

**RELEVANCE OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM
IN THE APPLICATION OF COGNITIVE AND
PRACTICAL SKILLS IN CRAFTS: A STUDY OF
CARPENTRY AND METALWORK IN ELDORET
MUNICIPALITY, KENYA. //**

BY

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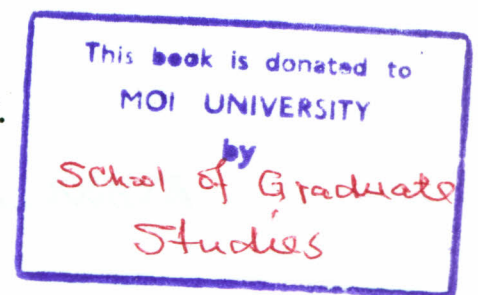
**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES IN
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ABSTRACT

iii

The purpose of this study was to examine if the primary and secondary school curricula prepare school graduates to function appropriately in crafts. The study was conducted in Eldoret Municipality, Uasin Gishu District, Kenya.

The data was collected through questionnaires, observations and interview schedules from a sample of 41 and 52 self-employed school graduates in metalwork and carpentry crafts respectively and 5 proprietors and/or experienced carpenters.

Cognitive and practical skills used by school graduates in crafts were studied. Descriptive statistics involving tabulations, frequencies and percentages were used in data analysis. Data was interpreted by making inferences on the basis of the available data in tables.

The study revealed that knowledge and skills from school alone without knowledge and skills from outside school and predominantly through apprenticeship cannot make craftsmen function appropriately in their metalwork and carpentry trades. The school curriculum, particularly prepares graduates with basic craft entry skills and thus it is inefficient in the application of cognitive and practical skills to equip an individual for direct employment in crafts.

Although the school curriculum was found effective in imparting some knowledge and skills namely, measuring, numeracy, business and literacy, schools, especially primary, were found to lack sufficient tools and materials for instruction. The overloaded curriculum was found to limit time for practical learning in craft subjects.

Teacher effectiveness in craft education was also found questionable. Recommendations that call for curriculum developers, school committees, education administrators and teacher training colleges to come up and counteract these shortcomings so as to make the school curriculum relevant in the application of cognitive and practical skills in crafts have been put in this study.

ABSTRACT (vii)

TABLE OF CONTENT (viii)

LIST OF TABLES (xii)

LIST OF FIGURES (xiii)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS (xiv)

CHAPTER ONE 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.2 Background to the study 2

1.3 Statement of the problem 3

1.4 Purpose of the Study 7

1.5 Rationale for the Study 9

1.6 Basic Assumptions of the Study 10

1.7 Significance of the study 11

1.7.1. Scope and Limitations of the study 11

1.7.2. Scope of the study 12

1.7.3. Limitations of the study 12

1.8 Theoretical Framework 13

1.9 Definition of key terms 14

CHAPTER TWO 20

2.0 REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE 20

2.1 Introduction 23