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KENYA PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' PREPARATION IN ICT TEACHING: TEACHER BELIEFS, ATTITUDES, SELF-EFFICACY, COMPUTER COMPETENCE, AND AGE

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Abstract

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has become globally recognized as an effective medium for learning. The Kenyan government made a commitment to provide computers for use in teaching in primary schools. This is expected to enable teachers to integrate ICT in their teaching beginning in primary standard one. Teachers will directly implement the ICT project at the classroom level, so are very crucial players to its effectiveness. This article discusses the preparedness of lower primary school teachers for this implementation process regarding their beliefs and attitudes, computer competence, and computer self-efficacy. The authors argue that the provision of computers and other infrastructure in schools may not automatically lead to integration of ICT in schools unless the government addresses teachers' beliefs and attitudes, computer competence and their self-efficacy. The authors recommend revision of the primary teacher education preparation syllabus and training practice for pre-service teachers in ICT pedagogy to enhance their preparation to integrate ICT in their teaching in primary school.

Keywords: ICT Teacher Age, ICT Primary Education, Teacher Self-efficacy, Kenya Teacher Computer Competence, Kasarani Division, Kenya.

Introduction

The twenty-first century witnessed rapid globalization and infiltration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in almost all sectors of life. The rapid advancement of ICT and the subsequent emergence of the "knowledge-based" society make it almost mandatory to integrate ICT in teaching and learning at all levels of schooling. The use of ICT in schools has many benefits to the learner. These include easy access to digital information and understanding of concepts (Brush, Glazewski and Hew, 2008); and facilitating student-centered and self-

directed learning where students can select, organize, and interpret information and data (Catro Sanchez and Aleman, 2011). In addition, ICT improves teaching and learning quality (Shan FU (2013) and improves learning outcomes and learners' competencies (Andoh, 2012). ICT is therefore very crucial for teaching and learning today.

As such, educational systems and institutions need to incorporate teaching using ICT to prepare learners for life in the modern world and beyond. In this regard, Ogutu (2008) observed that to achieve the Kenya government vision of facilitating ICT as a universal tool for education and training, every educational institution, teacher, and learner should be equipped with appropriate ICT knowledge and skills and the relevant infrastructure provided.

The Kenya government in its "Vision 2030" envisages making the country a middle level economy by using ICT, and therefore committed itself to providing computers to children in primary schools (Kenya Government, 2007). The government expects teachers to integrate ICT in teaching from as early as primary standard one. It undertook an extensive electrification program to ensure consistent power supplies to previously unreached areas. However, availability of infrastructure does not automatically ensure integration of ICT in schools.

Effective implementation of ICT involves interplay of multiple factors besides provision of computers and infrastructure (Aktaruzzaman, Shamim and Clement, 2011). One vital group of factors significant in the integration of ICT in the classroom is the teacher factors. Teachers are significant players in the process of integrating ICT as they are directly involved in the implementation process (Bikos & Tzifopoulos, 2011). As leaders in the planning and execution of the lesson, their personal characteristics including their beliefs and attitudes towards the use of technology, their level of training in ICT, and their self-efficacy in using ICT may influence its integration in teaching and learning.

Teacher Beliefs and Attitudes towards ICT Use

Studies show that teacher attitudes and beliefs are crucial in influencing their acceptance of and subsequent successful integration of ICT in the teaching/learning process (Huang & Liaw, 2005; Hew & Brush, 2007 and Keengwe & Onchari, 2008). Further, Woodrow (1992) argues users need to have positive attitudes towards the innovation to successfully transform the educational practice. Teachers' attitudes are likely to be influenced by their perceptions on the usefulness of ICT. In this regard, Mingaine (2013) argues that teachers are more likely to use ICT if they perceive it to satisfy their own needs or those of their learners. Consistently, studies show that teachers' attitudes towards ICT largely influence their willingness to adopt and integrate ICT in their teaching. As Andoh (2012) found that Ghanaian teachers who perceived ICT to offer them opportunities for obtaining educational resources from the internet, improve teaching and learning process, and enhance students' participation and feedback to teachers, were more willing and ready to use ICT in teaching.

However, contrary findings, such as Eugene (2006) investigated the effect of teacher beliefs and attitudes towards use of ICT in schools found inconsistencies between practice in use of ICT in teaching and teacher beliefs and attitudes. The study attributed the apparent inconsistencies to various factors including lack of ICT resources and lack of access to appropriate technology, inadequate support from the management, and lack of necessary pedagogical training. This

implied that even if teachers have positive attitudes, they must be effectively trained and have the relevant support.

