

influencing the general direction that schools move. This includes ensuring, cooperation with the BOGs and School Management Committees, enhancing and maintaining academic standards and discipline, ensuring that the infrastructure (school buildings and equipment) and other assets are properly maintained and safeguarded. It also ensures that funds meant for the development of educational infrastructure are properly utilized. The Education Boards on which representatives of the Church sit, have a lot of influence on issues pertaining to education. Such Boards include; District Education Boards and Kenya Institute of Education and other educational Boards. This representation has enabled most of the Church-sponsored schools to perform well in national examinations. In addition to the core functions, the sponsoring Church sends Chaplains all schools it sponsors (African Inland Church Education Policy, 2009, p. 22-24). They play an important role in evangelisation and in ensuring that students interact on a strong Christian foundation. They also ensure the internalisation of religious values and norms. Furthermore, according to the Anglican Church's Education Policy (2011), the Chaplain has the responsibility to initiate young students into Christian faith, organising and conducting worship besides being able to teach religious studies where necessary.

The Chaplaincy also builds relationships between the school and the church. For instance, the Africa Inland Church's policy empowers the Chaplain to provide pastoral care to all teaching and Non-teaching staff in the school. Furthermore, he encourages students to evangelise around their school and beyond during school holidays (Africa Inland Church, 2009). The church also organises in-service courses for teachers by cooperating with other stakeholders who include parents and teachers. As a sponsor, it also plays an important role in the appointment of teachers to church-sponsored schools. The policies of the Anglican Church and the African Inland church of Kenya encourage partnership with the government, and through Education Secretaries, participate in the selection of the school committees, propose the names for appointment of heads of Church-sponsored schools/colleges. Through the Education Board, the Church's policy and development agenda in education is discussed and implemented. The education Secretary ensures the implementation of the policies of the Ministry of Education and its own policy on education. The Education Act (1968, p. 9-10). Chapter 211 Part IX 28 section 1 establishes a District Education Board that consists among other people three persons nominated by the sponsor of the schools.

Education Days in the Development of Education

Education days are usually organised by the Ministry of Education to evaluate the development of education in the district while taking stock of the past challenges and successes in the district. During this time, schools that have performed well including pupils and students are recognized and given prizes. This recognition enhances the performance of the excelling schools and injects the spirit of competitiveness in the schools not rewarded. In the same spirit, churches that sponsor schools also do organise their own Education Days for purposes of enhancing the education agenda in the district. During such occasions a number of church-sponsored schools have out-performed government-supported ones. For instance, during the Education Day to celebrate the KCPE Results for

2009 for Eldoret West district the AIC sponsored schools clinched five positions among the first 30 positions out of a total of 154 schools. Furthermore, 2 of the AIC sponsored schools were among the top ten best schools in the 2010 KCPE examination. Churches also do organize their own education days with a theme that has strong inclination towards Christianity.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Church in Kenya has played and continues to play an important role in the development of schools. This is a role that the church has diligently discharged over time. Different Churches have continued to be involved in the development of education through active participation in activities such as school education days, strengthening the faith of students in addition to including ensuring that schools attain a high level of academic standards and evangelising. Christianity has spread systematically allowing most young people to embrace it, a value that has contributed to the building of a holistic society based on strong Christian foundation. The church, through its cardinal role of evangelisation has managed to scale down egoistic tendencies among young people and built a strong altruistic base.

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