

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO POOR PERFORMANCE IN  
GEOGRAPHY IN KENYA CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY  
EDUCATION IN RUCHU ZONE IN KANDARA SUB- COUNTY  
OF MURANG'A COUNTY**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research study was to investigate the factors which were currently affecting performance of geography in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examinations in Ruchu Zone of Murang'a County. Geography is one of the subjects in secondary school curriculum .however it has been noted that its performance has been declining in relation with other humanity subjects such as Christian Religious Education (C.R.E) and History. This has prompted a study to be carried out so as to establish the major causes / factors that affect the performance of geography. The objectives of the research study were: To establish the resources availability for teaching and learning geography in secondary schools in Ruchu Zone of Murang'a County, to determine the effects of teachers on students' performance in geography in Ruchu Zone of Murang'a County, to examine the perceptions of students towards geography subject in secondary schools in Ruchu Zone of Murang'a County, to explore strategies undertaken by secondary schools in Ruchu Zone in order to ensure improved performance in geography in both internal and external exams. . The research methodology used for the study was descriptive research design. The target population in the study were 10 secondary schools, 10 principals, 20 geography teachers, 180 geography students and 10 HODs. Simple random sampling was used in the selection of the sample population. The sample population comprised of 4 secondary schools, 4 principals, 8 geography teachers, 4 HODs and 72 geography students. The pilot study was carried out in three pilot secondary schools namely: Githumu High School, Mukuria Secondary School and Gathage Secondary School which were within Ruchu Zone but outside the sample schools. Questionnaires and interview schedules were used to collect the raw data from the respondents. The raw data was collected by the researcher personally through interviews schedules for principals and HODs and questionnaires for geography teachers and students. The raw data collected was then be analyzed as per the research questions and then presented using frequency and percentage tables, pie-charts and graphs. The researcher drew the following conclusions from the data findings: availability of resources like workshops, libraries, field work resources and teaching aids had led to poor performance in geography. Inadequacy of resources like films, teaching aids maps school buses, supplementary books for teaching geography had also led to poor performance in geography. Factors like inadequate time allowed to teaching geography and wide geography syllabus had also influenced the performance of the subject. In addition the study has shown effects of teachers related factors that had influenced students' performance in geography. Factors such as lack of in-service training of geography teachers, inadequacy of geography teachers, high teachers- students' ratio had contributed to poor performance in geography. All those factors had led to poor performance in geography. However teachers in Ruchu Zone need to encourage their students to improve in geography because it is as important as other humanities. The following recommendations were also made based on the conclusion drawn: Kenya Institute of Education (KIE) which is in-charge of curriculum development should review the syllabus which is too wide to cover within the stipulated time for four years, the K.I.E should also allocate more lessons in geography in forms 1 and 2, this would make teachers adequately prepare their students for K.C.S.E, the Teachers Service Commission (T.S.C) should ensure gender parity during the teachers recruitment exercise, the secondary

school principals should equip all their schools with adequate resources for teaching geography, the T.S.C county Director of Education should monitor the curriculum delivery by teachers through intensified inspections in all secondary schools within their areas, the T.S.C should introduce motivational allowances for the best performance in geography and other subjects. This would ensure high achievement in all subjects and the students should form positive perception towards geography to enable them excel well in geography in K.C.S.E.