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T H E T O N G A N G R A D U A T E

- a descriptive study

A thesis presented to Massey
University in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the
degree of Master of Arts and
Honours in Education.

Tupou 'Ulu'ave Taufa

November 1979

A B S T R A C T

Tonga's graduates number less than two hundred among a population in excess of 90,000. Tonga remains today a closeknit, traditional and socially stratified, monocultural society yet the graduate group has lived in a foreign culture and studied at an overseas university for at least three years. How has this overseas experience in a country very different from that of the Kingdom of Tonga, influenced the lives of Tonga's graduates?

After a discussion of relevant background issues and a description of the sample and the methodology of this research, the home situation and university career of the typical graduate is outlined. The conditions of the graduate's return home are investigated with particular emphasis on employment and social factors affecting readaptation to life in Tonga. The major findings of this research are drawn together in the final chapter and a series of recommendations are made suggesting changes in policy towards this particular sector of Tonga's populace.

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

Sincere thanks are expressed to the following persons.

The Tongan graduates who gave so freely and willingly of their time and opinions to reply to the questionnaires and submit to the interviews which form the primary data used as a basis for this research.

'Afu'alo Matoto and Kite Kei'aho, Tongan civil servants who provided unpublished statistical data promptly upon request.

My supervisor Dr. Ross St. George whose advice and assistance on the formulation of the project, on methodological aspects and on the draft text were invaluable.

The Government of Tonga for the award of a scholarship and my husband Haloti and my siblings Kilisitina, Maka and Tiki who provided financial support throughout my university career in New Zealand.

My friend Gaylene Roberts for her help and advice and for typing several drafts and this final version of the research.

John Campbell who so skilfully reproduced the original copy.

'Oku'ou fakamalo atu heni ki he tokotaha kotoa pe na'a'ne tokoni 'i au 'i he feinga ako ko eni na'e fai.

Tupou 'Ulu'ave Taufa

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