INTRODUCTION

In this discussion, we are to take a close look at how a newly appointed education officer in a District that has just come out of war, basing on his or her expertise, how can one improve the teaching curriculum and co-curriculum activities in this district and make it relevant to the society. In addition, we are to discuss the political, social and economic functions of education and indicate how the school system carries out these functions.

Definition of key terms

According to Wikipedia (2018), A District Education Officer refers to the person responsible for monitoring educational, administrative and legal activities for schools in a district under the department of education.

According to the Merriam Webster’s New Encyclopedic Dictionary (1999), a curriculum is the combination of instructional practices, learning lessons, and students' performance assessment that are designed to achieve a specific educational objective.

According to Education Reform (2018), Co-curricular refers to the activities, programs and learning experiences that complement in some way what students are learning in school. These include sports, debating, and drama among others.

Society is a group of people living in a specific geographical territory who share a culture which forms the basis for the rules that guide their behavior and co-operate one another for the realization of their goals as defined by (Myra, 2000).

The Merriam Webster’s New Encyclopedic Dictionary (1999), it defines school as an institution for the instruction of children or a place established for teaching or learning..

a) As a newly appointed education officer in a District that has just come out of war, with my expertise, I would improve the curriculum and co-curricular activities in this district and make them relevant to the society in the following ways.

Rehabilitation program should be included in the curriculum to cater for the learners who were infected and affected both mentally and physically during the war as they got bodily injuries, lost loved ones, fled their homes, sexually harassed as well as joining the various fighting groups against their own willing. In addition, provision of an overview of peer, through these psycho-social and mental health interments designed to address mental and physical health needs of conflict-affected learners, and also highlight areas in which policy and research need to be strengthened.

Re-skilling teachers, counseling and guidance skill studies should be introduced through conducting teachers’ workshops, seminars and short courses, to first, help teachers themselves who may have been affected by the war. Secondly to re-tool them to cope with the psychological, emotional and physical tumors facing the students from war that they are teaching. Having understood the student challenges, then learning can go on smoothly.

Emphasize the religious and spiritual retreats. The country requires leaders who are just and approachable in order to promote peace and unity. Schools equip student with religious norms that helps to keep their morals in check, religion calls for forgiveness of those who have caused harm to them during war. Formation of movements like Scripture union, legion of Mary, Young Christian Society (YCS), such movements also help in molding students as God fearing people and at the end of the studies they become citizens who are able to be just, honest and forgive one another because it is what the word of God calls us to do.

Hands on education, basing on the previous situation, it is evident that the biggest percentage of the war victims hardly wish to go through the long education system of going to primary then secondary and later to tertiary or other higher learning institutions, so it is against this background that as a newly appointed officer, I would make the hands on education a priority since it is in most cases short termed as far as studying is concerned and also more effective since more practical work is done by the learners which enables them have work to do having left school.

Emphasizing of Agriculture, this should be emphasized in the curriculum and taught practically and in so doing, students gain more skills in crop and animal production. This helps the society which has just come out of war to have enough food instead of highly depending on the charity food given to them, however, the surplus can also to be sold and some income can be earned, through this, people are able to improve on their standards of living as they are able to purchase the basic needs of life.

Particular History about the war to be included in the curriculum, history refers to the study of the past, as a newly appointed officer, I would ensure that the history of the place is told or taught to the learners, through this, learners get to know what sparked off the war. Having found out causes of the war, possible ways of how they can avoid the outbreak of another war can be suggested and later on put into action.

Culture, Michelle (2013), defines culture as the basic activities aligned to a particular tribe, community or people. As a newly appointed officer, I would first identify the culture of the given society, understand it and also appreciate it. After the study, I would then make arrangements, these may include fixing lessons on the school timetables that emphasize culture as well as actively involving the learners in the various cultural activities of the given society so as to make sure that such knowledge is also passed onto the learners which helps them to appreciate their culture and also have a sense of belonging.

b) The political, social and economic functions of education are as discussed below and how the school system carries out these functions.

POLITICAL FUNCTION OF EDUCATION

In schools, Political education is provided to students which promote democracy because student are made aware of their rights; according to Griffin (2012), democracy refers to the political system in which the supreme power lies in the hands of citizens who can elect people to represent them. In schools students are allowed to carry out election on a free and fair ground, without the intervention of the administration, students elect the leaders of their own. This practice of such discipline is perpetuated in students who end up as future leaders and doing the same.

Political Education promotes patriotism. According to Ricardo (2016), Patriotism refers to the love for one’s country and the ability to defend it. Schools help in the promotion and strengthening of patriotism by starting up patriotism clubs and encourage learners to actively participate in those clubs; singing of the national anthem, rising of the country’s flag through these activities, learners get to love their country, and this eventually motivates the students who later end up as responsible patriotic citizens.

