

**THE EFFECTS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ON GIRLS'
EDUCATION IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN MUKOGODO
DIVISION, LAIKIPIA COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The overall policy goal of education for the Kenyan Government is the provision of education and training to all Kenyans as it is fundamental to the Government's overall development strategy. This emphasis means that every Kenyan has the right to education and training no matter his/her socio-economic status. The Government has therefore allocated substantial resources and there has been notable achievements attained, but the sector still faces major challenges related to access, equity, and quality amongst others (Session paper no. 1 2005:2). One of these major challenges to access is the existence and persistence of retrogressive traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM).

The first concern of this study is that despite the immense awareness of the dangers on the victims in many aspects in life, and efforts to stamp it out, FGM still persists and thrives in many parts of the country to date. Secondly, there is an ever growing gender disparity in Laikipia County, whereby women professionals are hard to come by. Even in the teaching profession which is associated with females in Kenya, there are a negligible number of Laikipia female teachers.

There is therefore need to liberate these girls from the persistent "senseless genital mutilation" by proper and relevant socialization and empowerment against cultural practices. The researcher will employ qualitative research methodology, based on the theoretical foundation of the study to gather and analyze data in order to answer the research questions and to make final conclusions, policy implications and recommendations for further research.