

**EFFECTS OF CHILD LABOUR ON PUPIL'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AT
KENYA CERTIFICATE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN CHUKA DIVISION,
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY**

BY

NJOKA K. JANE

BED (ARTS)E35S111/04661

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO MOUNT KENYA
UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE IN
EDUCATION ARTS**

JUNE 2014

ABSTRACT

This study investigated effects of economic activities on pupils' academic performance of pupils at Kenya Certificate of Primary Education in Chuka Division. The main instruments for collecting data was questionnaire. There were questionnaires for teachers and standards eight pupils that has been targeted by the study. A pilot study was done prior to the actual study to test on the validity and reability of the research instruments. The study findings revealed that academic performance of pupils in Chuka Division was adversely affected by factors such as inadequate support by parents, low income, attitude of the parents toward schooling, level of education of parents, and initiation practices for boys before completing primary education and religious affiliation of parents. Pupils in Chuka also participated child labour, as well as working for their parents' farms and domestic related chores. These activities are a contributing factor to the poor academic performance. Characteristics of children such as truancy, asterism, and cases in school also cause poor academic performance among pupils. Besides school related factors such as insufficient learning resources, irregular disbursement of FPE funds, the impact of leadership offered by teachers, schools levies for study tours , examination charges and support staff and tuition fees were found to contribute toward the poor academic performance. On the basis of the findings, the study recommended the review of existing policies and laws on child labour with a view of eliminating child labour. In addition more comprehensive and regular country-wide survey on various factors that affect academic performance of children in other districts should be carried out.