

A SELECTION OF CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS ON EXAMINATIONS*

EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

Name of Institution	- School of Education, University of Zambia.
Title of Project	- REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON POST-CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE STUDIES AND UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE.
Name of Persons and Designation	- A Committee of the Board of Studies, School of Education, comprising <u>Trevor Coombe</u> , Senior Lecturer in Education, and <u>David Stannard</u> , Lecturer in Education.
Main Aim of Project	- The terms of reference of the Committee were as follows: 'to assemble evidence from the school system and draw conclusions upon the desirability of re-introducing post-Cambridge Overseas School Certificate instruction in Zambian secondary schools as a preparation for entrance to the University of Zambia'.
Description	- The body of the report comprises a discussion of the probable condition of several salient aspects of the Zambian school system up to 1975. The discussion deals with the methodology and results of projections in the following areas: secondary enrolment and candidates for the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate examination; performance in the Cambridge examination; first-year full-time University of Zambia enrolment direct from school (degree candidates only); and the secondary teaching force. The report also contains an introduction and a conclusion, which recommends against the revival of large-scale post COSC studies in the Zambian secondary system, at least until 1975. The report, which is mimeographed, consists of 36 pages of text and a 35-page appendix of tables and figures.
Date of Commencement	- March 26, 1969.
Expected Date of Completion	- September 19, 1969.
Source of Finance	- None required
Method and Anticipated Date of Publication	- It is possible that the report will be published in more permanent form along with a selection of official and unofficial papers dealing with the question of the level of entrance to the University of Zambia.

*Reprinted from Education in the Developing Countries of the Commonwealth; Abstracts of Current Research, 1969, Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 1970.

METHODS OF ENQUIRY

Research methods; evaluation procedures

Name of Institution	- School of Education, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji.
Title of Project	- EDUCATIONAL TESTING.
Name of Person and Designation	- <u>R.C. Honeybone</u> - Professor of Education.
Main Aim of Project	- The School of Education has been given the task of looking into the possibility of developing improved measures for educational assessment and selection in Fiji.
Description	<p>- Of prime importance is the development of a test of general ability. The normal test construction problems of developing countries are increased by the necessity to ensure that results of test variance in the two major racial groups (Melanesian and Indian) are not too dissimilar. Initial results indicate that further problems may also be added by maturational and developmental differences, between urban and rural groups.</p> <p>We have started one research project in the field of Educational Testing and will be setting up an assessment unit at the beginning of 1970.</p>

Name of Institution	- Monash University, Australia.
Title of Project	- CLASSIFICATION AND ORDERING SKILLS IN YOUNG CHILDREN.
Name of Person and Designation	- <u>Miss Mary Creighton Nixon</u> - Senior Lecturer.
Main Aim of Project	- (i) to establish whether test material used with Australian children could be used with indigenous children in the Territory of Papua - New Guinea; (ii) if so, to obtain data for comparison purposes; (iii) to apply findings to methods of teaching subjects in which the use of 'logical systems' is necessary.
Description	- The first aim was investigated by testing standard III Tolai children in the Gazelle Peninsula in New Britain on a cross classification task. They were able to carry this out at about the level of 7 years old white Australian children. The work has not proceeded further.
Date of Commencement	- February, 1968.

Name of Institute	- Department of Education, University of Hong Kong.
Title of Project	- MODERN EXAMINING.
Name of Person and Designation	- Group of Local Examiners.
Description	- A summary and analytical and critical account of examining techniques, with examples and specially applied to Hong Kong's school examination system.
Date of Commencement	- September, 1969.
Expected Date of Completion	- June, 1971.
Source of Finance	- Department of Education, University of Hong Kong.

Name of Institution	- National Council of Educational Research and Training, India.
Title of Project	- CO-OPERATIVE TEST DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - INTELLIGENCE TEST.
Name of Persons and	- <u>Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Sinha</u> - Reader, <u>Dr. K. Kulandaivel</u> - Principal, Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Teachers College, Coimbatore, <u>Dr. (Mrs.) K. Pramanik</u> - Principal, Institute of Education for Women, Calcutta, <u>Dr. N.P. Pillai</u> - Professor of Education, Kerala University, Kerala.
Main Aim of Project	The main aim of the project is to develop four group tests of intelligence each with a parallel form and partial overlap for the ages 7+ to 9+, 9+ to 11+, 13+ to 16+ and 11+ to 13+.
Description	- Four tests each with a parallel form from the above four age levels are being developed. There is an overlap of age between the two consecutive age levels. This is to develop one scale of intelligence from 7+ to 16+ by scaling the adjacent level tests so that prediction of the scores on later tests may be made on the basis of scores on earlier tests. The tests are for Verbal Educability Factor. They will thus be verbal and quantitative items so that they give two separate scores for V and N in addition to one general score. The tests are being developed in three languages, i.e. Malayalam, Tamil and Bengali. Later on the tests will be adopted to other Indian languages so that we have intelligence tests at national level.

