

Rural Primary Schools before the 1960s

English translation:

A: Where did you do your primary education?

B: I did my primary school in the rural areas at a school called Nemarundwe. It was a school that was in our village because we were living in area called Nemarundwe.

A: What do you study mainly in primary school?

A: Primary school is a school where children who are usually aged seven go to. During that time there was no need for the children to go to what they call nursery schools or crèche, like what people do nowadays. We used to just go to primary school when we were seven years old. We used to learn different things but most of all we used to learn our language (Shona), and also English. We would also learn Mathematics, Science, and Geography. We used to learn all those things and even things that had to do with the Bible or crafts, and so on. So we used to go there for seven years from grade 1 up to grade 7. However, when I went to school, they used to call it Sub A, Sub B, Standard one, Standard two. Things changed when we were half way with primary school and we began to use the new grade system that is there nowadays. Primary school was for seven years before you went to Secondary school.

A: Can you explain what Sub A and Sub B was during those days?

B: Okay. Sub A was the first year in primary school. Sub B was the second year. When you finished those two years, that is, Sub A and Sub B, you would then proceed to Standard one, Standard two, Standard three, Standard four, Standard five, and Standard six. So those six Standards, Sub A and Sub B: a person would end up spending eight years in primary school. During those days, when a person finished Standard six, the person would have learnt a lot such that they were eligible to go and study to become a *mudhumeni*. A *mudhumeni* is an agricultural officer who helps farmers. Some would become teachers or people who help in the rearing of animals, or nurses. Standard six was a high standard of education before it became a grade that I once mentioned. So I did Grade one and two. When I was in Standard one, we did not proceed further because Standard one and Standard two was changed in the year 1967, if my memory serves me well, because I started Sub A in 1965.

A: Okay.

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