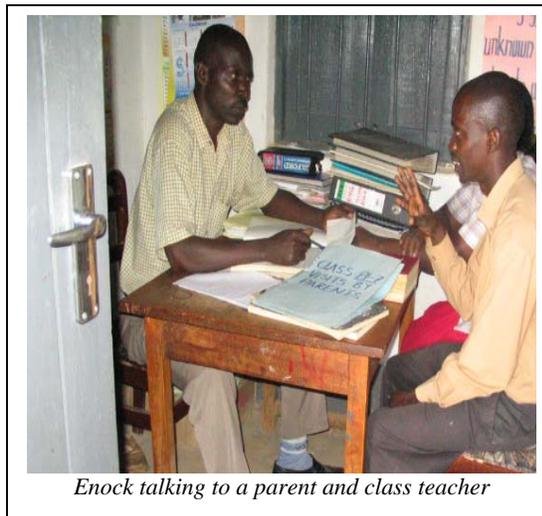


Education Management Strengthening Initiative

Benefits of Stakeholder involvement in a School: The experience of Kinoni Primary School, Mbarara

Little did some head-teachers know about the importance of involving other people in school affairs. May be it was because some feared that other people would get to know about the little “secrets” in their schools, or some simply did not want to be bothered with “outsiders.” Well, as the saying goes, “...*The teeth that are together are the ones that bite meat off the bone*” (meaning = unity is force) it is surely through combined effort that people can achieve a goal. This is no different for schools.



Enock talking to a parent and class teacher

Enock Barigye, head-teacher, Kinoni Integrated Primary School, Mbarara

District, confirms the importance of involvement of other stakeholders in the affairs of the school in order to achieve school goals. Here was one head-teacher, who believed he could run the school single-handedly, although there were times when he occasionally delegated to his deputy. The head-teacher’s office was ***“hell-on-earth.” according to his teachers.*** If a teacher was called to that office, it meant trouble—there was a case to answer. Barigye confessed that his interaction with teachers was only reprimanding, searching for errors and faults, and making threats. He confessed: *“I was the sole planner and decision maker in the school—I was an authoritative administrator”.*

The turning point was after Barigye attended the second EMSI training - *Managing School Improvement.*

Barigye admits that since the training by UPHOLD, things have changed for the better. He described what he has been able to accomplish; *“I started by holding a meeting with my staff and shared with them the outcome of the training”.* This resulted in teachers being allocated more roles and responsibilities, which included the formation of functional school committees, among others. *“...Next, I brought on board the School Management Committee that I had rendered redundant. With all stakeholders working together, I guided them to develop a School Development Plan. The plan helped us identify school priorities that we then prepared for. We re-visited the old School Mission Statement and revised it to suit the changing needs of our school community”.*

In addition to improved academic performance, the pupils and teachers have started having meals at school. Barigye now boasts of this improved school performance in the school, thanks to the active involvement of the school’s key stakeholders.



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