



# Education and Competence Studies

## Implementing the Localized Curriculum for Basic Education in Zambia

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### Problem

School is not relevant for supporting the development of the community and with it national development

### Policy

In order to bring school and community closer together the Ministry of Education (MoE) of Zambia and the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) issued documents and implemented a policy to realise this. The documents are the general policy paper **Educating our Future** (1996), and the implementation documents:

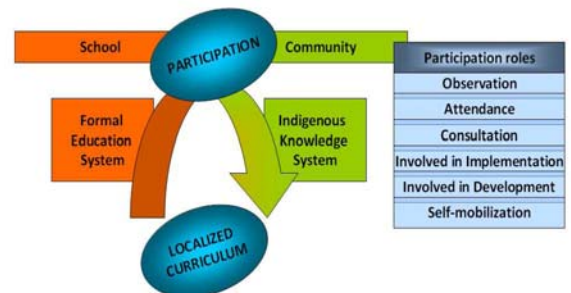
**Teacher's Curriculum Manual** (2006, **Zambian Basic Education Syllabus, Grade 1-7** (2003), **Guidelines for the Development of the Localized Curriculum in Zambia - Basic Education** (2005), **Manual for Community Studies - how to use local knowledge** (2007) and **Teaching Community Studies** (2007).

### Ideal

**The Basic School Curriculum embraces the learning areas:** Literacy and languages, Integrated Sciences, Creative and Technology Studies, Numeracy and Mathematics, Social and Development Studies. The learning area **Community Studies** (CS) is added to it.

*CS recognises the fact that communities around the school have their own way of life, and that they impart knowledge and skills to the children according to their norms and values (indigenous knowledge).*

- CS builds on traditional education that children acquire from their parents.
- This knowledge is related to the existing cultural traditions and survival strategies.
- Lifelong skills that will enable them to contribute to the sustainable development of the community.
- This approach will contribute to poverty reduction.
- Community members will so feel a sense of ownership of the curriculum in their local school.
- It fits in the policy of decentralisation.
- Supports entrepreneurship



### Reality

- Schools hardly get assistance in implementing CS
- No support and teaching materials
- Feeling that curriculum gets overloaded
- Teachers get demotivated
- What children have to do for CS they do at home as well
- CS is not examined and therefore has hardly any status
- Not all knowledge bearers like to share their knowledge or want to get paid for it

**Will the Localized Curriculum be a challenge to the unity of the nation ?**