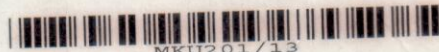


**AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL
UNITS IN KIENI EAST DISTRICT,
NYERI COUNTY KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Early Childhood Education serves as a 'first line of defence' in dealing with disability and development delay. Implementation of National Centre for Early Childhood Education (NACECE) pre-school curriculum is a very important activity towards the achievement of the objectives of pre-school education in Kenya. Despite the government policy to support ECD curriculum, little has been done in Kiini East. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the implementation of early childhood education programme in public pre-school units in Kiini East District. The study sought to evaluate the extent to which objectives of the pre-school education programme have been achieved, the extent to which pre-school teachers have acquired the requisite skills to teach pre schools for implementing pre-school education programme, the adequacy of teaching/learning resources, the role of parents in the management of pre-school education programmes and how administrative support influence implementation of the pre-school education programme. The study adopted the survey design approach. The target population of the study was 50 head teachers, 50 school management committee representatives from every pre-school and 102 teachers in 50 public pre-schools in Kiini East District. 62 pre-school teachers, 31 head teachers and 31 Board of management ECD representatives were sampled out using simple random sampling. The study adopted questionnaires and interview schedule as the main data collection instruments. Qualitative and quantitative techniques were employed in data analysis with the help of SPSS version 20.0 for windows. The study found that majority of the pre-schools in Kiini East District graduated between 1 and 30 children to primary school. All the pre-school teachers had been trained and had acquired higher education qualifications with half 27 holding a college diploma and an equal number having achieved a university degree. The study found that majority 22 (80%) of the pre-school units in Kiini East District did not have adequate teaching and learning resources. The study found that majority 25 (90%) of the pre-schools involved parents in management of the pre-school programme. A majority 28 (51%) of the teachers indicated that their respective preschools received administrative support from the head teachers of the primary schools of which the preschools were attached to. The study concluded that the objectives of the pre-school education programme have not been fully achieved. The enrollment of students in pre-school units is still low. In addition the preschool programme still faces a myriad of challenges chief among them the lack of a feeding programme. The study recommended that the government should incorporate the pre-school programme into the primary school programme for easier management.

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