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A research project on academic performance among adolescent girls in Njoro Day school

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A RESEARCH PROJECT ON ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE AMONG ADOLESCENT
GIRLS IN NJORO DAY SCHOOL

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF
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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

The academic performance in KCSE among girls in mixed day secondary schools in Njoro district has over the years been poor and with reduced enrollment. This study sought to examine some selected factors influencing poor academic performance among girls in mixed day secondary schools.

Despite this problem, no study has been carried out to establish the factors leading to poor academic performance among these girls in this category of schools. The study would establish the factors which will later be used for effective counseling to both students and their parents in a bid to lift the education performance of the girls. The population of this study was made up of girls in day mixed secondary schools in form two and three.

To ensure reasonable representativeness, a total of 4 schools were randomly sampled to be involved in the study. A total of 100 students were used from form two and three classes. Data from the students was collected through questionnaires. The statistical package for social sciences (spss) was used in the entry, analysis and interpretation of the data.

Findings indicated that 78% of the students had a positive interaction with their parents whereas some students expressed that their parents were too busy, drunkards or absent from home and this led to a decline in performance. Students felt that 54% of their parents were democratic in their approach to parenting whereas 11% felt part their parents were not concerned about what happened in their lives.

The results also revealed that parents punish their children for underperforming. 64% of the girls had a healthy self esteem whereas 28% had a low self esteem which results to decline in performance. The findings also revealed that students had different ways of spending their leisure time.

In the light of such findings the researcher recommended that schools should employ professional counselors to handle students' psychological issues and liase with parents on the bet ways of involvement. The students should also be equipped with life skills to help them cope with challenges at home and in school.