

NAIROBI EVANGELICAL GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

*Students' Perception of Relevance of Ministerial Training:
A Study of East Africa School of Theology*

BY
JAMES DEMA MARCHELLO

*A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate in Partial Fulfilment
of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Divinity
(Educational Studies)*

JULY 2006

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July, 2006

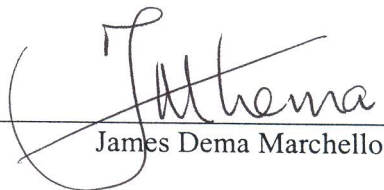
Student's Declaration

STUDENTS' PERCEPTION OF RELEVANCE OF MINISTERIAL TRAINING:
A STUDY OF EAST AFRICA SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

I declare that this is my original work and has not been submitted
to any other College or University for academic credit

The views presented herein are not necessarily those of the Nairobi Evangelical
Graduate School of Theology or the Examiners

(Signed)



James Dema Marchello

July, 2006

ABSTRACT

This research sought to find out students' perception of relevance of the ministerial training at the Higher Diploma program at the East Africa School of Theology in relation to their anticipated future ministries. The study adopted a cross-sectional study design and a combination of descriptive and explanatory research approaches. The research questions guided the researcher in finding out whether the trainees found the courses relevant in relation to their anticipated future ministries and whether certain factors such as the previous ministerial experience and areas of calling affected the perception of relevance of the students. The data collected for this research involved a combination of the use of both closed-ended and open-ended questionnaire. The researcher also requested the students to suggest areas for possible improvement of the Higher Diploma program and ways for increasing the impact of the graduates of the Higher Diploma program in the church and the wider community.

The researcher distributed the questionnaire personally to 27 students. The Likert Scale of Summated ratings also formed part of the instrument. The Chi-Square Test of Independence was the statistical instrument used to determine relationships of factors responsible for students' perception. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to code, enter and summarize the data.

The findings of this research showed that the majority of the Higher Diploma students perceived the ministerial training at the Higher Diploma level at EAST to be relevant to their anticipated future ministries in the church and the wider community. There were no differences between students with previous ministerial experience and specified area of calling and those without in their tendency to perceive the training to be highly relevant.

Based on the findings, the researcher recommended that management of EAST ensures periodic review of courses, to stay relevant; take into consideration factors related to students' ministry experiences and areas of calling in curriculum design and ensures criteria and policy for faculty selection and development.

To

God Almighty who in his foreknowledge
called and set me apart to accomplish his purposes

And

All the divine contacts who God used
to ensure my development through
higher education possible

And

All those concerned for relevance
in institutions of learning

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am so thankful to the Almighty God and my savior Jesus Christ who made the completion of the work possible. I give him all the glory and honor due to him.

My teacher, advisor, supervisor and mentor, Professor Victor B. Cole whose relentless effort and encouragement made this work possible. I have been honored and humbled to sit under such a man and indeed will ever remain grateful for the influence he left on me.

Dr. Wairimu Muita, who after a short notice and despite her busy schedule was more than willing to be my second reader. Her many years of experience in the field of research made the necessary improvements in the course of writing this thesis.

Dr. Suraja Raman, our Head of Department (HOD), who made all the arrangements for the second reader and editor for this work. Without her input, it would not have been possible.

Dr. Mark Royster, Mrs. Mary Hutter and Mrs. Florence Mungathia who acted as jurors and provided wonderful insights in improving the instrument. Special thanks to Mrs. Dolores Wood who provided all the editorial work

Mr. Leif Zetterlund, director of international Aid Services, whose personal encouragement and financial support made all the difference for my pursuit and completion of my studies at NEGST. He not only released me fully to study with salary but also paid part of the tuition during the course of my studies. I will forever be grateful to him and the organization, International Aid Services (IAS).

All the faculty and staff in NEGST whose contribution in one way or the other made my stay and studies at NEGST a possibility. Everyone of them played a positive role in my life and for that I am grateful.

The Principal and Academic Dean of EAST who after a short notice were more than willing in assisting me gather the required data for this thesis. Mrs. Piliata Muthoni Kamua and Pastor Paul Wawire helped tremendously in the preliminary contacts with students during the pilot testing of the instrument.

Mr and Mrs. Felly and Anny Mabe whose personal friendship and encouragement made this research possible. Without Mabe's personal encouragement and assistance based on his years of experience of research at Makerere University, I would have long given up the writing of this thesis.

The couples committee whose constant fellowship and meetings were a source of encouragement and relaxation. The life and a sense of humor in the couple's committee meetings relieved tensions and pressure of work at NEGST.

Lastly but not the least, I am more than grateful to my dear friend and wife, Christine Adonge whose personal encouragement and confidence in me gave the courage to excel in all my studies at NEGST. She has always exhibited the confidence that I would make it and indeed, she was right. I have made it.

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