An investigation on the effects of instructional resources on pupils' Mathematics performance in primary schools; A case in Lukenya zone in Machakos County

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AN INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES ON PUPILS’ MATHEMATICS PERFORMANCE IN PRIMARY-SCHOOLS. A CASE STUDY IN LUKENYA ZONE IN MACHAKOS COUNTY.

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Use of instructional resources has found little, if any acceptance in most of our Primary Schools. Observation reveals that most Primary School teachers don’t use instructional resources when teaching Mathematics. Most parents and Headteachers appear to pressurize the Primary School teachers to undertake academic work as opposed to allowing children to learn naturally through interaction with instructional resources. The purpose of this study therefore will be to investigate the effect of instructional resources on pupil’s Mathematics performance with special reference to the types of instructional resources that will be used, teachers’ academic qualification and use of instructional resources, organization of instructional resources in classroom and adequacy of instructional resources. The study will use descriptive survey design. The target population will comprise of Primary School Pupils and Primary Schools teachers in Lukenya Zone in Machakos County. There will be 35 school, 11 schools will be selected for the study through stratified random sampling. Through use of simple random sampling 5 schools will be selected from public and 6 from private school. 225 children will be selected from possible population of 750 primary schools using simple random sampling. Questionnaires will be used to collect data from Primary School Teachers while observation checklist will be used to assess the presence of instructional resources used during Mathematics lesson. Observation schedule will also be used to investigate the organization of instructional resources in classroom and their effective use in learning Mathematics. Own made Mathematics test will be administered to children to determine performance. The data collected will be analyzed using descriptive statistics.

The data was analyzed using statistics and qualitative techniques and presented in tables, percentage and graphs. The main findings were: the study established that use of visual and audio visual resources was minimal when teaching Mathematics. Also use of instructional resources in public schools was minimal compared to private schools. The study recommended that the government should train and employ Primary Schools teachers. The study also suggested for a further research to be carried out on the effect of government budget allocation on primary schools.