

**THE IMPACT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF FORMAL EDUCATION IN
KENYAN PRISONS**

A CASE STUDY OF NYERI COUNTY PRISONS

BY

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Abstract

This research, '*The Impact of the introduction of formal education in Kenyan Prisons*' has been necessitated by the need to establish the impact that the introduction of formal education in Kenyan prisons has had with a survey of the prisons found in Nyeri County. Defining the main purposes of imprisonment in Kenya has remained a debatable topic for ages (Institute for Education in Democracy, 2004). This debate has largely revolved around a number of theories relating to the purposes of punishment with some arguing that it should aim at retribution or famously '*eye for an eye*' school of thought, others for deterrence and prevention while another school of thought goes for reformation and rehabilitation. This research borrows largely from the reformation and rehabilitation school by looking into the specific programs aimed at reforming and rehabilitating inmates through formal education. There have been claims by both the government, the international community and the prison department that formal education has come in handy to boost their reformation and rehabilitation efforts and on this, the research will aim at finding out if there are any meaningful gains or not as well as propose ways of improving the formal education program to maximize its importance to the prisons. The research will also aim at proposing other areas that need further studies to make the formal education programs even more meaningful to the prisons department.

This research will be carried out in the specified county between the month of January 2015 and May 2015. The researcher aims to use the descriptive research design and randomly sample the population from among the stakeholders involved in the prisons programs in the county. Key among them will be the administrators, members of the prisons staff and the inmates.

Information will be gathered from the publications of the ministry of education science and technology, Kenya prisons journals, the ministry of interior and coordination of national government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as from unpublished material with relevant information as far as rehabilitation programs with special attention to formal education in the Kenyan prisons to establish its effectiveness.