

**IMPACT OF MALARIA ON LEARNING AMONG PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN  
IN GITHIGA ZONE, IKUNU DIVISION, GITHUNGURI DISTRICT,**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The effects of malaria on young children in the world have been the subject of investigation for many years. However its impact on learning in these children has not been adequately investigated. The parents and the community have not been properly equipped to fight this killer disease. According to World Health Organization (WHO) each year 300 million people become acutely ill from malaria and more than one million die from this disease worldwide. Nine out of 10 cases of malaria worldwide occur in Africa and 90% of Africa's population is at risk of malaria. In Kenya the story is the same. According to Ministry of Health (MOH) malaria is estimated to cause 20% of all deaths in children under five years. The researcher investigated the extent to which malaria has affected learning in ECDE children in Githiga Zone, Ikinu Division, Githunguri District. The researcher tried to achieve the following objectives to find out causes of malaria in Githiga Zone, Ikinu Division, Githunguri District, investigate how people responded to counter this problem and establish what could be done to fight this problem. The human and economic cost of malaria is enormous and this made the study quite essential to the child, community and the nation at large. The child will be able to grow healthy and also attend school without interruptions. The community will have healthy, energetic and productive people who will in turn promote development of the nation.

The researcher used case study method. She also used questionnaires and interview method. This enabled the researcher to collect the information in depth. The study area is located in Githiga Zone, Ikinu Division, Githunguri District. The researcher studied children between 3-6 years, parents, health workers and ECDE teachers. The researcher used quantitative analysis, percentages, pie-charts, histograms and Figures to present his data. The researcher found out that malaria is rampant in the area of study and that it has greatly affected performance of the children. Although most of the respondents used nets, other preventive measures had been totally neglected. The researcher also found out that the health services are inadequate and the infrastructure especially roads are very poor. The few health services are thus inaccessible to a majority of the respondents. People should be sensitized against malaria by the community leaders as this would reduce malarial problem among children. The government should employ more health personnel and improve on the roads.