

**FACTORS INFLUENCING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF  
GIRLS IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN YATTA SUB-COUNTY  
IN KITUI COUNTY**

**BY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Education for Girl child is facing a major challenge in primary schools even at backdrop of massive enrolment in primary following free primary education. This has obvious implications on progressive welfare of a girl child. This study sought to investigate impact of teenage pregnancies in girl child education and its effect to academic performance of girls in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education in public schools in Yatta Sub-County, Kitui County. The researcher used descriptive design. The study targeted primary schools which were 34 public primary schools in Yatta Sub County; the division had population of 476 teachers and 13158 pupils. Out of the 34 public schools, 10 schools will be purposively sampled for this study and a sample of 1 class from every school was randomly selected. The theory applied in this research project was Social learning Theory by (Bandura 1991). The researcher used questionnaires which were designed with open and closed ended questions. Descriptive analysis was utilized for quantitative data. The quantitative data was also analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences programme (SPSS) to make the process simple, faster and more accurate. The respondents were randomly selected and they comprised of teachers and pupils. Data was gathered through questionnaires and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software programme. The findings were presented in form of graphs, charts and tables. It was found that rewards, economic well being of parents and women role models had positive influence on academic performance of girls. It was recommended that there is need to educate girls on dangers of pre-marital sex and early marriage. The study recommends that punitive action be taken by law enforcers on members of society who sexually offend minors leading to pregnancies. Regarding women role models, it is recommended that schools should invite academically successful women as motivational speakers in schools to inspire young learners. Schools should reward girls for good performance to motivate them. Light punishment as behavioral correction strategy is important to keep the girls in track with their academic goal. The study concludes that women academic role models and rewards have positive impact on girls' morals and academic performance while punishments and teenage pregnancies have adverse effects.