WHY LEARNING B.ED OR DIP.ED (ARTS) COMPUTER/BUSINESS STUDIES COMBINATION IS A RISKY AFFAIR IN KENYA

Bachelor of education (B.ED) Arts (Computer Studies / Business Studies) is not very common for those universities that offer this combination or diploma institutions of the same.

If you have this combination or are pursuing the same, there is no need of panic. However there is one loop hole that you did not consider before enrolling for this course.

It is disgusting to learn that many public universities do not offer computer with any other combinations in their institutions which is common to private universities such as Mt. Kenya, Catholic and Gretsa. Maybe that is the reason why computer studies is limited with teachers across the country.

But why is Computer/Business a disadvantageous combination?

This problem appears when students select subjects in form 2. In most schools, Computer studies is paired with Agriculture, Home Science, Business Studies, or any other group 4 and group 5 subjects. When these subjects are paired, it means that they are taught at the same time (this disqualifies the computer teacher from teaching business form 3 and 4 class unless there is another teacher they can share with).

Consider this statistics:

1. In a single streamed school computer studies has 16 lessons and business studies has also 16 lessons in a week. According to TSC specifications, a teachers is supposed to have a minimum of 22 lessons and a maximum of 27 lessons a week. So if there is another business teacher, they will share classes but the computer teacher will be excluded in taking Business studies in form 3 and form 4. So the total number of lessons on our computer teacher will be 16. 6 lessons below the required standards. Even if you add P.E lessons, it will add up to 20. That is 2 less.

2. In a two streamed school, it is the same. Our computer teacher will be excluded from teaching business studies in form 3 and form 4 classes. given that these schools have at least 1 teacher in every elective subject.

This also means that our computer/business teacher will be disadvantaged especially when small schools are hiring that makes almost 85% of all schools in the country. But in a 3 streamed and higher, this problem may not occur.

The solution to this problem can only be when the school has a large population meaning that there are more teachers in every subject or Business studies is not paired with computer studies in form 3 and form 4 classes which is extremely difficult in a school setup.

So before you pursue this combination, you should know that you are 50%-85% disadvantaged to get hired as compared to Computer/Mathematics and Computer /Physics combinations. But you must also have Mathematics and Business a C+ or better. Good luck!