

**THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS SPONSORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN NANDI CENTRAL DISTRICT,
NANDI COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate the role of religious sponsors in development of public primary schools in Nandi Central District, Kenya. The objectives of the study were: to determine the religious sponsor's contribution in schools' development; to investigate the expectations of the sponsor on teachers, pupils and schools operations; to investigate the relationship between the schools sponsors and primary schools' development and finally to identify areas that need religious sponsors' attention. A descriptive survey design was used in the study; Stratified, Simple Random, and Purposive sampling techniques were used to select sample. The target population was drawn from the 3 zones out of 8 in Nandi Central District. The study targeted 39 head teachers, 273 teachers, 1560 pupils and 39 sponsors which constituted a total target population of 1911. The sample size constituted 12 public schools, 82 teachers, 46 pupils, 12 head teachers and 12 SMC chairpersons who were picked from the population. The study period was from September 2011 to October 2012. The data was organized, presented, analyzed and interpreted using descriptive statistics which included frequencies, percentages, tables, means and charts. The study should be useful to the District Education officers and the Ministry of Education as it should shed light on policies that should be followed on appointing and empowering them on their roles; it should also be beneficial to the community, the sponsors, parents and the schools management in general. The findings of this study should be useful to the policy makers in identifying and re-defining the role and responsibility of the religious sponsor in public primary schools. It was concluded that majority of schools in Nandi central had religious sponsors who had served for more than 10 years. Findings of the study also recommended, Education Act should review Religious sponsors' roles to empower them to take an active part in spiritual, financial and infrastructural development of schools in order to maintain the sponsors' status expectation. There is need for a similar study to be carried out where the informants who include teachers, education officials and parents to determine their perception on the role of religious sponsors and operations in primary schools management.