

**MALNUTRITION EFFECTS ON LEARNING ABILITY AMONG CHILDREN UNDER
EIGHT YEARS IN KIRIE DIVISION EMBU COUNTY.**

BY

BOORE NJERI IRENE

REG.E37S111/02/076

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELORS DEGREE
IN EDUCATION AT MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY.**

AUGUST 2013

ABSTRACT

The study sought to explore the effects of malnutrition on the learning ability of children under the age of eight years in Kirie division of Embu County, and to establish the strategies that can be adopted to alleviate the effects of malnutrition to the learning ability of the children.

Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study.

The study covered ten primary schools whereby 15 pupils were obtained from each school five from each class (class 1, 2 and 3), two teachers and two parents from each of the selected schools.

The data for the research was collected by use of two questionnaires (one for teachers and one for parents, and an interview schedule was used for the pupils. Data was analyzed by use of excel programme and presented in frequency tables, bar graphs and pie charts.

- From the study, it was found out that effect of malnutrition on the learning ability of children less than eight years in Kirie division of Embu County included increased vulnerability to infections, diminished cognitive ability and low school attendance rate.

Improving on school feeding programmes could improve the learning ability of the children in the Division.

It is anticipated that the findings of the study will give parents and teachers new insights on essence of proper nutrition.

Pupils are also expected to benefit since if the recommendations of feeding programmes will be put into consideration, then their basic needs like proper education and proper nutrition will be provided.