

PREFACE

Ministers of education at the Eighth Commonwealth Education Conference recommended the development of practical handbooks on areas of education which are of interest to member countries. In pursuit of this initiative the Commonwealth Secretariat has devised a common format for a series of Commonwealth Educational Handbooks of which the present publication is one. This volume is designed to assist educators in addressing the continuing task of teacher education especially where existing training facilities cannot keep pace with the demand.

The present handbook originates from a meeting of experts held in Kaduna, Nigeria, in 1981 and organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in association with the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National Teachers' Institute. This workshop was in two parts - the first dealing with distance education for teachers and the second with educational broadcasting - both with reference to Commonwealth Africa. The group which examined the potential for and problems of distance methods of teaching applied to the training of teachers, consisted of the following specialists:

Mr P T Alamina (Nigeria)
Mr V C Anson-Yevu (Ghana)
Mr M O Chukwu (Nigeria)
Mrs O O Euler-Ajayi (Nigeria)
Mr P H Mailumo (Nigeria)
Mr P G Mngomezulu (Swaziland)
Mr J A Mrutu (Tanzania)
Mr D S Mye-Kamara (Sierra Leone)
Mrs D C Ogun (Nigeria)
Mr F B Pesani (Zimbabwe)
Mr M O Poroye (Nigeria)
Mr E O Rendall (The Gambia)
Mr H S Wali (Nigeria)

The materials produced at this workshop formed the basis of the present work which attempts to present it in such a way as to challenge the reader with the questions that must be resolved before a country or institution can make a number of policy decisions. First, whether distance methods for teacher education will meet its needs; second, whether resources are available or can be obtained, thus avoiding expensive mistakes. Thirdly, how they can be planned if necessary in graduated stages of acquisition. Practical guidance is offered to assist teacher educators in adopting distance methods for their work.

This handbook is offered to practitioners in ministries, colleges of education and universities in the belief that it will assist their efforts to expand teacher education rapidly and at the same time to improve its quality, both in the developing Commonwealth and in the more developed member countries.

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