

**AN INVESTIGATION ON REASONS AS TO WHY PRIVATE
SCHOOLS PERFORM BETTER THAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN
KENYA CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN
MERU DIVISION, MERU COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to find out why private schools perform better than public secondary schools in Meru central division, Meru County. The study was modelled around Talcott Persons theory. It used the random sampling method and descriptive survey design. The target population was 55868 with 54 principals, 3240 teachers and 52574 students with each school having approximately 973 students or more while the sampled population was 119. The performance of private schools is much better than that of secondary schools in Meru Central division, Meru County. The causes of poor performance among public secondary schools based on the responses were found out to be inadequacy in funds provided by the government, lack of good managerial and good leadership among secondary school heads in public schools, gross enrolment rates in secondary schools that are public in nature due to the Free Secondary Education which was one of the major causes of poor performance among the schools, inadequate facilities and teaching and learning resources and teacher qualification whereby due to the inadequate number of teachers the public secondary schools usually employ untrained teachers who are unqualified. Solutions sought to ensure good performance of the students include school safety and orderliness, opportunity to learn should be given to the students, connecting home and school since this is what keeps them learning, monitoring student progress by both teachers and parents at home and the expectations for the students to pass in their examinations. Recommendations of the study were given in order to see the improvement in performance of the public secondary schools which included provision of adequate funds by the government, inspection by education officers to be frequent to determine what the schools need as the world is technologically changing, the schools should involve the parents (PTA) and the board of management(BOM).