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EDUCATION, HISTORY

A HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT
OF HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

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This historical study traces the development of Sixth Form or Higher School Certificate programs in Northern Nigeria, from the earliest attempts at planning up until June of 1967. In addition to the tracing of the historical development of Higher School Certificate programs, this study presents an analysis and commentary on the development of the curriculum of the Sixth Form, on the products of this program, and on the social and administrative problems which occurred in the establishment of Sixth Forms in Northern Nigeria.

The research for this study was performed in Nigeria from May to July in 1967. During this period the writer travelled 5,500 miles in Northern Nigeria and visited eighteen schools which had Sixth Forms. At these schools Principals and teachers were interviewed. Prior to these visits, a questionnaire had been sent to each school, and a follow-up letter was sent from the Ministry of Education. The questionnaire method proved to be only partially successful and the person-to-person interview method was widely employed.

The writer began a collection of various types of written documents in Nigeria in June of 1965. This collection was continued until July of 1967, at which time the research tour was completed.

The study has dealt with four major problems:

First, what were the outstanding events which occurred in the historical process which resulted in the establishment of the type of Sixth Form programs presently in operation in Northern Nigeria?

Second, how did these schools operate and what unique problems faced them when Higher School Certificate classes were added to the normal programs?

Third, what were the programs of instruction established in the Sixth Forms; how did each institution deal with the problems which arose out of staffing the Sixth Forms; how were the student bodies affected by the addition of the Sixth Forms to the normal secondary school program; and what were the effects of the Ministry of Education policies for Sixth Forms on the schools?

Fourth, what relationship did Higher School Certificate have to university programs in Nigeria, especially in the Northern Region?

This study is divided into eight sections. Chapter One, "The Problem," outlines the problem to be studied and presents a rationale for the study, a section of which defines terms, and a section defining the method of the study. Chapter Two, "Introductory Section," presents a brief historical overview of the development of the Higher School Certificate in England. Chapter Three, "The Historical Background To The Development of Sixth Form Programs in Northern Nigerian Society," briefly outlines and analyzes the major planning for education that occurred prior to 1950. Chapter Four, "The Phase of Higher School Certificate Expansion in Northern Nigeria," is a description and analysis of the planning for and establishment of Higher School Certificate programs in Northern Nigeria between 1951 and 1967. Chapter Five, "The Higher School Certificate Program and Its Curriculum," describes and compares the curricula presently existing in the Higher School Certificate institutions. Chapter Six, "The Product - H.S.C. Leavers," outlines placement procedures of the Ministry of Education. It discusses the problem of student wastage and failures. Chapter Seven, "The Social and Administrative Climate in the Schools," describes the student "societies" in the schools, their attitudes to their own and other schools. Chapter Eight, the summary chapter, discusses the need for further study on the whole matter of Sixth Form and the Higher School Certificate Examinations and the feasibility of considering alternatives to the Sixth Form program.

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