Schools carry out ballot paper voting. Since most of the time as youth is spent in school education, schools help future citizens get familiar with how actual voting is carried out. During election time students are introduced to the voting process, they vote on and have formal ballots or methods for tallying votes. The ballot papers there exist the names of candidates who vibe for the different posts in the school. Students making a choice and for a particular candidate through voting paste a picture in their mind which is carried on even when they leave school and they are able to go and vote in their localities as responsible and knowledgeable citizens.

Schools also allow students to carry out open **campaign.** Nothing helps a person understand a process better than going through that process themselves. Students at are allowed to design their own campaign for office in schools, they come up with their own slogans, what do they care about as well as what they would change, and what they would say in their speeches. All this kind of training nurtures them as future confident leaders.

Schools entrust students with power to govern others. Through the election of the prefects and entrusting them with power to direct fellow students is a way of molding future political leaders. As leaders for instance, the members of parliaments people entrust them with power to represent their views and for the betterment of society. Likewise the students through leading other students gain the experience and technical knowhow of how to handle people put under their care at the end of it all; students come out of school as good responsible leaders. For example Hon. Norbert Mao and Hon. Mukasa Mbidde both were guild presidents at Makerere University.

Schools carry out debates for students to freely express their opinions about different issues going on in the country politics inclusive. Through these debates students express their political, social and economic ideas in their minds. These debates at schools train students to be able to express themselves verbally as they convince the audience. Students gain confidence, speaking skills which boosts and encourages some student to pursue careers in politics.

Schools carry out leadership seminars, where prominent leaders are invited to give a talk to the students in the leadership roles. For example on the 19th October 2018, a leadership seminar was held at University of Kisubi where President Norbert Moa was invited to give a talk to the leaders in potency. Such forums give rise to future leaders after having a vivid example of a politician amidst them.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS OF EDUCATION (share your essay, 2018).

Social education helps in the Socialization Process: The school and other institutions have come into being in place of family to complete the socialization process. Now, the people feel that it is the school’s business to train the whole child even to the extent of teaching him honesty, fair play, consideration for others and a sense of right and wrong. The school devotes much of its time and energy to the matter such as co-operation, good citizenship, doing one’s duty, and upholding the law.

Social Education helps in Transmitting the Culture: All societies maintain themselves by the exploitation of a culture. According to Share your essay (2018), Culture here refers to a set of beliefs and skills, art, literature, philosophy, religion, music, etc. This social culture must be transmitted through social organizations and social functions. Education has this function of cul­tural transmission in all societies especially at higher levels of school learning, that serious attempt have been meant in this area.

Social education forms social personality: Individuals must have personalities shaped or fashioned in ways that fit into the culture. Education, everywhere, has the function of the formation of social personalities. Education helps in transmitting culture through proper molding of social personalities. In this way, it contributes to the integration of society. It helps men to adapt themselves to their environment, to survive, and to reproduce themselves.

Social education helps in formation of Attitudes: a settled way of thinking or feeling about something. Education aims at the reformation of attitudes wrongly devel­oped by the children already. For various reasons the child may have absorbed a host of attitudes, beliefs and disbeliefs, loyalties and prejudices, jealousy and hatred, etc. These are to be reformed. It is the function of education to see that unfounded beliefs, illogical prejudices and unreasoned loyalties are removed from the child’s mind. Though the school has its own limitations in this regard, it is expected to continue its efforts in reforming the attitudes of the child.

Social education defines Status: Conferring of status is one of the most important functions of educa­tion. The amount of education one has is correlated with his class position. An evaluation of one’s status is partially decided by what kind of education one has received. The other important criteria of class position such as occupation, income, and style of life, are partially the results of the type and amount of education one has had.

Social education encourages the spirit of competition: The school instills co-operative values through civic and patriotic exhortation or advice. Yet the school’s main emphasis is upon personal competition. For each subject studied the child is compared with the companions by percentage of marks or rankings. The teacher admires and praises those who do well and frowns upon those who fail to do well. The school’s ranking system serves to prepare for a later ranking system. Many of those who are emotionally disappointed by low ranking in the school are thereby prepared to accept limited achievement in the larger world outside the school.

Social education imparts values: The curriculum of a school, its extra-curricular activities and the informal relationships amongst students and teachers communicate social skills and values. Through various activities at school imparts values such as co-operation or team spirit, obedience and fair play (Share your essay, 2018).

ECONOMIC FUNCTION OF EDUCATION

Economic education promotes the culture of saving among students. According to Keynesian economics, saving is what a person has left over when the cost of his or her consumer expenditure is subtracted from the amount of disposable income earned in a given period of time Robert, (2003). Going to school and gaining economic and entrepreneurship knowledge helps one to know the need and importance saving in life as compared to those who have never gone to school. For nobody in the world is certain about tomorrow financially, unless one has made strives to save to create a predictable future. Therefore through savings something taught and encouraged through economics and entrepreneurship class at school helps in securing the future of tomorrow among the citizens.

