

**INVESTIGATION ON THE SOCIO- ECONOMIC FACTORS ON ACCESS TO
SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN IGEMBE NORTH DISTRICT, MERU
COUNTY, KENYA .**

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ABSTRACT

Although the government has attached so much importance to education through finance and policies, there is still poor performance, low participation, high levels of wastage and poor transition from primary to secondary school in Igembe North district. The purpose of this study is to establish the extent to which socio-economic factors affect access of students in secondary education in Igembe North district, Meru County. The main objectives of this study is to identify the main socio-economic activities affecting secondary school students, to find out the level of access and wastage in secondary schools, to find out which gender, among the secondary school students, is the most affected by socio-economic activities secondary education in Igembe North district. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. The total target population of all secondary school students, Guidance and Counseling teachers, class masters/mistresses and principals from Igembe North District. The district has about 3300 female students, 2400 male students, 20 Guidance and Counseling teachers, 80 class masters/mistresses and 20 principals giving a total population of about 5820. Random sampling will be carried to select 50 percent of the schools. Stratified sampling in selecting students, principals, guidance and counseling teachers and class masters/mistresses. The actual sample size was 345. The study used two types of instruments: questionnaires and interview schedules. Piloting will be done in one school in the district, which will be identical but it will not be used in the study, to establish the validity and reliability of the instruments. Validity will be done through expert judgment of the supervisors while reliability will be ascertained using test-retest method. Data collection will be done through questionnaires and interview schedules.