

Education

ADVISOR ON DECENTRALIZED EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

Period: October 2010 – September 2013

Beneficiaries: National, regional and district education managers

Counterpart Organization: Ghana Education Service

Purpose of assignment:
Capacity of Ghana Education Service (GES)
on decentralised education management is
strengthened.



TARGET AREA : NATIONWIDE



Activity



How the education sector is managed has a strong effect on education services delivery to the Ghanaian child. The Government of Ghana's education policy, the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2010-2020, alongside promoting decentralization, a process that seeks to make district education offices and heads of institutions more responsible for implementing education policies in their respective localities, defines management actions required to improve education delivery.

Although decentralization is being promoted, there are still challenges in the way district managers and schools manage education delivery, mainly as a result of capacity constraints, which results in the poor implementation of policies and low achievement in teaching and learning in schools.

JICA in recognising the growing need for strengthening district education management on a continuous basis dispatched an Expert (Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa) to support the Ghana Education Service (GES). The Advisory Unit on Decentralised Education Management (AUDEM) at the GES has been working on strengthening education sector management at the decentralised levels. The unit's activities includes providing guidance and technical backstopping for District Education personnel including on developing annual performance improvement plans and reporting on activities. Since the AUDEM's advice, the quality of submitted annual plans have significantly improved.

Comment from Counterpart –

Interviewed in October 2012

Mr. Stephen Adu, Director, Basic Education Division of the Ghana Education Service



As Ghana moves towards a fully decentralized education system, the need for a formidable education sector management unit at the region, district and school levels cannot be overemphasized. The institution of the AUDEM at the GES Headquarters to help strengthen the institutional capacity at the school, district and regions was therefore imperative. Since the inception of AUDEM there have been a tremendous improvement in the quality of the annual plans submitted by the districts. It is expected that all strategic plans of the Ghana Education Service and the Ministry of Education, including, the School Performance Improvement Plan (SPIP) and decision-making at all levels will improve and translate into quality education delivery that guarantees improved pupils' learning outcomes.

Comment from Expert - Mr. Daisuke Kanazawa

If decision making points of the service are much closer to beneficiary people, quality of the service could be much improved because people can decide by themselves what should be done. However, in order to enable it, people need to be well prepared and equipped to properly manage available resources by themselves. This is a matter of democratic development. We are here to support managers of the Ghana Education Service to strengthen their management capacity at the decentralised levels. We expect that managers at these levels become much more confident to manage their operations.

