

The Role of Elementary School Social Studies Curriculum in Fostering National Cohesion and Integration in Kenya.

Abstract.

Social Studies Curriculum (SSC) foster national cohesion and integration in terms of knowledge, intellectual capabilities, and democratic disposition which are expected of pupils to actively participate and coexist in the society. SSC is based on societal needs, challenges, and aspirations, which enable pupils to acquire appropriate and acceptable values. Therefore, in the teaching of SSC in primary schools, teachers' perception is paramount. The study sought to ascertain the role of elementary school Social Studies Curriculum in fostering national cohesion and integration. The descriptive survey design was used to guide the research process. Primary data were sourced from a sample of 12 curriculum support officers and 188 Social Studies teachers from the primary schools in Uasin Gishu County who were selected using stratified and simple random sampling techniques. Instrument for data collection was questionnaire. Data analysis generated frequencies and percentages for interpretation and discussions. The findings reveal that teachers are knowledgeable on the role of Social Studies curriculum in fostering national cohesion and integration, and the instructional methods/ resources are effectively engaged. The study recommended that primary teachers should effectively implement values inherent in Social Studies Curriculum for learners to emerge as responsible, respectful, and cooperative citizens for societal harmony. In conclusion, shows that there were need for teacher training, workshops, and seminars with more emphasis on acquisition of new knowledge and current trends on citizenship and utilization of appropriate pedagogical practices in Social Studies curriculum.

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