Helps in the formation of economic policy makers besides, the members of parliament debating on any economic policy, there are experts in economic who study how the economy of the country moves. With the knowledge and expertise of these people, the members of the parliament are able to enact laws that may not negatively impact the country’s economy for example Dr. Ddumba Ssentamu, Dr.Anthony Gesa, Mr. Emmanual Mutebire among others. This is achieved from studying economics at secondary and university levels.

Formation of entrepreneurs, it is important to note that entrepreneurs play a key role in any economy. According investopedia (2018), an entrepreneur refers to a person who sets up a business, takes on the financial risks in the hope of profits. Students who have acquired the skills and initiatives necessary to anticipate current and future needs, they use these skills to bring new and developmental ideas to the market. However, it is important to note that the school achieves this is through teaching of subjects like entrepreneurship to the student.

Economic education helps in the formation of rational consumers. According to Henderson, & Johnson (2005), a rational consumer is a person who always makes prudent and logical decisions that provide them with the highest amount of personal utility. One major characteristic of money is that it is scarce, this means that it is not readily available any time needed. Through the studying of economics and entrepreneurship at secondary and university levels helps to form citizens who are able to budget and spend money within their income capacity. They are able to have an order of priority in their way of consumption as they are able to satisfy their needs and wants despite the scarcity resources in the country.

Education promotes human capital; According to Claudia (2007),human capital is the stock of knowledge, habits, social and personality attributes, including creativity, embodied in the ability to perform labor so as to produce economic value. Business subjects like economics and entrepreneurship impart knowledge of business administration and management among the students, with the skills acquired; they are able to create their own jobs in future. On the other hand, other subjects taught in schools also enable the learners to acquire the desired qualifications for a given job. This increases labor supply and production in the society thus promoting economic growth and development.

Economic education promotes creativity among students, at school art and craft exhibitions are carried out normally on visitation days and other ceremonial days, where students exhibit their various items such as the drawings, crafts, molded items and as they exhibit them, parents and guardians who show interest in purchasing them are able to do so as they do bargain with the students. This encourages students to be creative and self employers as they leave school since they are able to apply the acquired skills.

Economic education promotes productive skills like technical skills to the students. For example the vocational schools teach students practical skills such as tailoring, hairdressing, carpentry which help them to become job creators instead of job seekers due to the practical skills they have learnt during schooling.

Economic education promotes the spirit of self sustainance among students. Besides the knowledge that the learners acquire from the books, Schools with big chucks of land usually take the initiative to involve students in the garden work. During the planting sessions some students are taken to give a hand in planting and as well as during the harvest period. Through this practice, students are trained to acquire extra skills of farming which they can use in near future to survive before they are employed in their fields of specialization.

CONCLUSION

**Schools** are special institutions, created to serve specific social needs. Today schools have become very dynamic in providing answers to societal needs. This is the reason why we see today the curriculum is revisited to introduce changes like, practical subjects into the syllabus to keep the relevance of schools in society. Many institutes have been generated to provide hands on skills to the people to earn a living. Despite the fact that society can exist without schools, we can’t as well negate the fact that for a society to register civilization, peace and development it needs the schools to educate its people.

REFERENCES

Claudia, P. L. (2007). *Technology verses the Labor Technique of Production in the world today.* New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Education Reform. (2018, October 24). *The Definition of Co-Curricular.* Retrieved from https://www. edglossary.org/co-curricular.

Griffin, K.L. (2012). *The Political Nature of the American Youths*. New York: Springer science &business media.

Henderson, K.M & Johnson, J.C. (2005). *Introduction to Micro Economic: Analysis and application.* Englewood: Prentice-Hall.

Investopedia . (2018, October 24). *Definitions of Entrepreneurship*. Retrieved from <https://www.investopedia>. com/terms/e/entrepreneur.asp.

Merriam Webster’s New Encyclopedic Dictionary (10th ed.). (1999). Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster Incorporated.

Michelle, N. (2013). *Trading in Genes: Developing Perspectives on culture, Trade and sustainability .* London: Earth scan.

Myra, P & David, M. (2000). *Teachers, Schools and Society*. New York: The McGraw-hill Companies, Inc.

Ricardo, M.S. (2016). *Focusing on Political Manifestations and Teaching Strategies*. Atlanta: Manga Publishers.

Robert, H. F. (2003). *Micro Economics and Behavior.* New York: Mc-Graw-Hill Irwin.

Share your essay. (2018, October 24). *Essay on Social Functions of Education.* Retrieved from <Http://www.shareyouressays.com/essay-on-social-functions-of-education/86974>.

Wikipedia . (2018, October 21). *Definition of District Educational Officer.* Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/District Educational Office.