Although the Kenya government is committed to the process of integrating ICT in primary schools and has integrated ICT in primary teacher education syllabus; teacher beliefs and attitudes towards use of ICT in schools remains unknown. There is need to assess teacher beliefs and attitudes towards ICT use as a measure to ensure successful implementation of Kenya's ICT program.

ICT Training

Another key factor in teachers' preparedness is their competence in using ICT in teaching and learning. Readiness to integrate ICT in teaching calls for teachers' ability to handle computers and other ICT gadgets and associated software. In this regard, Drent & Meelisen (2008) established that the quality and level of teacher training influences effective adoption and use of ICT in schools. In another study, Simonson (2008) found that teachers' skills are related to their use of ICT in the teaching-learning process. Further, Bordbar (2010) reported that teachers' competence in computer use is a good predictor of ICT integration in teaching.

Research shows that training must be relevant if teachers are to be well equipped to use ICT. Most of the studies on ICT training for teachers were conducted with secondary school teachers. A study by Andoh (2012) reported that teacher training institutions emphasized training about technology as opposed to how teachers could use technology to teach. These findings echoed Muriithi (2005) who reported that ICT training in Kenya was limited to ICT literacy. Similarly, Mingaine (2013) reported that secondary school teachers did not have sufficient skills on how to integrate ICT in teaching and learning. Other studies in Kenya (Ayere, Odera & Agak, 2010) reported that 55% of teachers in secondary schools did not have any ICT training at all. Of those who had training in ICT, 51% obtained training through personal initiatives after employment as teachers. Consequently, teachers in secondary schools in the Rift Valley region (Ng'eno, Githua and Changeiywo, 2013) were found to perceive themselves as ill-prepared to integrate ICT in mathematic instructions. The lack of ICT training could be due to a lack of serious focus on ICT in the teacher training program.

These secondary school findings cannot however be directly applied to primary school teachers because their training and expectations are different. ICT was integrated in the Kenya Primary Teacher Education (PTE) syllabus in 2008, so that by the time teachers are posted to teach, they are expected to have ICT knowledge. Still there remains the need to find out the extent of primary school teachers' perceived ability to teach using ICT based on their training. As such, this study was conducted to establish lower primary school teachers' readiness to implement ICT in primary school teaching and learning.

Self-efficacy

Self-efficacy in this study refers to the teacher's belief in his or her ability to perform an activity using computers. The focus is not on the skills one has, but on the teacher's judgment on what he or she can do with the skills one possesses. Available literature affirms that lack of self-efficacy in the use of computers could lead to lack of confidence in using ICT in the classroom. As Koliadis (1997) asserted that a person's self-efficacy can validly predict the behavior that the

individual will demonstrate in performing a task. Further and consistent with that assertion Knezek & Christenson (2006) argue that computer self-efficacy is related to confidence in computer technology; and Teo (2009) found teachers' self-efficacy to significantly predict intention to use and actual use of technology. His findings confirmed Compeau and Higgins (1995) finding that teachers with higher self-efficacy used computers more often and experienced less computer related anxiety. Other researchers also found a positive correlation between self-efficacy and computer use. Benson (2004), for example, found computer efficacy to correlate with the integration and development of modern technologies in educational practice. Self-efficacy may also be related to other teacher characteristics. Self-efficacy is therefore crucial in understanding teacher characteristics and their relation to teachers' effective use of ICT in the classroom. Integration of ICT in primary education being a relatively new development in Kenya, studies have not yet established teachers' self-efficacy in the use of computers.

Teacher Age and Use of Computers

A key factor in readiness for computer use and integration in teaching is teacher age. The level of self-efficacy is not equally distributed across ages. Gill and Dalgarno's (2008) study on influences of pre-service teacher preparedness to use ICT in the classroom found younger respondents to have higher confidence in their ability to teach using computers than older respondents. In Gill and Dalgarno's study, most mature students expressed reluctance to adapt to teaching using ICT claiming they were more comfortable with the old techniques of teaching. Their main concerns were that their school leaver peers were more competent in ICT, and their students were also more likely to know more than themselves. This fear was confirmed by those who had taught using computers before joining the training college as they attested to students having better computer competence than them. In another study on the use of computers in government finance organizations, Elder, Meelissen & Ruth (1987) found that older workers were more likely to experience techno stress compared to younger workers. Similarly, Harrison and Rainer (1992) examined individual differences on skill in end-user computing and found that age is negatively correlated with skill level. Zeffane and Cheek's (1993) study of computer usage in an Australian telecommunications organization also found that age negatively correlated with computer usage. In the context of the internet, studies show that users tend to be younger adults (Straits and Times, 1996). Age is an important variable for any study on teachers in Kenya. As hiring teachers was irregular over the past two decades; consequently there may be a huge age imbalance in the teaching personnel in public primary schools and this could impact the extent of teacher use of computers and their self-efficacy in integration of ICT.

