

CAUSES OF EDUCATION UNDER-ACHIEVEMENT IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN
IKUTHA SUB COUNTY- KITUI COUNTY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to find out the causes of under achievement in public primary schools in Ikutha Zone, Ikutha Sub County and recommend ways of dealing with these challenges in order to enhance good classroom performance of the children. The research was guided by the following objectives: To find out the categories of children under achieving in public primary schools, To establish the causes of poverty as a major factor leading to under achievement in public primary schools, To identify the effects of poverty on academic performance in public primary schools and To suggest some possible ways of eradicating poverty in public primary schools. Maslow Theory of hierarchy of needs was employed in the research study and descriptive research design was used data manipulation. The target population amounted to 4807 which included 23 head teachers from 23 school available, 184 teachers and 4,600 school children. The researcher used simple random sampling where 23 school I sampled 10, 4,600 pupils to get 80 pupils from standard 5 to 8 a boy and a girls from each class also 10 headteachers were selected from 23 headteachers available. The research instruments employed in this study were interview for parents and puipils while questionnaires were meant for the headteachers and teachers. It is vital that it must be enhanced for adequate educational progress. According to Dakar conference education for all (2000) education in a world with poverty cannot be the same as education in a world without it being handled well. The study stipulates in many countries today children and adolescents are growing up amidst multiple challenges exacerbated by the direct or indirect threat of poverty. The study was conducted through descriptive design. Data was analyzed using percentages distribution, tables, graphs and frequency distribution techniques using statistical for social scientists version 16 and MS Excel. The study found out the children living under poverty has a lot of challenges which they undergo during their participation in classroom learning process. Such challenges include chronic absenteeism in order to attend to look for their basic needs. The study recommends that children living under poverty should be supported by government by providing free pre-school education to ease the burden of parents. Child headed families should be eradicated by identifying orphans and initiating consultation development funds to help them and bursaries to eradicate poverty. Isolation of these children and active participation can be created by providing child friendly environment. Parents can also be encouraged to join community support groups which help in initiating small business to support their children.