

How do I enhance my own understanding of the quality of mathematics education in Mozambique in the process of improving mathematics education in Mozambique?

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I. BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF THE RESEARCH

This research aims to find out how do I enhance my own understanding of the quality of mathematics education in Mozambique in the process of improving mathematics education in Mozambique? The study will be done at University of Saint Thomas of Mozambique known as USTM, in particularly with the students who are doing Preparatory Course to University which is abbreviated by CPU (Curso de Preparação Universitaria) . Most of the books speak of the quality of mathematics education but the approaches / methodologies presented do not respond to the quality and good performance of the grade 12 students studying for their final exams. Though the research is a case study of CPU the results will be useful not only to the students of Saint Thomas University but also to all Secondary Schools, National Mathematics department, National Council of Quality Evaluation (CNAQ), and Ministry of Education.

The research will be mainly of qualitative nature with some quantitative data obtained and Jack's living theory will be explored. A questionnaire will be administered to some selected students, teachers, the Coordinator of the program and academic Director; and interviews will be conducted with staff involved in the process. The data will analyze using the appropriate statistical packages.

II. BIOGRAPHY

Surname: Halle

Name: Vicente Antonio

Date of Birth: 25th January 1978

Place of Birth: Mutarara district, Tete Province

Nationality: Mozambican

1986 – 1992: Primary education in Refugee Campus – Malawi

1986 – 1994: 8 years in refugee campus as refugee together with my family and brother and sisters.

1994: 25th August, we were repatriated back to Mozambique

1995-1996: I did grade 8 and 9 in Mutarara with the Jesuit Fathers.

1997: I did Form II / grade 10 at Escola Secundaria Joao XXIII (John XXIII Secondary School) . The school belongs to or is run by De La Salle Brothers.

1998 – 1999: I did 11 and 12, which correspond, to Form III and IV in Malawi or Kenya.

2000: I did a course in management for SMEs and I worked with UNOPS

2001: from January to June – I joined Marist Pre-postulate in the congregation of Marist Brothers of the Schools.

2001: from September to June 2002, I did my Postulate in Lilongwe – Malawi.

2002: September, I started my Novitiate formation In Zimbabwe.

2004: 3rd July, I made my first vows as Marist Brothers of the Schools in Zimbabwe.

2004: from 3rd July to 4th August, holidays in Mozambique.

2004: 6th August I went to Kenya for my scholastic studies

2004/2008: I did my BA in Education : Mathematics and Religious Studies

2006: on 20th March, death of my mother in Mutarara District. It was hard for me to believe that she passed away!

2006: 3rd May to August of the same year I was in RDC-Kinshasa. I was teaching mathematics and religious studies.

2007: 19th May, death of my elder Jaimes.

While I was doing my BA at Catholic University of Eastern Africa, I was doing also Alliance Français where I did DELF and DALF.

2008: 18th May, I came back from Nairobi after my studies. I was supposed to work in Quito Bie, Angola but due to family problems I have to discuss with my superior to take care of my 1 brother and 4 young sisters. We were 7 children and I was the second born. When my elder brother died, I became the head of the family.

2008/2010: from August up to now I am working at UNIVERSITY OF SAINT THOMAS OF MOZAMBIQUE. It is small university with the population around 5 thousands students. At University I am working in the office of Dean of Studies and at the same time I am coordinator of mathematics and statistics.

Now am trying to pre-register for master studies with DUT (Durban University of Technology). My topic for research proposal is the one that I am coming to share with you.

III. SUMMARY OF MY BIOGRAPHY

I am Vicente Antonio Halle, from Mozambique and I was born on 25th January 1978 in Mutarara district, Tete – Province. Tete province is in central region of Mozambique. Mozambique has ten provinces divided into 3 regions: Northern region (Nampula, Niassa and Cabo Delgado), Central region (Tete , Zambezia, Manica and Sofala) and Southern region (Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane).

In 1986, our district, like other districts or provinces had civil war that made many people flee to neighbouring countries such as Malawi, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Zambia. We fled to Malawi where we lived for period of 8 years in refugee campus. I did my primary school in refugee campus with others young or children. The experience was tremendous remarkable to me due to the distance which I used to, that is, 8 kms from home to the school everyday and I were studying under the mango trees. Each family was receiving maize flower, beans, sugar, salt, oil and other basic food each month according to the number of children and sometimes some family were missing food and they had to wait for the following month.

After doing my grade 7 in refugee campus and in the same year was repatriated back to Mozambique were we stayed for 3 weeks just in open place in resettlement. In 1995 and 1996, I did my secondary school with Jesuit fathers and then I continue my Form II with De La Salle brothers. In 1997-1999, I finished my secondary school at Good Shepherd Seminary (Seminario Propedeutico Bom Pastor da Beira).

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After finishing secondary school I joined the Marist brothers of school where I made my first vows in Zimbabwe in 2004. I stayed in Malawi from 2000 up to 2001 and from 2001 up to 2004 I was in Harare doing my novitiate formation. During my staying in Malawi I taught in Mtendere Secondary school, marist secondary school, St. Charles Lwanga secondary, Likuni boys secondary school (Lilongwe) and in Zimbabwe I taught Divinity and christian Morality in Nyanja High secondary school and Kutama High secondary school.

From 6th August 2004 up to 2008, I was in Nairobi-kenya doing my BA in mathematics and religious studies. While in Kenya I taught in Starehe High Secondary School, Homa Bay High Secondary School (this school is near Lake Victoria among Luo people – the tribe of the father of OBAMA), Nairobi University and many other workshops on Christian vocation because I was vocation promoter. On 20th March 2006, my mother passed away and on 19th May 2007 my elder brother passed away. These two moments were most difficult for me.

From 3rd May to August 2006, I was in RDC-Kinshasa were I taught mathematics and Christian morality at our college called Institute Bobokoli (www.bobokoli.populus.or) in Kinshasa (*If you enter in this link will find me on a news when I just arrived coming from Nairobi*).

Now I am no longer a marist brother and life has to start! I am doing my master or research work for master degree with DUT (Durban University of technoly) where I met Jack Whitehead last year in the workshop organized by DUT.

My theme which I am coming to share with you I have already shared with most people here in Mozambique including the Vice-Minister of High education and Dr. Noel Ch.(UNESCO). My hope is that after coming from Melbourne I have to give the written feedback if possible presentation to Vice Minister Prof. Dr. Arlindo Chilundo, USTM and UNESCO staff or some of the staffs of UNESCO (it will depend on Dr Noel Ch).