

Some key points in the historical  
development of education  
in Tanzania

# The role of the Church schools in the national education system

Tanzania education system has 3 important roots in the colonial past

- Government schools – serving the needs of the colonial administration
- Mission schools – initially focusing on evangelization
- Local authority schools – established by the people themselves

# Emergence of the national education system

1925 unified education system (curriculum, exams, standards of teacher education, English)

1960 Basic education up to Standard IV  
some upper primary schools, few secondary schools

The elite is sent to Makerere University in Uganda

# The national education system after Independence in 1961

- Basic primary education up to Standard VII
- The protestant church is investing also in quality secondary schools (Ilboru) and in Teacher Education (Marangu TTC)

## Ujamaa Socialism

- 1969 – 75 Church schools and TTCs are nationalized

# Education for Self Reliance:

- Students shall not become alienated from rural life. Students and teachers shall at least partly grow their own food.
- Students have to contribute to run and finance the daily life of the school. The school has to run profitable projects.
- Students shall be ready to make their own living when they leave school.
- Secondary schools have a practical bias: agriculture, commerce, technical education or home economics.

# Education for Self Reliance

- Focus on primary education – only government schools allowed
- Small government secondary education sector for the elite
- Private (church) secondary sector to take up parents pressure

1977 universal primary education  1985 school leaver crisis

 rapid expansion of private / church secondary schools

# Expansion of Government Secondary Schools

1995 Government starts day secondary schools

first in towns then going to the villages

universal secondary education (up to O-Level)

2000 Church secondary schools increasingly under pressure

way out: improving quality, boarding, focus on girls

# Liberalisation of Tertiary Education

- After 2000      Churches invest in Teacher Training  
private schools in primary education (English medium)
- 2008      Government Initiative to expand Tertiary Education  
Many Church and private universities are popping up  
Some Church universities begin to work on ***learner centeredness***
- 2018      Government plans to expand own tertiary sector  
begins to close private and church universities



# Outlook

Church – Government relations in education need careful attention in Tanzania



Christian Social Services Commission

We need a pedagogy and methodology that allows the children to develop their competencies and their personality to meet the challenges of tomorrow

- Every child is an image of the CREATOR
- Pedagogy is to help the children to develop their endowments of the CREATOR.