

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME ON  
ACCESS TO PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN ARID AND SEMI  
ARID AREAS: THE CASE OF MBEERE SOUTH SUB COUNTY, EMBU  
COUNTY, KENYA**

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## ABSTRACT

Studies on impacts of school feeding programmes on access to education have posted mixed results from different places and at different levels of education. Despite this no study has been done to establish the impacts of School Feeding Programme (SFP) on access to preprimary school education in Mbeere South. This study sought to find out the impacts of SFP on access to preprimary school education in Mbeere South Sub County, Embu County. Specifically the study assessed the impact of SFP on access, the impact of SFP on participation in teaching and learning and the relationship between SFP and access to education in preprimary schools. The SFP was the independent variable while access and participation were the dependent variables. The study employed mixed research methods using descriptive survey design. Target population was the 58 head teachers and 152 pre-school teachers in preprimary schools in Mbeere South Sub County. The study used stratified and purposive sampling techniques. A sample of 52 pre-school teachers and 20 head teachers was used. Reliability of the instruments was tested using results of pilot study by comparison with known constructs while validity was determined through review of instruments by supervisor. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics for quantitative data, while qualitative data was analysed thematically as per objectives. Data was presented in tables and charts. The findings of the study indicated that school feeding programmes increased access to preschool education, increased participation of preschool children in teaching and learning process. The school feeding programme was found to have a positive relationship with access to preschool education. The study recommended that the County governments and central government should ensure provision of regular SFP in order to enhance access to preschool education.