

**STUDENTS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN NJORO
DISTRICT, KENYA: A RELATIONAL ANALYSIS.**

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ABSTRACT

Kenya is among the countries that have offered free education at primary and free tuition at secondary levels, but performance in KCSE is still wanting. Students gaining admission through joint admission board to public University in Njoro district is still low. This called for need to conduct a study on relationship between student school attendance and academic performance in Njoro District secondary schools. The findings of this study were to assist the following individuals: students, teachers and the school administration such that it will enable students to know effects of school absenteeism; it was also to assist teachers to be able to formulate ideas on how to reduce student's absenteeism. This study is guided by one theory, Banduras' Social Learning Theory. This study used descriptive survey design targeting all secondary schools in Njoro District. The target population for study consisted of 169 male and 89 female teachers. In addition, there were 4598 boys and 3306 girl students, from 30 public secondary schools. Simple random sampling was used to select 156 teachers and 363 Form three and Form four students from 8 sampled schools. Data collected using one questionnaire for teachers and document analysis sheet. A checklist was used to collect 363 students percentage scores in attendance and academic performance from eight secondary schools, used in this study. Descriptive and inferential statistics used to analyze the data obtained, including frequency counts, percentages and Pearson correlation. The data were processed and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences. Analyzed data were presented in summary form using frequency distribution tables, and descriptive tables. A correlation carried out, established that there is strong negative correlation between absenteeism and academic performance. The data clearly shows that absenteeism lead to poor academic performance. It is hoped that the finding of the study will equip administration with the knowledge of controlling students' school absenteeism and hence improve academic performance.