

**CAUSES OF PERFORMANCE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN KENYA: THE CASE OF SUNEKA
DIVISION, KISHII COUNTY**

**NYAOGA N DORCAS
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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at investigating the major causes of performance differences between public and private schools in Kenya; this was in reference to Suneka Division, Kisii County. The objectives of this study were to compare academic and professional qualification between teachers in public and private schools in Suneka Division; to compare the facilities to performance differences between private and public schools, to investigate the causes of performance differences in public and private schools, to suggest ways of improving performance in public schools in Suneka Division. The data was collected from respondents (teachers) by use of questionnaires. The data was analyzed by use of Pearson's correlation coefficient. The findings revealed that there are many cases of poor performance in K.C.P.E in public primary schools compared to private primary schools. According to three respondents, this is caused by improper planning and guiding learners by the teachers. Laxity of the administration as well as permissiveness in the society whereby they don't work to support the school in order to get better result this, were also found to affect performance. The findings also showed that absenteeism of teachers and learners from school highly affect performance. This was shown by the fact that a teacher could miss attending class for more than twice in a week and learners don't attend lessons as required. Suneka Division borders Kisii town and from the findings it was revealed that the booming business is another factor which has affected performance. This is because most teachers run businesses in Kisii town and opt to attending to their business other than teaching. Learners often sell some items in Kisii town and this makes them to have little regard to education. The research recommended that the teachers should use professional and better ways to improve teaching the learners in order to improve to their schools' performance. This ways range from having proper and strict laid down rules and regulations, avoid absenteeism by being role models to the learners and lastly enlighten the community the importance of education in order to discourage school going children from running businesses in Kisii town during school days.