Republic of The Gambia
INITIATIVES ON TVET BY GOVERNMENT

BY

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short form: The Gambia
Capital City: Banjul
Population: 1.8 million
Area: 11 300 sq. km. (4 360 sq. mi.)
74% of the population live in rural areas deriving their livelihood from agriculture, primarily engaged in groundnut production which is the largest cash crop in The Gambia
Over 40.9 percent of the population are under the age of 15 with only 3.5 percent aged 65 and above
The Gambia operates on a 6–3–3–4 system:
- Lower Basic School, age 7–13 yrs
- Upper Basic School, age 13–16 yrs
- Senior Secondary School, age 16–19 yrs
- University, age from 19 yrs upwards – 4 yrs Bachelor’s degree and 1 yr or 2 yrs Master’s degree respectively
Even after independence in 1965, The Gambia’s education system continuous to put more emphasis on academic than skill.

This continued to the 1st part 1976–86 Education Policy, TVET is meant for non performing children/dropouts.

However, the second part, gave birth to special schools call Secondary Technical Schools where children (35%) were enrolled to learn skill after grade 6.
Technical institutions and skills centre were open. Technical education teachers trained.

The 1988–2003 policy brought back general education i.e. more academic less TVET.

Mid-Term review of the policy brought again Technical High Schools allowing children to do TVET up to high school.

2004–2015 Education Policy maintains the same objective as high lighted in the mid term review.
Approximate Structure of TVET in The Gambia
CHALLENGES

- Shortage of man power and skilled labour
- Inadequately/poorly furnish schools
- Wrong perception of society that TVET is meant for the low achievers
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create awareness for the general public on the importance of TVET for economic development
- Govt. & Dev. partners to invest in TVET
- More Technical teachers trained and career paths develop for these teachers
- Provide grants and bursaries to potential students to developed TVET.
THANK YOU