

**ROLE OF READING SKILLS IN IMPROVING PERFORMANCE OF
SUBJECTS TAUGHT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN RUIRU SUB COUNTY**

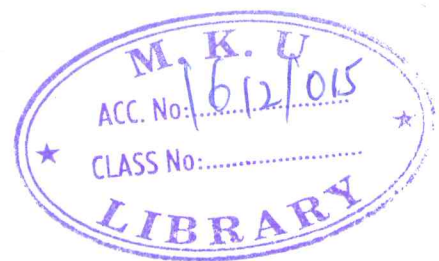
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Abstract

Skills in reading and academic performance are very closely related in schools. Pupils with proper reading skills are demonstrated to perform better compared to those that are poor in reading skills. This paper tries to find the role played by reading skills in enhancing academic performance in primary school in Ruiru sub –county. The paper indicated consistent and clear variations between various groups of pupils in primary school. The classes focused are standard five to standard eight. The research illustrated that many pupils have difficulties in reading skills which means that they are disadvantaged on acquiring information from print based media which are the most used source of information in schools. Reading is a very important aspect in learning context because it enables a reader to be independent in searching for information and also it is a powerful tool of constructing meaning and getting knowledge.

Hence attention needs to be given to pupils showing poor reading skills and creation of a reading culture in Kenya so as to improve performance in primary schools. Reading is a tool that enhances the process of learning and passing information is difficult to those without reading skills. To investigate the role played by reading skills in academic performance, a study was done in a Tatu primary school. 95 pupils were selected from classes 5 to class 8 using random sampling technique. In data collection, mixed method approach was used whereby performance of subjects was obtained from the school database while class teachers were issued with questionnaires. The analysis indicated a strong relationship between reading skills and academic performance.