.t.a. Experiment was launched. It was thought that i.t.a. would simplify the process of learning to read, but in addition, the experimental group had the best teacher compared with those in one other experimental group and two control groups. Three different tests were used to evaluate the results after 18 months exposure. Surprisingly enough the mean scores on each of these tests were the lowest for the particular experimental group in question out of a total of six groups studied; two in London, four in Njala.

As skill in Reading is not a function of classroom exposure only, some 31 children (14 in the i.t.a. group, and 17 in the t.o.o. group) were studied by the investigator's final year students in Education, who made themselves familiar with the children's home background. There is some evidence in the data so collected to suggest the tremendous handicaps of tribal children who are required to learn to read in a foreign language. A great

deal was learnt from both the objective and the subjective evidence that was collected over the six year period of the study, and in the final chapter certain recommendations are made regarding the most effective way of helping children in certain Third World countries to acquire functional skill in reading in a foreign language.

Date of Commencement - September, 1966

Date of Completion - March, 1972

Source of Finance

Njala University College Research Grant

15. Title of Project

A STUDY OF THE PROBLEMS FOR NURSES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Institution

Department of Education in Developing Countries, University of London Institute of Education, United Kingdom.

Name of Person and Designation

P.J. Edwards, Research Fellow

Main Aims of Project

To analyse the problems of communication, affected by educational, linguistic, social, psychological, political and economic factors, for nurses from developing countries, taking into account their educational background, the nature of their training, and their work in teaching hospitals in the United Kingdom, leading to the preparation and construction of remedial learning and teaching programmes.

Date of Commencement - 1973

Expected Date of Completion - 1975/1976

Source of Finance

Department of Health and Social Security

Title of Project

AN INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE VOCATIONAL CHOICE AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST OF A SELECTED GROUP OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN SRI LANKA

Institution

University of London Institute of Education, United Kingdom.

E - Students' Backgrounds and Characteristics

See K 6

16. Title of Project

ATTITUDES TOWARDS EDUCATION IN LAGOS

Institution

Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.
(The research was done while on secondment to the University of Lagos, Nigeria)

Name of Person and Designation

Dr. M. Peil, Senior Lecturer in Sociology

Main Aim of Project

This small study was designed to investigate the response to education in one of Africa's largest cities.

Description

University and secondary students and members of the public were questioned about their education and that of their parents and/or children, the worth of various levels of education for personal mobility and national development, and their opinions on school fees and changes in education, past and future.

Date of Commencement - 1971

Date of Completion - 1974

Source of Finance

Sociology Department, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Method of Publication - Article

17. Title of Project

Project for Early Childhood Education (4-6 year olds)

A STUDY OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PECE CURRICULUM (MATTER, METHOD AND MATERIALS)

Institution

Institute of Education, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

Name of Person and Designation

N. Wein, Research Associate

Main Aim of Project

To compare the achievement level of project basic school pupils with non-project pupils.

Description

Pre and post administration of the Jamaicanised Caldwell Pre-School Inventory to project and non-project basic school pupils, and middle-class school pupils of similar age.

Date of Commencement - October, 1968

Date of Completion - December, 1973

Source of Finance

The Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Holland.

Method of Publication - Mimeograph

18. Title of Project

Project for Early Childhood Education (4-6 year olds)

A STUDY OF THE STATUS AND PROCESS OF CHILD-PARENT INTERACTION OF PROJECT SCHOOL PUPILS

Institution

Institute of Education, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

Name of Person and Designation

D. R. B. Grant, Senior Lecturer

Main Aims of Project

To determine the attitudinal, social, economic and environmental status of the parents of pupils in the project. To ascertain the status and process of the child-parent relationship in the home environment. To correlate these findings with the child's performance at school.

Description

Administration of a parents interview questionnaire to 846 rural and urban parents of basic school pupils. Questionnaire administered in form of interview by two experienced teachers over a two month period.

Date of Commencement - September, 1972

Date of Completion - 1974

Source of Finance

The Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Holland.

Method of Publication - Mimeograph

19. Title of Project

LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE EDUCATION RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Institution
School of Education, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

Name of Person and Designation
Dr. D.R. Craig, Senior Lecturer

Main Aim of Project
To collect grammatical, sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic information relevant to the language of school-children in the Caribbean, and to apply this information in school-curriculum and teacher-training materials. The work is focussed on Jamaica in the first instance.

Description
Work completed so far has been described under the researcher's name in 'Education in the Commonwealth' No. 6, and in cyclostyled reports. The work is being carried out by teams of persons under the direction of the researcher and it has the following aspects:

- (1) descriptions of school-children's language as a part of a wider survey of non-standard and standard language;
- (2) studies of language-decoding abilities of non-standard speaking children in relation to standard language, together with studies of classroom interaction and the language of teachers;
- (3) studies of the relationship between language and cognitive functioning;
- (4) experimentation in language-teaching and the production of language-curriculum materials.

The research procedures involve the tape recording of children in culturally realistic situations and subsequent analysis and study of their language; the administering of language-decoding and mental performance tests with subsequent analysis of results and correlation with various factors; measurement and evaluation of classroom performances on experimental materials.

Date of Commencement - 1972

Source of Finance
Esso Standard Oil (Jamaica), The Ford Foundation and the Jamaica Ministry of Education.

20. Title of Project

A STUDY OF FACTORS RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF THIRD YEAR STUDENTS IN MATHEMATICS IN JAMAICAN POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Institution
School of Education, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

Name of Person and Designation
I. Isaacs, Lecturer

Main Aim of Project
To identify environmental factors (educational, social and physical) and psychological factors (affective and cognitive) which affect mathematical performance of secondary school children in Jamaica.

Description
A correlational study of the inter-relations of thirteen independent variables with the criterion, mathematics achievement, was carried out on a stratified random sample of 546 subjects in sixteen different post primary schools in Jamaica in May-June, 1971. The correlation matrix was factor analysed to produce four factors which account for most of the variation in mathematical performance. These four factors are related to:

- (i) the social environmental of the child;
- (ii) affective personality traits characterised by the subject's perception of his ability to do mathematics;
- (iii) the teachers of mathematics; and
- (iv) the degree of urbanisation of the school's community.

Date of Commencement - October, 1970

Date of Completion - July, 1973

Source of Finance
"Research and Publications Committee" of the University of the West Indies

21. Title of Project

EDUCATION AND SOCIO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION IN A 'PLURAL' SOCIETY

Institution
Department of Educational Foundations, University of Alberta, Canada.

Name of Person and Designation
Dr. M.K. Bacchus, Associate Professor of Education

Main Aims of Project
(1) To compare the values of teachers of different ethnic groups in Guyana and on the following dimensions:

activism/passivism, individualism/collectivism, present/future orientation.

(2) To examine whether there is an increasing similarity of values as one goes up the age scale to the younger teachers.

(3) To investigate whether such values influence their perception of educational problems and solutions

Description

The hypothesis being advanced here is that as different ethnic groups in a 'plural' society begin to share common occupational experiences and aspirations, they also develop common values, irrespective of their ethnic origin. In addition these values influence the way they perceive their professional world - its problems and its solutions.

This study sets out to examine specifically whether teachers of the two major ethnic groups in Guyana have started to develop such common values, and whether this is reflected also in their professional outlook.

Date of Commencement - August, 1971

Date of Completion - August, 1974

Source of Finance - University of Alberta

Method and Date of Publication

Article in a professional journal, 1974
