AN EXAMINATION OF STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING ACCESS TO BASIC EDUCATION FOR LEARNERS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS IN UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION SCHOOLS IN SOUTH WESTERN UGANDA

By

ODETTE NIVISABWA
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A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED FOR PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION) IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY NAIROBI

JULY 2014
DECLARATION

This proposal is my original work and has never been presented for the award of any Degree in any other institution or University.

Signature ______ Date ______

Odette Niyisabwa
E83/EA/22854/20

SUPERVISORS’ APPROVAL

This proposal has been submitted for review with our approval as University Supervisors.

Signature ______ Date ______

Dr. Chomba Wa Munyi
Department of Special Needs Education
Kenyatta University

Signature ______ Date ______

Dr. Michael Njenga Njoroge
Department of Special Needs Education
Kenyatta University
DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my dear husband Jonas who has always lovingly supported my many years of academic endeavor. To our children Marjorie, Victor and Victoria, who have endured my long absence from home. I love you unconditionally.
ABSTRACT
This study intends to investigate strategies for enhancing access to Basic Education for Learners with Visual Impairments (LVI) in Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools in Uganda. The study will be conducted in eight districts within South Western Uganda. This area was selected because it has high concentration of LVI enrolled in UPE schools. The study will base on Access theory by Ribot & Peluso (2003), supplemented by Adaptation theory by Sherrill (2008). It will use a mixed method research which involves both qualitative and quantitative descriptive methods. Purposive and systematic sampling procedures will be applied. Purposeful sampling procedure will be applied in selecting the region, districts, schools, LVI enrolled in UPE schools, teachers, head teachers and inspectors of schools. Systematic sampling procedure will be applied to select LVI enrolled in special boarding schools. Data will be collected through interviews, questionnaire, observation and Focus Group Discussion FGD. To ascertain validity and reliability of the instruments, piloting will be conducted in a district which is not included in the study. Data collected using interview, questionnaire, observation and FGD will be coded, quantified, categorized and analyzed following the themes derived from research objectives. Data obtained from close – ended items of the questionnaire will be analyzed quantitatively. All data will be coded and analyzed descriptively using interpretational data analysis supported by a computer program known as (NUD – IST). Findings will be presented using descriptive methods.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADL</td>
<td>Activities of Daily Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDAs</td>
<td>Community Development Assistants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDOs</td>
<td>Community Development Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACPET</td>
<td>Australian Council for Private Education and Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFA</td>
<td>Education For All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESSAPR</td>
<td>Education and Sports Sector Annual Performance Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICEVI</td>
<td>International Council for Education of people with Visual Impairment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP</td>
<td>Individual Education Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITs</td>
<td>Itinerant teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVI</td>
<td>Learners with Visual Impairments</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOES</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCOs</td>
<td>Ophthalmic Coordinating Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>O&amp;M</td>
<td>Orientation and Mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLE</td>
<td>Primary Leaving Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSI</td>
<td>Sight Savers International</td>
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<td>Uganda Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<td>Uganda National Examination Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPE</td>
<td>Universal Primary Education</td>
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