

## **Report on Lack of School Supplies and Teaching Materials in Ghana**

### **Context**

The shortage of school supplies and teaching materials in Ghana affects the quality of education for students. This lack of essential resources makes it hard for students to participate in class and for teachers to provide high-quality lessons.

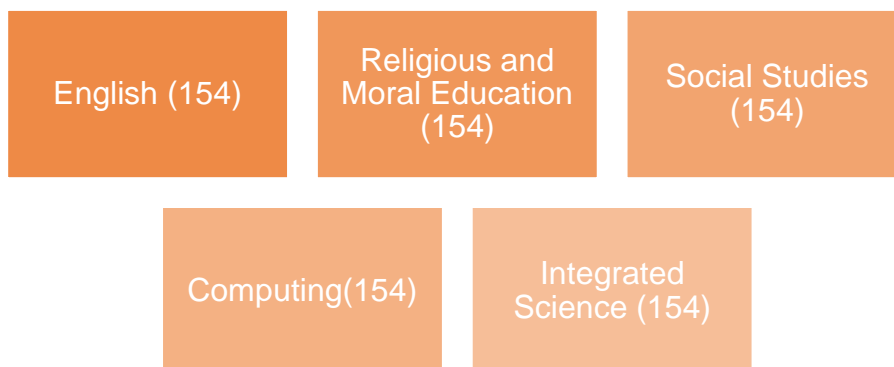
To gain insights into the significance of school supplies, we conducted surveys with 14 teachers from two partner schools at the Junior High Level, whose students range from ages 12 to 18. This report details the findings of our survey and underscores the importance of addressing the scarcity of school supplies and teaching materials in community schools in Ghana.

### **Introduction**

The Siniensi Junior High Survey Report sheds light on the crucial role of school supplies for teachers who are guiding students through their final years in basic education. The report outlines the consistent use of personal finances by teachers to purchase essential supplies such as pens, textbooks, and whiteboards. It also emphasises the shortage of adequate quantities of these supplies across multiple subjects, including English, Social Studies, Religious and Moral Education, Career Technology, Computing, and Integrated Science.

### **Number of Students Taught**

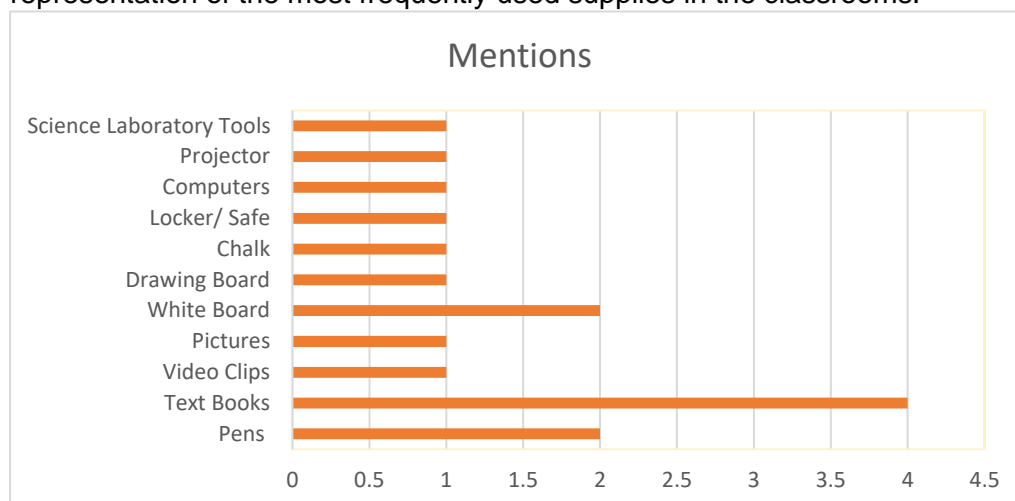
All teachers reported teaching 154 students in their respective subjects at Siniensi JHS, which include English, Social Studies, Religious and Moral Education, Career Technology, Computing, and Integrated Science. *Figure 1* below depicts the subjects offered at Siniensi JHS along with the corresponding number of students in each subject.