This article draws from an exploratory study that sought to establish the extent of teacher preparedness to teach using ICT with respect to their training, beliefs and attitudes, and self-efficacy in using ICT in the classroom, and whether these aspects are related to teacher age.

Study Objectives

1. To establish primary school teacher beliefs and attitudes towards the use of computers in teaching.
2. Determine primary school teacher self-efficacy on teaching using computers.
3. To establish primary school teacher computer competence.

4. To determine the relationships between teacher age and their beliefs and attitudes towards computers and computer use, self-efficacy, and computer competence.

Methodology

The study sample was comprised of 236 primary male and female teachers who were teaching standard one to standard three classes in 31 public schools in Kasarani Division, Kiambu County, Kenya. The teachers ranged in age from 21 to 57 years. All the teachers in the sample had a minimum of two years of primary teacher education. Their teaching experience varied from two to 28 years. Lower primary school teachers were chosen for this study as it was common practice in most Kenyan primary schools for a teacher to start with children from class standard one and move with them up to class standard three and then return to class standard one. Going by this practice, it was assumed that the selection group of teachers in lower primary school would be the first cohort of teachers to implement the government ICT lap-top project. The preparation of these teachers was, therefore, critical for successful implementation of ICT in primary school. Teachers were selected with the assistance of school head teachers.

A researcher developed questionnaire consisting of items measuring three dependent variables: beliefs and attitudes towards computers, computer competence, and self-efficacy was used to collect data. Teacher beliefs and attitudes were measured using three subscales that focused on general use of computers, usefulness of computers in teaching, and the use of computers to teach. Computer competence was measured using three subscales relating to basic computer knowledge and skills, ability to teach basic computer knowledge and skills, and ability to teach using computers. Self-efficacy was measured using two subscales. These subscales related to general use of computers, and the use of computers to teach. The teachers completed questionnaires in their schools. Administration of the questionnaires was accomplished by two researchers and two research assistants with support from the school head teachers. This process made it possible to realize a 100% response rate.

A pilot study was conducted prior to the main study to establish validity and reliability. The pilot study sample consisted of 27 lower primary school teachers from three public schools in Ruiru Zone in Kiambu County, Kenya. These schools were not included in the main study. Test-retest reliability was established for the three questionnaires using Pearson's correlation coefficient test. The reliability coefficients for the three instruments were as shown in Table 1.1.

Expert judgment of ICT trainers and ICT trained teachers established content validity of the instruments. Adjustments were made on items as suggested by the experts. The resulting lists of questions were administered to the 30 teachers in the pilot study and further minor modifications of two items made to ensure item clarity.

Table 1.1 Pearson's Reliability Coefficients for Test-Retest

Instrument	Subscale	Reliability Coefficient
Teacher beliefs and attitudes	General use of computers	0.73
	Usefulness of computers in teaching	0.75
	Use of computers to teach	0.81
Computer competence	Basic computer knowledge and skills	0.76
	Ability to teach basic computer knowledge	0.77
	Ability to teach using computers	0.84
Self-efficacy	General use of computers and	0.78
	Use of computers to teach	0.76

Findings of the Study

Distribution of teachers by gender, age, and teaching experience data were recorded. The composition of teachers by gender is shown in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2 Distribution of Teachers by Gender

Gender	Number of teachers	Percent (%)
Male	66	33.6
Female	130	66.3

Out of the 236 teachers interviewed, 79 (33.6%) were male and 157 (66.3%) female. There were more female teachers than male teachers. This aligned with Murage (2015) that documented most early childhood teachers in Kenya were as female in other studies. Table 1.3 showed the composition of teachers in this study by age level.

