

UBTEB COMMENCED RESEARCH ON POOR PERFORMANCE IN ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS UNDER THE UCPCS

Mathematics and English are one of the most important school subjects in the curriculum worldwide. Equally, in Uganda, Mathematics and English are given all the necessary importance in the curriculum and all policies related to education right from primary to higher levels. The two subjects are important because of their widespread application in the daily lives of individuals and communities. Intuitively, these subjects have direct relationship with other subjects, particularly technical and sciences. Mathematics and English are offered as compulsory subjects at Primary, Ordinary Secondary, Technical and Vocational levels. Also, these subjects are emphasized during admissions most especially in Uganda Community Certificate (UCPC) and National technical craft programs.

Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board has been conducting end of completion of program examinations for UCPC candidates since November/December 2013. However, the performance of these candidates especially in English and Mathematics over the past five years has not been satisfactory. The trend in performance for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 in Mathematics and English revealed that the majority of candidates attained marks between 40%-50% and 40%-60% in the respective subjects.

Furthermore, reports of chief examiners of English and Mathematics have continuously indicated persistent poor performance in these subjects by UCPC candidates. Therefore, it is against this background that the Board commissioned a study to get a deeper understanding of what could be the possible causes of this persistent low learners' achievements in English and mathematics among the UCPC institutions.

The Board would like to appreciate all Principals, instructors, students, officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports and officials from National Curriculum Development Center for the positive response during the process of data collection on poor performance in English and Mathematics by the Uganda Community Polytechnic candidates.

The dissemination of the findings will be shared with recommendations that will assist to improve the performance of candidates in English and Mathematics.

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