

The researcher in the present study tried to find out whether there were factors that were affecting the implementation of the 844 primary English course.

The study sought answers to the following questions 1 Are the primary English teachers academically and professionally qualified and properly serviced to teach the new English course? 2 what problems, if any, have been experienced during the implementation of the course 3 how have the problems affected the teaching of the new course 4 how have they been solved 5 are the suggested objectives of the course achievable 6 are the materials/resources suited to the pupils abilities 7 what are the teachers attitudes towards the course books 8 what suggestions do the English teachers have to improve the programme 8 what suggestions do the English teachers have to improve the programme?

The study involved 42 teachers from six primary schools, 6 heads of primary schools and 2 TAC tutors. Data were collected through questionnaires for primary English teachers, interview schedules for heads of schools and TAC tutors and lesson observation schedules by the researcher in which seven teachers were observed teaching different topics in English. Methods of analysis included calculation of percentages and mean for the respondents towards the 8:4:4 primary English programme, a Likert type of attitude scale was used. All the responses were given values in order to score each item and obtain the total score for the entire scale. All results obtained through different methods of analysis were tabulated after which conclusions were established.

The results of the study revealed the following; 1 The teachers of English were not adequately prepared to teach the new programme and as a result the teachers experienced serious problems regarding the teaching and learning of English. 2 the KIE course books for English were found shallow and teachers had to look for other books in order to teach effective lessons. 3 There was an acute shortage of resources in schools. 4 The majority of the teachers did not have the necessary ability in English to enable them to teach the subject comfortably. 5 the syllabus was found too wide and congested. As a result of this, the pupils and teachers were overloaded with work. 6 the majority of classes were overcrowded and the use of resources was overstretched. 7 the majority of the teachers used limited methods of teaching and assessment procedures.

It was observed that the implementation of the 844 primary English was affected by some factors which, according to the researcher, were either due to oversight on the part of the curriculum developers or due to the speed at which the programme was implemented. It is recommended that further studies in this area should consider the attitudes of pupils towards English as a subject and ways in which it is taught. Further research should determine to what extent the problems related to resource affect the teaching/learning of English. Finally the researcher felt that the future studies should determine to what extent the primary teachers of English are prepared to handle the subject.