Table 1.3 Composition of Teachers by Age

Age	Number	Percent (%)
21-30 Years	51	21.6
31-40 Years	73	30.9
41-50 Years	60	25.4
Above 50 Years	52	22.0

The ages of respondents ranged from 21 to over 50 years, with the majority falling within the 31-40 age group. Although these ages were almost equally distributed, younger teachers in the 21-30 age group and relatively older teachers, above 50 years old comprised the minority groups. The comparatively few younger teachers may be because the input of trained teachers to primary schools in Kenya exceeds the current absorption rate of newly trained teachers. This is to reduced hiring rates by the government. Older teachers, on the other hand were fewer due to natural resignations, retirements, and death. Table 1.4 showed the composition of teachers by the number of years of teaching experience.

Table 1.4 Proportions of Teachers by Years of Teaching Experience

Years of Teaching Experience	Number of teachers	Percentage	
Below 5 years	41	17.4%	39.9%
5-15 years	53	22.5%	
16-25 years	78	33.1%	60.2%
Above 25 years	64	27.1%	

Majority (33.1%) of the lower primary teachers' years of teaching experience was between 16 and 25 years. A significant number at 27.1% had teaching experience totaling more than 25 years. This meant 60.2% of the teachers had at minimum 16 years of teaching experience. Leaving 39.9% with less than 15 years of teaching experience. This suggested that there were more older teachers than younger teachers in lower primary school classes.

Teacher Beliefs and Attitudes

The teacher beliefs and attitudes were measured in relation to the use of computers in general, usefulness of computers in teaching, and using computers to teach. The scores were classified as low (scores between 5 and 15), average (scores between 16 and 25), and high (scores between 26 and 30). The number of teachers in each level of beliefs and attitudes aligned with age levels is shown in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5 Number of Teachers by Level of Belief and Attitude towards Computers Aligned to Age

Attitude Subscale	Age (Years)	Level of beliefs and attitudes			
		Low (5-15)	Average (16-25)	(High (26-30)	Total
Beliefs and attitudes towards use of computers in general	21-30	8	13	30	51
	31-40	10	24	39	73
	41-50	21	24	15	60
	Above 50	41	6	5	52
Total		80 (33.9%)	67 (28.4%)	89 (37.7%)	236
Beliefs and attitudes towards usefulness of computers in teaching	21-30	10	13	28	51
	31-40	20	20	33	73
	41-50	32	14	14	60
	Above 50	29	16	7	52
Total		91 (38.6%)	63 (26.7%)	82 (34.7%)	236
Beliefs and attitudes towards using computers to teach	21-30	9	14	28	51
	31-40	35	21	17	73
	41-50	35	12	13	60
	Above 50	31	15	6	52
Total		92 (39.0%)	62 (26.3%)	82 (34.7%)	236

Teacher beliefs and attitudes towards use of computers in general at 37.7% of the teachers demonstrated high or positive beliefs and attitudes. Most of the teachers with high beliefs and attitudes towards use of computers in general were below 40 years of age. In terms of beliefs and attitudes towards usefulness of computers, and towards using computers in teaching, the largest proportion of teachers was at 38.6% and 39% respectively that demonstrated low or negative beliefs and attitudes.

When the comparisons are made based on age, majority younger teachers held high or positive attitudes towards use of computers in general. This could be attributed to younger people tended to use and manipulate ICT gadgets, like mobile phones more than the older people. This experience with handheld and other computers likely influenced the younger teachers' beliefs and attitudes in a positive way.

Table 1.6 Pearson's Correlation Coefficient Relationship between Age and Teacher Beliefs and Attitudes

Independent Variable	Dependent variable		
	Beliefs and attitudes towards		
	General use of	Usefulness of	Using computers to
Age	-.212*	-.231*	-.264*

As shown in the above Table 1.6, teacher age correlated negatively with all Belief and Attitude dependent variables. That included their beliefs and attitudes toward: i) the general use of computers, ii) usefulness of computers, and iii) use of computers to teach. This meant overall that younger teachers held higher or more positive beliefs and attitudes to computers than older teachers.

Computer Competence

Table 1.7 shows the number of teachers by age at each level of self-assessed computer competence. The level of perceived computer competence in each of the three subscales included: basic computer knowledge and skills, ability to teach basic computer knowledge, and skills and ability to teach using computers. These are shown aligned with age levels. Most of the teachers that perceived high competence in the three components of computer use were younger, while majority of those who perceived low computer competence tended to be older. The largest proportion of teachers with low perceived competence at 63.1% reported this low competence in their ability to teach using computers as compared to basic computer knowledge and skills or their ability to teach basic computer knowledge and skills.

Teachers with high perceived computer competence in basic computer knowledge and skills and who felt able to teach such did not necessarily feel capable of teaching using computers. This suggests that teachers felt less competent in teaching using computers than they did in teaching basic computer knowledge and skills.

