

# **EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES AT INDEPENDENCE**

Lesson objective:

Discuss the education challenges at independence in Zambia and other African countries.

## **THE FOLLOWING ARE THE EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES AT INDEPENDENCE**

- **limited higher education of any kind and no university in the country.**
- **enormous demand on part of people for education increased as people expected immediate delivery of more education on attainment of independence.**
- **there were also inadequate financial resources for the provision of the much needed social services like schools and this in turn led to a very limited supply of skilled labour force to promote rapid economic development.**

- **Lack of realistic development plans which were related to the needs of the nation coupled with the difficulties faced in raising the necessary funds required to build**
- **teachers' houses,**
- **classrooms**
- **as well as to train the additional teachers for the service did not assume any significance at all.**
- **Besides these challenges, although some modest expansion of the school facilities was made,**
- **it could not match the rapid increase in the number of schoolchildren demanding places**

- **The other problem was that as late as a year before independence in 1964,**
- **the Colonial Government had not carried out a full human resource survey before preparing to hand over the government to Africans.**
- **It was , therefore, very difficult for the education planners to know the real needs of the country from an educational point of view until as late as 1965 when the Government's Manpower Report was published**

- **expansion of the school facilities could not match the rapid increase in the number of school children demanding places,**
- **the problem was further compounded by the uneven distribution of educational facilities between urban and rural areas mainly due to political and sociological reasons.**

- **In 1964, it was decided that there should be free education in former African schools in order to provide the bulk of education for the African children.**
- **There was also the problem of technical education offered in trade schools which were in general poorly equipped and inadequately staffed with trained instructors.**

- **nearly all trade schools were seriously under-enrolled Technical**
- **education had been neglected although high standards in some courses were still available at the Hodgson Technical College to prepare candidates for examinations of the City and Guilds of London.**
- **The syllabus for technical training required to be revised in order to meet the needs of a young nation which was on the verge of experiencing unprecedented development.**