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**Preamble:** St. Lucia is a small Eastern Caribbean state with an area of 238 sq miles and a population of approximately 170,000 people. It has achieved both primary and secondary Universal Education, but Adult Education is limited due to the island's limited financial resources. However, adult education programs are an integral part of the education system and are offered by NELH and NSDC.

#### **Quality – In relation to Education in St. Lucia**

It invariably means improving or raising the levels of achievement and performances (in basic, academic, technical, vocational education) of learners/students, thereby providing them with the relevant knowledge, skills, strategies and attitudes that will assist them during their life processes.

An integrated curriculum and approach are significant in achieving quality education. Teamwork is therefore relevant among the various stakeholders.

#### **Achievements/Successes**

- An integrated approach to the curriculum with emphasis on literacy and numeracy at the basic level.
- In an attempt to maximizing the quality of Education, quality must exist symbiotically within the process of providing the Education. The following areas are highlighted
  - Leadership, management and administration; supervision and instruction- clinical supervision and leadership provided, through training in clinical supervision management for supervisors and leaders.
- Instructional and pedagogical approaches are varied in relation to abilities of students.
- The teaching/learning atmosphere and class/school ethics are student centered and student friendly. Remedial, differential, multi grade teaching methods are utilized with emphasis on improving individual performances and class performances as a whole.
- Facilities and equipment are constantly reviewed and upgraded where possible to help boost the quality of teaching/learning.
- The goals and objectives are well defined and properly set to help achieve the desired success and determine the performance. There ought to be a clear path as to where one is heading. Movement is from the easy to the difficult and from the tangible to the abstract.
- Interpersonal relationships, interfacing and interactions should be properly established. A two-way communication process is practiced and a discussion and consultative approach adopted through the processes of collegiality and cordial relations. Positive self images are realized by students that motivate and make them

more committed to work harder to achieve. Support structures and programs, such as Guidance and Counseling Work and Skills attachment programs, etc, no doubt benefit students/learners.

- Teacher training and refresher courses in content and pedagogy are necessary to maintain quality. Orientation programs also assist.

There ought to be a selection of valid and significant content with the accompanied materials and objectives to facilitate their achievement.

- Then there are structured programs of learning outcomes to include:
  - Knowledge
  - Techniques – skills, processes, abilities
  - Values – attitudes, principles and the Methodology and Strategies to achieve the outcomes.

Plus the evaluation processes to detect the suitability and relevancy of the content, strategies and processes, so as to do the necessary revision and review.

### **Challenges**

- Sustainability of quality within the Education System. Constant need to review the processes utilized to enhance quality.
- The need to adapt to new programs and do things differently with time as situations change.
- Too many adults do not continue into lifelong learning but rather give up once they have achieved the basics of just being barely able to read and write. Arguments are they are too old to continue or that they will not find opportunities to apply all that they have learned.
- Insufficient provision for evaluation and monitoring, and assessment of programs.
- Limited resources for adequately addressing the vagrancies of quality with the Education System and to ensure more individuals received quality adult education.

### **Plans for the Future**

-Enhancement of Quality in Education through the integration of ICT. Need to establish ICT packs in the various communities that could be utilized by the schools and adults after school to facilitate learning.

-Provide more opportunities for adult and continuing education so as to improve at the least, the quality of functional literacy and numeracy among them. This would facilitate lifelong learning.