

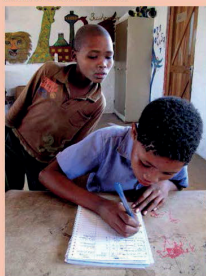
NEW PUBLICATION

Jennifer Hays

Owners of Learning

**The Nyae Nyae Village Schools
over Twenty-Five Years**

Basel Namibia Studies Series 16



Basler Afrika Bibliographien 2016

Jennifer Hays

Owners of Learning

**The Nyae Nyae Village Schools over
Twenty-Five Years**

Basel Namibia Studies Series Vol. 16

EUR 29.00 (print), EUR 20.00 (pdf)

ISBN 978-3-905758-60-3

eISBN 978-3-905758-82-3

ISSN 2234-9561 / eISSN 2297-458X

This book describes the Nyae Nyae Village Schools, an innovative and unique mother-tongue education initiative set in north-eastern Namibia. Inspired by the optimism of Independence, the project was designed in close consultation with the Jul'hoansi community in the early 1990s. Drawing upon their traditional knowledge transmission strategies, and initiated in a supportive political environment, the project exemplified 'best practice'. During the two decades that have followed, the Village Schools have transitioned from a donor-supported 'project' to government schools. However, the students still do not seem to succeed in the mainstream schools. Why is this? Based on long-term fieldwork in the region, including interviews with Nyae Nyae residents over several years and work with involved organizations, this book addresses this question. Contextualizing the Village Schools within post-independence Namibia, southern African history and the global indigenous rights movement, it examines the enormous paradoxes that schooling presents for the Nyae Nyae community. 'Owners of Learning' is the English translation of the Jul'hoansi word for 'teacher' and it serves to highlight a fundamental question – to whom does education belong?

This book does not talk *for* the San people; it conveys a closely observed and intimately felt perspective, while at the same time amplifying the voices of so many San parents and elders who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to speak. May this book once and for all open those doors still closed for them by easing the understanding and softening the will of those who hold the power to change.

Willemien le Roux

**To order this publication with a discount of 20% until June 30, 2016, please send an e-mail to:
bab@baslerafrika.ch (please refer to this flyer).**