

**MT KENYA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

**AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON PERFORMANCE IN
SCHOOLS. A CASE STUDY OF 4-6 YEARS CHILDREN IN MACHAKOS COUNTY,
YATTA SUB-COUNTY, NDALANI ZONE**

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PRESENTER: STEPHEN MBUA MASILA
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Abstract

The term poverty refers to a state where people are unable to meet the basic needs. It may be caused by HIV/AIDS pandemic, political instability, environmental conditions/factors, drug and substance abuse and poor government interventions. This study was carried out to investigate the effects of poverty on the performance of pre-school children aged 4-6 years in Machakos County, Yatta Sub-County, Ndalani Zone.

The main purpose was to find out effects of poverty and enlighten parents and the caregivers on the importance of education and emphasize on the importance of education. It also gave real pictures on the effects of poverty in the learning activities.

The researcher chose to select a sample from the population to work with. There were 350 children in the 16 ECDE centres. The researcher chose to work with 10 children in each centre.

The researcher targeted on the 16 ECDE teachers. He targeted on all parents. For the data collection, certain research tools were employed that is, observation checklist, questionnaires for teachers and the interview schedule for parents.

The researcher found that poverty affects the cognitive development of children mostly aged 4-6 years. The study has revealed that this poverty has been commonly caused by HIV/AIDS pandemic political instability, environmental factors and drug and substance abuse. These are observations made by parents, teachers and the children. The study came up with a number of recommendations to the effects of poverty on children which could prevent the challenges they face.