Table 1.7 Number of Teachers Level of Perceived Computer Competence aligned by Age

Computer competence subscale	Age (Years)	Level of perceived computer competence			
		Low (5-15)	Average (16-25)	(High (26-30)	Total
Basic computer knowledge and skills	21-30	7	14	30	51
	31-40	15	23	35	73
	41-50	31	16	13	60
	Above 50	32	12	8	52
Total		85 (36.0%)	65 (27.5%)	86 (36.4%)	236
Ability to teach basic computer knowledge and skills	21-30	13	13	25	51
	31-40	14	18	41	73
	41-50	30	9	21	60
	Above 50	37	8	7	52
Total		94 (39.8%)	48 (20.3%)	94 (39.8%)	236
Ability to teach using computers	21-30	26	15	10	51
	31-40	33	17	23	73
	41-50	53	4	3	60
	Above 50	37	8	7	52
Total		149 (63.1%)	44(18.6%)	43 (18.2%)	236

Relationship between Teacher Age and Teacher Perceived Competence

The relationship between a teacher's age and their perceived competency with computers was established using Pearson's product moment correlation test. The correlation coefficients are presented in Table 1.8.

Table 1.8 Pearson's Correlation Coefficients Relationship between Age and Perceived Computer Competence

Independent Variable	Dependent variable		
	Competence Sub-scale		
	Basic computer knowledge and skills	Ability to teach basic computer	Teaching using computers
Age	-.654*	-.613*	.076

Correlation coefficients for the relationships between age and perceived computer competence measures obtained from basic computer knowledge and ability to teach basic computer skills were significant at .05 level of significance. The relationships between age and teachers' perceived competence in basic knowledge and skills and their ability to teach basic computer skills were negative and significant.

Teacher Level of Self-efficacy

Teachers scores on two self-efficacy subscales were categorized as low (scores between 5 and 15), average (scores between 16 and 25), and high (scores between 26 and 30). As in the case of beliefs and attitudes, teachers below 40 years of age were found to have higher self-efficacy in both general use of computers and using computers to teach. Younger teachers were found to have higher competence levels, and they felt confident in their ability to teach using computers. The subscales used to measure teacher self-efficacy related to computers are demonstrated by the number of teachers by the level of self-efficacy and age level shown in Table 1.9.

Table 1.9 Number of Teachers by Level of Computer Self-efficacy aligned to Age

Self-efficacy Subscale	Age (Years)	Level of Computer Self-efficacy			
		Low (5-15)	Average (16-25)	High (26-30)	Total
Self-efficacy in general use of computers	21-30	5	12	34	51
	31-40	18	21	34	73
	41-50	25	21	14	60
	Above 50	24	19	9	52
Total		72 (30.5%)	73 (30.9%)	91 (38.5%)	236
Self-efficacy in using computers to teach	21-30	10	10	31	51
	31-40	20	21	32	73
	41-50	31	17	12	60
	Above 50	31	15	6	52
		92 (39.0%)	63 (26.7%)	81 (34.3%)	

A higher proportion of the teachers with high self-efficacy were the younger teachers. Most of the older teachers had a low or more negative self-efficacy related to computers, thus self-efficacy generally decreased as age of the respondent increased. Younger teachers had more confidence with general use of computers and in using computers to teach since they reportedly comparatively higher use of computers, cell phones, and cameras. Some also reported receiving instruction on computer use in schools and private colleges before joining teacher colleges.

Relationship between Teacher Age and their Self-efficacy in Computers

The relationship between the teacher age and self-efficacy in the self-efficacy two subscales was established using Pearson's correlation test. Results of this analysis are shown in Table 1.10.

Table 1.10 Pearson Correlation Coefficients Relationship between Age and Self-efficacy

Independent Variable	Dependent variable	
	Self-efficacy	
	General use of	Use of computers to
Age	-.219*	-.234*

Correlation coefficient (-.219) for the relationship between age and self-efficacy were significant for general use of computers. The correlation coefficient (-.234) for the relationship between teacher age and use of computers was significant. This suggested that the teacher self-efficacy in general use of computers and in the use of computers in teaching decreased with increased age.

