

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL ABUSE ON
LEARNING OUTCOMES OF SCHOOL GOING CHILDREN IN TIGANIA
CENTRAL DIVISION, MERU COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate influence of alcohol abuse on learning outcomes of school going children in Tigania Central division, Meru County. The objectives of this study were: To investigate the extent to which alcohol related negligence influences learning outcomes of school going children, to examine how alcohol related violence influences learning outcomes of school going children, to investigate the extent to which alcohol related health disorders influences learning outcomes of school going children and establish the intervention strategies to address alcohol abuse in order to improve learning outcomes. The study reviewed literature on related themes such as theoretical review of alcohol abuse, alcohol related negligence and learning outcomes, alcohol related violence and learning outcomes, alcohol related health disorders and learning outcomes and intervention strategies to curb alcohol abuse. It was hoped that the study would be significant to the teachers, parents Ministry of Education and the community. The study confined itself to public schools in Tigania Central Division where data was collected from teachers, chiefs, parents and children. The study adopted descriptive survey design. The target population was 574 subjects comprising of 350 children, 200 parents, 20 teachers and 4 chiefs. The sample was selected using simple random sampling and a sample of 82 subjects was used. The research instruments used were interview schedule for chiefs and teachers, questionnaire for parents and observation check list for children. Piloting was done to help identify ambiguities and inadequacies of research instruments. The primary data was collected from the subjects, thoroughly sorted, edited, coded, organized and analyzed systematically using qualitative and quantitative methods. Finally results from the data collected in this study was analyzed by use of percentages and frequencies and presented in tables, pie charts and bar graphs. The study revealed that alcohol related violence contributed significantly 85% towards poor learning outcomes of school going children as compared to alcohol related negligence and alcohol related health disorders which contributed 65% and 60% respectively towards poor learning outcomes of school going children. It is therefore recommended that parents should help children develop good morals by being good role models and further awareness campaigns should be carried out in schools and in the community on the benefits of responsible drinking. The study concludes that alcohol abuse has negative impact learning outcomes of school going children.