

**FACTORS INFLUENCING PERFORMANCE OF MATHEMATICS IN THE
KENYA CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MURANGA COUNTY, KENYA**

By

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ABSTRACT

Secondary education provide countries with skills and knowledge needed for economic growth, increasing further learning and training of professionals such as technicians, scientists and entrepreneurs. The fields of technological and professional education require a strong foundation consisting of sound background knowledge of Mathematics. Well qualified mathematicians are in great demand for the application of Mathematics is obvious or unconsciously done. The purpose of this study was to find out the factors that effect on performance in mathematics in the Kenya certificate of secondary examination in public secondary schools in Muranga County. The study covered the period of 2007-2009. The study used a descriptive survey approach in collecting data from the respondents. Study population was all 4920 students and teachers in all public secondary schools public primary schools in Muranga County. The study used simple random sampling to get the sample population of 477. The primary data for this study was collected using the questionnaires and complemented by interview hence ensuring that detailed and relevant information on the subject of study was collected. Presentation of data was in form of tables and pie-charts only where it provides successful interpretation of the findings. From the findings, the study concluded that student's poor altitude towards mathematics, lack of motivation, unqualified teachers, omission of mathematics lessons due to absenteeism, poor teaching methodology and poor coverage of syllabus affected the performance of mathematics in school affected the students the performance of mathematics. From the findings and conclusion, the study recommended that secondary school have a counseling system in school as this would enable students on having a positive attitude towards mathematics and being ambitious of taking sciences courses after the completion of their secondary school education.