Discussion

Younger teachers had higher or more positive beliefs and attitude scores towards usefulness of computers than the older teachers. This could be attributed to the fact that most of the younger teachers graduated from college more recently and were more likely to receive training on computer use as ICT was integrated into the primary teacher education curriculum in 2008. Teachers that graduated after 2008 likely had some training in ICT. This training could have impacted on their attitudes towards ICT and use of computers. A document analysis of the primary teacher education curriculum (Kenya Institute of Education, 2008) showed that acquisition of positive attitudes towards ICT and acquisition of positive attitudes necessary for adapting to a fast-changing technology are some of the notable objectives of the primary teacher education ICT coursework. In addition, younger teachers may have more practice using computers or computer related gadgets more frequently than the older teachers. Young adults reported elsewhere to tend to manipulate and use computers more often than older adults (Zeffane & Cheek, 1993). This could probably account for the higher or more positive attitudes in the usefulness of computers, and appreciation of their value in teaching. This finding is consistent with findings by Cavas, Cavas, Karaoglan & Kisla (2009) and Tweed (2013) who found that young Turkish science teachers had significantly higher positive attitudes towards teaching ICT than older teachers.

Teachers felt less competent in teaching using computers than they did in teaching basic computer knowledge and skills. This also suggests that even where a teacher may have basic knowledge and skills, s/he may require extra support or training to feel capable of using computers to teach. A document analysis of the primary teacher education syllabus revealed that the content has focused mainly on computer literacy (knowledge and practical skills on how computers work). There is no explicit content on using computers to teach.

Younger teachers had significantly higher computer competence in their basic computer knowledge and in their ability to teach basic computer skills. However, the correlation coefficient for age and perceived competence to teach using computers was not significant. Furthermore, a large proportion of the youngest and oldest teachers indicated low perceived competence in their ability to teach using computers. Even the young teachers who perceived themselves as competent in teaching basic computer skills did not perceive themselves as capable to teach using computers as much. This suggests that even when teachers perceive themselves as capable of using computers, they may not be able to integrate computers in teaching.

Going by Bordbar (2010) who argues that that teachers' competence in computer use is a good predictor of ICT integration in teaching, one would expect teachers who view themselves as competent in using computers to perceive themselves as competent to teach using computers. This is not fully reflected in the current study findings. This can perhaps be explained by the fact that these teachers may not have specific training in how to integrate computers in their teaching.

A study by Andoh (2012) reported that teacher training institutions in Ghana emphasized teaching about technology as opposed to how teachers could use technology to teach. Mingaine (2013) reported that secondary school teachers in Kenya did not have sufficient skills on how to integrate ICT in teaching and learning. Thus lower primary school teachers in this study may need specific training on integrating ICT in teaching.

Most of the older teachers had a negative self-efficacy; thus, self-efficacy decreased with age. Younger teachers had more confidence with general use of computers and in using computers to teach since they reported more use of computers, cell phones, and cameras. Some also reported receiving instruction on using computers in schools and private colleges before joining teacher colleges.

The younger respondents expressed higher confidence in their ability to teach using computers than the older respondents. This finding was consistent with Gill & Dalgarno's (2008) that most of the mature teachers expressed reluctance to adapt to teaching using ICT claiming they were comfortable with the old techniques. This was paired with younger adults being more conversant with computers, so were more likely to expect less frustration when they work with computers.

Conclusion

The findings of this study imply that provision of computers and infrastructure in schools will not necessarily guarantee that teachers will integrate ICT in schools. There is need to pay attention to primary school teachers' beliefs and attitudes and particularly those that older teachers have towards the use of computers. Attitudes are a strong influence of teachers' behavior with ICT. Older teachers in this study overall held negative beliefs and attitudes in the three components of computer attitudes. It is important for the Ministry of Education to address teachers' attitudes and beliefs towards computers and their use in teaching.

This calls for the need to provide ICT training to long serving teachers, especially those that went through training before ICT was integrated into the teacher education curriculum. Even where teachers perceive themselves as knowledgeable in operating computers, they may not be able to integrate computers in teaching unless they receive specific training on how to teach using computers. Thus, such teachers may need specific training on integrating ICT in teaching. The Ministry of Education may, therefore, need to provide professional development coursework on ICT integration in teaching for such teachers. Such training could take an in-service mode structured in such a way that it may be conducted during holiday sessions to make it possible for practicing teachers to be available for training.

To enhance teacher preparation, the current primary teacher education curriculum should be revised to include content on ICT pedagogy. This will help to ensure that trainers focus on developing teachers' knowledge and skills for teaching using computers in addition to teaching computer literacy.

The current study only focused on computers. There are other ICT tools that could be used in the integration of ICT in teaching and learning. This study should be replicated with primary teacher educators as their role is critical in determining the competence of the effectiveness of the teacher preparation process.

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