### **Supplies Used Most Often**

The supplies most frequently used by teachers include chalk, stickers, pictures, pens, textbooks, and cardboard. In addition, computers and projectors are essential for Computing subjects, while thermometers, torchlights, and cells are necessary for Integrated Science. Registers are also important for administration. See *Figure 2* below for a visual

representation of the most frequently used supplies in the classrooms.



**Fig 2: Supplies Used Most Often**

### Supplies Teachers Need Most and Supplies they Commonly Purchase

The survey indicates that teachers require pens, textbooks, whiteboards, and drawing boards, often using their funds to buy these items. *Table 1* below displays the necessary supplies for each subject in classrooms.

**Table 1: Supplies Needed Most in the Classroom Per Subject**

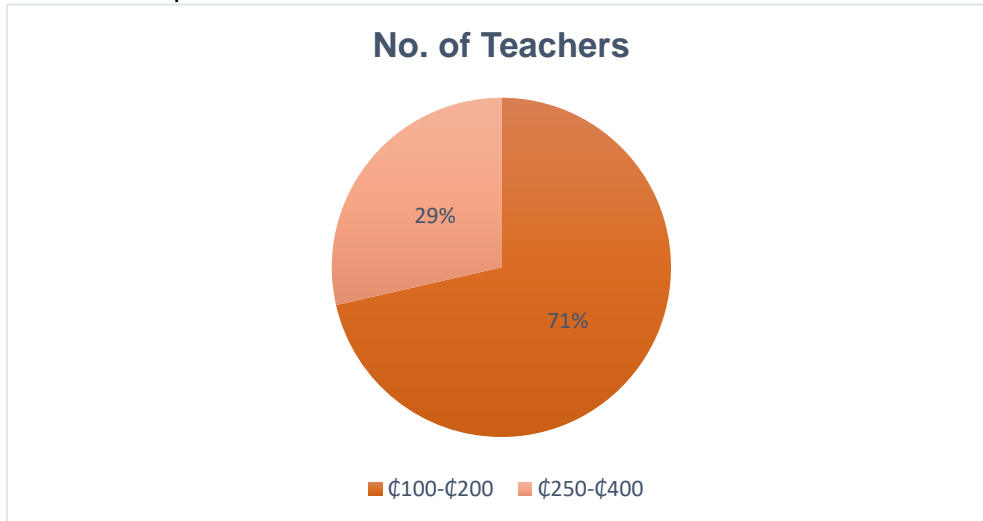
Subject	Supplies Need
English	Pens, Textbooks, Cardboards
Religious and Moral Education	Textbooks, Whiteboard, Chalk, stickers, Pictures, Flip Charts.
Social Studies	Pens, Textbooks, Cardboard, and Notebooks.
Career Technology Administration (Headmaster)	Pens, Textbooks, Drawing Board.
Computing	Pens, A4 Sheets, Laptop, White Board Markers, Register, Stipple Machine.
Integrated Science	Pens, Computers, Projectors, Textbooks, Notepads.
	Pens, Thermometers, Torch Light, Cells.

Alongside the financial burden on teachers, they commonly purchase supplies such as pens, textbooks, and cardboard for their students.

### Teacher's Expense on School Supplies

An evaluation of the teachers' estimates for the money spent on school supplies during the previous school term shows that the majority of teachers use between 100 and 200 Cedis. On subjects requiring more specialised equipment, the administration spending is as much as C250 to C400 to purchase school materials. *Figure 3* below shows the teachers'

estimated expenses.



### Conclusion

The Siniensi JHS survey revealed a lack of specialised equipment for Computing and Integrated Science, leading to teachers consistently using their money to obtain necessary supplies. Essential materials like pens, textbooks, and whiteboards are also insufficient across multiple subjects. The report emphasises the need to address these resource availability gaps and provide additional support for an enhanced learning experience. Additionally, it highlights the higher costs teachers incur for specialised equipment and administrative needs, underscoring the urgency of addressing these shortages.