

**EFFECT OF DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES ABUSE ON PERFORMANCE IN
GICHURU HIGH SCHOOL IN LIMURU DISTRICT.**

BY

WAMBUGU LYDIA WANJIRU

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ABSTRACT

Drug and substance abuse is a global problem and is of the major problems affecting the youth both in school and out of school. This problem impacts negatively on the academic performance in many schools in Kenya today. The menace of the drugs strangled the youthful population reducing them to dummies, zombies and drooling figures only to waste the prime of their lives when they are most needed to invest their energy in worthy nation building ventures. This study sought to establish the effects of drugs and substance abuse at Gichuru High School in Kiambu County Limuru district on academic performance. The study focused on how drugs availability influence drug and substance abuse and whether the drugs and substance abuse affects student performance at Gichuru High School. The researcher identified the subject of the study by listing down the subject who falls with the age of 13-18 years for student and maximum being 45 years for the teacher and support staff. The above procedure helped the researcher in obtaining valid data free from biasness as he had no prior knowledge concerning the subjects. The technique ensured that all the students were given equal chances of being selected for the purpose as well as ensuring that all the students who fall under the gap of age 13-18 is considered equally. The sample size included 50 students, 10 teachers and support staff and 5 non-teaching staff within the schools. The 50 student represent around 18 percent of the students. This means that at least one out of ten students was put into account, a significant representation of the entire population was taken care of. The above figure was arrived at after considering the time factor as well as the size of the population involved. 10 teachers translated to one third of the total number of the teaching staff which is a good representation, it was also easy to administer one on one interview to this population; the same representation was going to be very prolific when dealing with the non-teaching staff. Case study research was used to conduct an in-depth investigation on the effect of drug and substance abuse on academic performance. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and presented using charts, bar and literature.

The questionnaire return was at 96% and 80% of interviews were successfully conducted. The study revealed that alcohol and cigarette are most abused drugs with 68% and 60% respectively. The drugs and substance abuse in school is due peer pressure, mass media influence, curiosity and idleness, parental background and frustration associated with learning.

Drug peddlers, nearby kiosks, parents and school works were mentioned as main sources of drugs in school.

68% of the respondents said that drugs and substance abuse contribute to poor performance in academic. Other factors included: laxity among students, cheating in exams, and absenteeism among other.