

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

**INCREASING CASES OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND THEIR EFFECTS ON
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN KIRINYAGA
EAST DISTRICT KIRINYAGA COUNTY.**

**RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION SCIENCE**

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ABSTRACT

This research project focuses on the increasing cases of child sexual abuse and their effects on academic attainment and achievement of the primary school pupils in Kirinyaga East District, Kirinyaga County. The researcher uses Cognitive-Behavioral theory as the basis for this research; cognitive behavioral theory states that when individuals commit deviant sexual acts, they often try to diminish their feelings of guilt and shame through "neutralizations." These neutralizations generally take the forms of excuses and justifications, with the offenders rationalizing their behavior. These neutralizations are cognitive distortions (CDs), or distorted thinking patterns that allow the offenders to remove from themselves any responsibility, shame or guilt for their actions. Data was collected from 10 primary schools. The paper makes reference to data collected from 350 pupils and 120 teachers who responded to items on sexual harassment and unwanted sex respectively. The purpose of the study is to find out the increasing cases of child sexual abuse and their effects in academic achievement and attainment of primary school pupils in Kirinyaga East district, Kirinyaga county, the objectives of this study is to determine the main causes of child sexual abuse, to find out in details the effects of child sexual abuse in academic performance, and to find out various ways of controlling and preventing child sexual abuse in Kirinyaga East District, Kirinyaga County. The significance of this study is that it will help the pupils as well as their parents or guardians to understand the consequences of child sexual abuse as well as enlighten them on ways of preventing it. The study will also help those pupils who have earlier experienced sexual abuse to have new dimension of completely forgetting their dark past and focusing on their bright future by providing the necessary and well researched information. Limitations of this study include financial constraints, short period or duration of research and communication barrier. Chapter two highlights the related literature review on the causes and effects of child sexual abuse. It focuses on what others have said on the issues of child sexual abuse. The researcher uses survey design methodologies; data collection instruments include focus groups, interviews and questionnaires. Chapter four is on data analysis. Result of data analysis is summarized in form of tables and charts. Chapter five includes summary, conclusion and recommendations