

VIDEO 2.1

SPEAKER: The ZEST programme has actually supplemented and moved on very well with the sprint that we already have in the schools. So, it has enhanced teaching and learning for our teachers in schools. And it has also improved the learner attendance in schools. For our teachers, in the specific classes when they have challenges, they jot down in the books that they've been given and then they share with other teachers.

After sharing, they give each other advice on how best they can present their lessons and that has been very helpful to the district and the schools out there. So, I would urge the [INAUDIBLE] in other districts, those that are joining the ZEST programme, that it is a wonderful programme, and it enhances teaching and learning in schools.

When we go out monitoring they-- there are quite a number of changes that we have observed. For instance, I'll give one. Where are you find-- teachers, when they were doing their preparations and then they had challenges with certain topics-- but then instead of consulting others, such teachers would do-- you would find that maybe they would skip such a topic.

But as it is now, since they have that provision of consulting each other, whenever they have a challenge, they consult a fellow teacher, and they plan together the best way in order to handle such a topic. And the very teacher who handled that topic very well instead of just leaving the topic hanging so pupils are benefiting, even the teachers themselves are benefiting.

As District Education Standards Officer, I feel there's been a change in teachers' attitude since we began this programme because looking at the sprint that we're doing, you'd find that teachers prepared together and then they would choose only one teacher to go and be present in a class. The others would be there to observe. But as it is now, when they prepare, each and every teacher has to go and implement that particular lesson that they've prepared as a group, so meaning so many classes and all the teachers participate in implementation.

According to the observations that we've made as a Chisamba District, we've seen quite some impact. I say so because you'd find that in certain classes where we visited some pupils were not participating. But with the coming on of this programme, you find that when you go into such classes and the teacher is teaching, pupils are participating fully, even those that are reserved you find that they take part in the participation.

And another observation that we've made, the assessment that was done at the end of the year upon the coming of the programme, there was some great improvement because as a Chisamba District at the primary level, we didn't do well in the national examinations. We were almost closing the door at the national level. But when we looked at the assessment that we had done at the end of the year, there was quite some improvement. So that is an impact to us.