Date of Commencement - November, 1966.
 Expected Date of Completion - March, 1971.
 Source of Finance - Funds of N.C.E.R.T.
 Method and Anticipated Date of Publication - The report will be published by NCERT sometime during 1971.

Name of Institution - National Council of Educational Research and Training, India.
 Title of Project - CO-OPERATIVE TEST DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - INTEREST INVENTORY.
 Name of Persons and Designation - Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Sinha - Reader,
Professor B. Krishnan - Professor of Psychology, Mysore University.
Professor M.Y. Bhide - Vice-Principal, Sadhna School of Educational Research and Training, Bombay.
Dr. B. De - Director, Bureau of Educational and Vocational Guidance, Patna,
Mr. V.G. Jhingran - Principal D.S. College, Aligarh.

Main Aim of Project - To develop a vocational Interest Inventory with scales for a number of occupations.

Description - The vocational Interest Inventory which is being developed is for the age group 14-25. The Inventory is not on any existing model. New types of items are being tried. 13 occupational areas, namely Social Services, Economics, Secretarial, Administrative, Technical, Outdoor Physical, Scientific, Linguistic Literary, Arts and Entertainment, Protective, Educational, Medical and Religious have been taken into account while developing items. Scales for only eight to ten such occupations which are likely to absorb relatively larger numbers of individuals will be developed.

Date of Commencement - November, 1966.
 Expected Date of Completion - March, 1971.
 Source of Finance - N.C.E.R.T. funds.
 Method and Anticipated Date of Publication - The preliminary report will be published by the NCERT some time in 1971.

Name of Institution - National Council of Educational Research Training, India.
 Title of Project - DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TESTS.

Name of Persons and Designation	- <u>Mrs. S. Shukla</u> - Reader, <u>P.M. Patel</u> - Lecturer <u>J.P. Mittal</u> - Technical Assistant.
Main Aim of Project	- To develop a Differential Aptitude Test Battery for the Hindi-speaking region for allocation of students to various courses being offered at the higher secondary stage.
Description	- It is planned to improve upon and standardize a series of tests - already developed initially in one of the States in India for a small geographical region - in verbal, numerical and spatial abilities for students of age group 13 to 14. The initial spade work has already been done. This battery would be standardized for the entire Hindi-speaking region. Differential validity would be made available to the users.
Date of Commencement	- March, 1969.
Expected Date of Completion	- March, 1972.
Source of Finance	- NCERT funds.
Method and Anticipated Date of Publication	- 1973.

Name of Institution	- Department of Educational Psychology, Makerere University College, Uganda.
Title of Project	- THE INTELLECT OF EAST AFRICAN STUDENTS.
Name of Person and Designation	- <u>Hamed El-Abd</u> - Professor of Educational Psychology and Head of Department.
Description	- Investigation based on the assumption that the structure of intellect is independent of race and religion, but dependent on education and experience, was conducted using an East African sample from undergraduates and high school certificate students.
Date of Commencement	- November, 1965.
Expected Date of Completion	- Research continuing as long as funds are available.
Source of Finance	- (a) The Nuffield Foundation, through authorization by the Institute of Education, Kampala. (b) Makerere University College Research Grant.
Method and Anticipated Date of Publication	- Mimeographed reports are produced at present by the Educational Psychology Department. Funds are anticipated in the future to make possible printed booklets of the research material.

Name of Institution - The West African Examinations Council, Lagos, Nigeria.

Title of Project - FEASIBILITY OF THE MRC 1501 ANSWER CARD.

Name of Person and Designation - Dr. D.J. Fitch - Technical Adviser.

Main Aim of Project - To investigate the feasibility of using the 1501 in West Africa.

