

**INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AND
STANDARDS OFFICERS IN ENHANCING EDUCATION: A CASE
STUDY OF RUIRU DISTRICT IN KENYA**

BY

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E35 S 111 / 01323

**A RESEARCH PROJECT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE OF
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

ABSTRACT

The desire to provide quality education for all Kenyan children was one of the major objectives of the struggle for independence. The government is currently implementing measures to improve the quality of education in secondary schools. The Kenya Education Staff Institute is strengthening capacities of education managers and reviewing staffing norms in order to ensure the equitable distribution of teachers and thus improve on their utilization. The government is also providing in-service education for teachers in various subjects to enhance subject mastery, and rationalizing the curriculum with a view to reduce the workload on both students and teachers. Despite the efforts to provide quality education, the secondary sub-sector continues to face challenges that could compromise the quality of education provided. Training of Quality Assurance and Standards Officers (QASO) is essential for effective performance of their duties. However, this training is rarely based on the officers' own identified needs. This diminishes the training relevance and effectiveness. The purpose of this study was to establish from the QASO themselves the extent to which they were competent in five skills commonly suggested in the literature as relevant to their work performance. The selected skills were human relations, knowledge of the subject, supervision approach, and report writing and action research. The study also sought to find out what topics would be of interest to the QASO from their own perspectives. The study was carried out in Ruiru District in the Republic of Kenya. The sample size was 30 QASO, and 47 head teachers who responded to a Questionnaire and interview schedule. Findings of the study were that competence of QASO on the five skills was average. They needed further training in all these. The study further suggested a list of topics for inclusion in training programme for the QASO on priority basis. The Directorate of Quality Assurance and Standards is charged with the responsibility of improving and maintaining the quality of education Data was organized in frequency distribution tables as well as measures of dispersion i.e. range and variance. Presentation of data will be in form of histograms, pie charts and bar graphs. The Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS) software aided the analysis of the data collected.