

## THE BIRTH OF AN INSTITUTION (IER)

*Yusuf Omer Abdi\**

The idea of establishing a research coordinating unit or Center was conceived of as far back as 1966. However it was in October, 1968, that the former Research Center was established as a small research unit within the Faculty of Education. The major objectives of the Center were limited to the preparation of instructional materials and the collection of educational documents.

The Center had always been faced with shortage of qualified personnel. It never had its own budget to run its own affairs and had been placed in a dilapidated prefabricated weather prone house with leaking roof and non-functioning toilet facilities. Because of these unfavourable conditions, the Center was not able to function and fulfill even its limited objectives, let alone help resolve the problems the nation faced in the field of education. Consequently, the need for an autonomous and strong Institute of Educational Research was felt. It was believed that an autonomous Research Center would help in giving new directions, leadership, and organizational structure to the kind of research activities envisaged by the Addis Ababa University in the field of education. The Institute would give technical and professional assistance to research in the Junior Colleges, and any kind of assistance to the Ethiopian School system and the professionals in the Ministry of Education, as may be necessary.

In the month of October, 1982, the University decided to reopen the Institute of Educational Research Center and appointed an interim Director. The interim Director prepared an eighty five pages Proposal for the establishment of an autonomous Institute of Educational Research. The Proposal was submitted to the various University Committees, including the Academic Commission of the Faculty of Education.

The Faculty of Education Academic Commission evaluated the Proposal and unanimously endorsed it. The decision was formally communi-

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cated by the Faculty of Education to the University Senate's Standing Committee on Research and Publications which, in turn, communicated its favourable decision to the Senate's Executive Committee. Finally, the University Senate, in its meeting of September, 8, 1983, approved the establishment of an autonomous Institute of Educational Research.

The following constitute the objectives of the Institute:

1. To undertake research activities which could help in the identification of problems in the Revolutionary Ethiopia's Educational System, and propose ways and means in which such problems could objectively and scientifically be resolved.
2. To encourage, promote, coordinate and disseminate through workshops, seminars, etc. relevant education oriented research activities at all levels and for all age groups in the country, with especial emphasis to educational research and teacher education programmes in AAU.
3. To collect, document, and preserve relevant educational research publications available in the "formal", "informal" and "non formal" educational institutions and other related government and private. local and international agencies and organizations for the benefits of researchers, scholars and students.
4. To publish Educational Journals, manuals and educational documents which could be used as communication media and serve as platform for the exchange of views and experiences between and among researchers, pedagogists, educators, scholars and students.
5. To provide educational resource services to the University instructors, educators and pedagogists. It would provide technical and professional assistance to the University instructors and others who wish to prepare instructional teaching materials and produce or publish other education oriented literature that would enhance effective teaching - learning experiences.



At present, the Institute of Educational Research has four major units:

1. Educational Research Activities Unit
2. Educational Publication Unit
3. Educational Documentation Unit
4. Educational Museum Unit

Although the Institute of Educational Research was established legally on September 8, 1983, it did not start its work until late 1984. The first nine months were spent in strengthening the manpower capabilities and the development of the necessary infra-structures to enable the Institute to carry on its activities. The problems, and prospects of the Institute since its inception, were included in the subsequent annual reports submitted to the Academic Vice President.

As far as the future of the IER is concerned there is no doubt that it has a legitimate historic role to play in the development of research in the socio-economic activities of the future People's Democratic-Republic of Ethiopia. Its future is bright and the challenges are great. Our basic faith is always in the positive and constructive role that could be played by basic and applied research activities in all fields including the education sector for which we stand as a vanguard. Assuming that all manpower, material and moral support are generously rendered to us, we have no doubt that the "illnesses" in the field of education in our country could at least be minimized. But I hasten to add that our dreams could materialize only if the concerted efforts and generous support, and the professional commitments of all concerned are positively guaranteed.

E R R A T A

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>PARAGRAPH</u>	<u>LINE</u>	<u>CORRECTIONS</u>
7	2	16	delete "as" before the word "apostolic".
8	2	3	There is a numerical subscript above the line (17) just after the word "prayers".
8	3	8	There is a numerical subscript above the line (18) just after the word "privations".
8	4	6	"... - nisms or sexism. Male Chauvinism or sexism embodies two core con... " is missing.
20	1	8	Spelling mistake, "component".
21	3	5	Spelling mistake, "excerpt".
26	3	4	"U" is not capitalized in the word "upon".
30	6	1	"understanding" is one word.
34	2	1	the word "is" is missing just before the word "isomorphic".
34	4	2	Spelling mistake "different".
34	7	2	the word "it" is missing after the word "construct".
51	3	5	the word "of" is missing after the word "achievement".
71	3	9 and 10	"underlining" is missing in both formulae.
44	1	1	Spelling mistake, "CORRESPONDENCE"