Description - To investigate the feasibility of using the 1501 in West Africa, the Research Evaluation, and Statistical Analysis Section has designed a study. The Measurement Research Corporation has provided 1501 answer cards of a standard design. These were used in the States of Northern Nigeria to administer a form of the CEE. The same test was administered in other schools using the 1230 sheet. The study will allow us to compute test-retest and parallel forms reliability using each document and thereby make an important comparison.

Date of Commencement - July, 1969.

Expected Date of Completion - December, 1969.

Source of Finance - W.A.E.C. and USAID.

Method and Anticipated Date of Publication - TEDRO Report December, 1969.

Name of Institution - West African Examinations Council, Lagos, Nigeria.

Title of Project - FORCED CHOICE RATING FORMS.

Name of Persons and Designation - Dr. D.J. Fitch - Technical Adviser, Dr. S.A. Akeju - Principal Research Officer.

Main Aim Project - To develop a forced choice rating form for nurses.

Description - With the usual rating procedure one is asked to evaluate the ratee in terms of his position on several trait scales. Typically such scales have five points. One might be asked to say if the ratee were (a) very hard working (b) moderately hard working (c) average (d) moderately lazy or (e) very lazy. The main trouble with such a rating form is that he can make a ratee "look good" or "look bad". He typically is motivated to make a ratee "look good" but not too good. He reasons that other raters who are rating other people have similar motives and he wants his rates to generally compare favourably with those of other raters but he is not sure how the other

will rate so he does not know how to rate his own rates. What would be desirable would be a form which would allow an accurate and honest description of behaviour that would not require or allow the rater to directly make good-bad decisions. The forced choiced rating form meets this need.

Date of Commencement - Within the next year.
 Expected Date of Completion - Not known.
 Source of Finance - W.A.E.C. and USAID.
 Method and Anticipated Date of Publication - TEDRO REPORTS.

Name of Institution - The East African Examinations Council, Lagos, Nigeria.

Title of Project - GAMBIA COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

Name of Person and Designation - Dr. D.J. Fitch - Technical Adviser

Main Aim of Project - To provide information on the extent to which the tests developed in Nigeria are appropriate for use in The Gambia.

Description - The same CEE test has been used in the Gambia and Nigeria. Headmasters in the Gambia have asked as if we can provide them with any information on the extent to which these tests developed in Nigeria are appropriate for use in the Gambia. We plan to undertake reliability studies using 1969 data from the two countries separately. A validity study is also being conducted in the two countries.

Date of Commencement - August, 1969.

Expected Date of Completion - December, 1969.

Source of Finance - W.A.E.C. and USAID.

Method and Anticipated Date of Publication - TEDRO Report - December, 1969.

Name of Institution - The West African Examinations Council, Lagos, Nigeria.

Title of Project - VALIDATION OF ACHIEVEMENT TESTS.

Name of Person and Designation - Dr. D.J. Fitch - Technical Adviser.

Main Aim of Project - Validation studies to increase the accuracy and efficiency by which achievement can be measured.

Description	- A review of the Godschalk, Swineford and Coffman study undertaken at ETS and published in 1966 will be carried out with subject matter panels. From this will be developed a highly reliable and valid achievement criterion for their subject and a large experimental battery of short traditional and objective papers. The criterion measure would be given to a sample of a few hundred students along with the experimental battery. Papers of the battery would be validated against the criterion and a subset of papers predicting the criterion would be selected. The possibilities of increasing the accuracy and efficiency by which achievement can be measured are very large by means of such research.
Date of Commencement	- Hopefully in the near future.
Expected Date of Completion	- Not known.
Source of Finance	- W.A.E.C . and UNSAID.
Method and Anticipated Date of Publication	- TEDRO Reports.
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Name of Institution	- The West African Examinations Council, Lagos, Nigeria.
Title of Project	- STANDARD AND SIDE BY SIDE ANSWER SHEETS.
Name of Person and Designation	- <u>Dr. D.J. Fitch</u> - Technical Adviser
Main Aim of Project	- Designing of standard answer sheets that could be used with most or all of our tests.
Description	- On large testing programmes it is highly desirable to have answer sheets computer printed with the candidate's name and his index number grid printed in a machine readable form. When such answer sheets are returned for scoring the candidate's number along with his scores are punched into a card. If the candidate himself had marked the index number grid there would be a chance that a mistake would be made. This could mean losing the candidate's scores or, worse still, assigning one candidate's scores to another candidate. A difficulty with such computer printing is that it is quite time consuming. One can expect to print less than 1,000 per hour. Such printing can be done at twice the speed if answer sheets are printed side by side.
Date of Commencement	- February, 1968.
Expected Date of Completion	- Studies expected to continue indefinitely.

