

Name:	Margaret A. Odhiambo	Sex:	Female
Nationality:	Kenya		
Occupation:	teacher		
Name of school /Affiliation	Mumias Primary School for the Deaf		
Education	(2001) Kamagambo Adventist Teachers' Training College (P1- Primary Teacher's Certificate) (1996) Kuja Special Secondary School for the Deaf		
Statement of purpose	<p>I am currently working as a teacher in one of the Deaf schools in Kenya- Mumias primary school for the Deaf situated in Western province. I completed my P-1 primary Teacher certificate in 2001 alongside hearing teacher trainees.</p> <p>I have been involved in a wide range of community activities in my school and Deaf community at large. Being Deaf myself, I found it easy to interact with Hearing Impaired within all walks of life. Interaction with the hearing people is also part of my life as I work with a number of them and I meet them wherever I go be it in hospital, shopping center, public transport just to name but a few. Communication between us is not too bad as I can lip-read, read and write.</p> <p>My reason for being interested in pursuing further studies is to widen my horizon in the area of Special Education especially Deaf Education and to help my motherland—Kenya to develop progressively in the area of Deaf rights to Education.</p> <p>I have experienced and saw a lot of challenges in Deaf Schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Most teachers are not fluent in Sign Language hence students find it difficult to understand the teacher or follow the lesson being taught. 2. The curriculum for the hearing students is being implemented in Deaf schools, however there is a wide gap on the learning pace between the Deaf and the hearing students since Deaf students are delayed in acquisition of language. One will find that the students in Deaf schools always lag behind because they need extra time to cover a given topic. 3. Deaf students are not fully equipped for reading and writing English Language, which is the main language, used along with Sing Language. 4. Sign Language in Kenya varies from one place to another. For example, Sign Language used by the Deaf people in western province differs with that of Central and the rest of the provinces. There is need 		

to establish Kenya Sign Language. Despite the efforts of KSLRP – (Kenya Sign Language Research Project) to start and form our own Sign Language, those people who were involved failed because they never carried out a research program in all Deaf schools in Kenya to come up with what they wanted.

I was not fully trained to be a teacher of the Deaf but a teacher in general as the colleges here do not have special equipments to train Deaf teachers. That is the reason I have a longing desire to further my studies so that I can uplift the Education Standards of the Deaf especially Primary Schools here in Kenya by joining a recognized learning institution of the Deaf.