

**The contribution of community self-help schemes to the development of
primary education in Tanzania : a case study of Mwanga district in**

Kilimanjaro region

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The study aimed to exploring the nature and extent of community self-help scheme in the primary education development process with specific reference to Mwanga district in Kilimanjaro region. Four research tasks and related questions guided the study. The stud, involved live wards and ten schools, as well as the surrounding communities, the sample of the study comprised 89 respondents who included community (official) leaders and community members. The methods used for cam collection included interviews, focus group discussion, questionnaire administration and observation. The collected data were qualitatively and quantitatively analyzed. Findings revealed that community members in Mwanga have exploited their kcal resources and power structures to practise self-help activities. Public meetings, local action calls (*nsanigambo*) and village by-laws (*kuparnbua*) were methods, strategies and incentives used to mobilize and maintain the self-help spirit. This, coupled with assistance from government, has helped the community to meet the demand for primary education. Also, the value for education and the desire for development have been among factors behind voluntary participation. However, the increasing rural poverty and lack of regular income have, in recent years, tended to drive individuals from community work away to searches for economic livelihoods. Among several conclusions is one that Mwanga has concentrated more on—and certainly been successful more in—social-service schemes than economic ones. *Msaragambo*, a local-language expression, has become a reference point in the social-economic, social-cultural and educational discussion among the local populace. Community education, application of the self-help precept to economic development schemes, establishment of local industries and income-generating projects and remuneration and motivation of the community leadership who incur a lot of opportunity costs are recommended as ways of furthering community self-help in Mwanga district.