Source of Finance - W.A.E.C. and USAID.

Method and Anticipated Date of Publication - No reports planned.

Name of Institution - Institute of Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Title of Project - PREPARATION AND STANDARDISATION OF READING TESTS FOR NIGERIAN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Name of Person and Designation - Dr. John O.O. Abiri - Lecturer of Education.

Main Aim of Project - To prepare a set of standardized Reading Tests (initially in English, but possibly in at least one of the major Nigerian languages later) which may be used for grading, selection and comparative assessment of pupil's achievements in reading.

Description - Writing, trial runs, and standardization of test materials.

Date of Commencement - As soon as funds are available.

Expected Date of Completion - About two years from date of commencement.

Source of Finance - None yet.

Name of Institution - Department of Institute of Education, University of Ibadan.

Title of Project - ADAPTING OBJECTIVE TESTS FOR LOCAL USE.

Name of Person and Designation - Dr. E.A. Yoloye - Lecturer in Education.

STUDENTS' BACKGROUND AND CHARACTERISTICS

Name of Institution	- Department of Educational Psychology, Makerere University College, Uganda.
Title of Project	- CONSTRUCTION AND APPLICATION IN EAST AFRICAN SCHOOLS OF THE GENERAL VERBAL ABILITY TESTS.
Name of Person and Designation	- <u>Hamed El-Abd</u> - Professor of Educational Psychology and Head of Department.
Description	- These tests are designed for use in the upper primary classes and junior secondary grades of East African schools. The tests could also be applied to children of similar education and cultural backgrounds.
Date of Commencement	- November, 1965.
Expected Date of Completion	- Research continuing as long as funds are available.
Source of Finance	- (a) The Nuffield Foundation, through authorization by the Institute of Education, Kampala. (b) Makerere University College Research Grant.
Method and Anticipated Date of Publication	- Mimeographed reports are produced at present by the Educational Psychology Department. Funds are anticipated in the future to make possible printed booklets of the research material

SELECTION AND PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS

Name of Institution	- Department of Educational Psychology, Makerere University College.
Title of Project	- THE LULE NON-VERBAL INTELLIGENCE TESTS.
Name of Person and Designation	- <u>Hamed El-Abd</u> - Professor of Educational Psychology and Head of Department.
Description	- The original tests were designed by Mr. Lule, the present Principal of Makerere College, in 1952 for use in multi-racial schools in Africa. The new edition of the tests was revised during 1966 and 1967.
Date of Commencement	- November, 1965.
Expected Date of Completion	- Research continuing as long as funds are available.
Source of Finance	- (a) The Nuffield Foundation, through authorization by the Institute of Education, Kampala. (b) Makerere University College Research Grant.
Method and Anticipated Date of Publication	- Mimeographed reports are produced at present by the Educational Psychology Department. Funds are anticipated in the future to make possible printed booklets of the research material.
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Name of Institution	- Human Development Research Unit, University of Zambia.
Title of Project	- ORIENTATION ERRORS IN COPYING KOH'S BLOCKS DESIGNS.
Name of Person and Designation	- <u>Dr. Robert Serpell</u> - Lecturer in Psychology
Main Aim of Project	- Analysis of the causes of orientation errors in copying tasks.
Description	- Following the 'response organisation' hypothesis proposed in a previous report (Serpell, R. (1969) Cross-cultural differences in the difficulty of copying orientation: a response organisation hypothesis. <u>HDRU Reports, 12</u> , Lusaka: University of Zambia - mimeo.) a study has been initiated of the influence of sequential response organisation on the orientation of Koh's Blocks reproductions. Responses of primary school children to the first 5 items of the regular test have been recorded by an overhead cine-camera. Further trials are now being undertaken with selected designs for which the hypothesis generates exact predictions.

Date of Commencement	-	May, 1969.
Expected Date of Completion	-	October, 1970.
Source of Finance	-	British Government, Ministry of Overseas Development Grant to University of Zambia for Human Development Research Unit.
Method and Anticipated Date of Publication	-	HDRU Report in 1970, subsequently in international journal.
