

**EFFECTS OF MALNUTRITION IN INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN (6-10) IN KITOO ZONE,
CHULUNI DIVISION, KITUI COUNTY.**

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Kitoo zone in Kitui county. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the effects of malnutrition physical and intellectual development of lower primary school children. It has been reported that poor performance of young children at physical and mental activities is as a result of malnutrition. The objectives of the study was to find out; whether there were feeding programmes in schools in the zone, if the quality of food fed to the children contribute to their expected physical and mental development, the causes of malnutrition among the children in lower primary in the zone. The following research questions guided the study; were there feeding programme in schools in the zone? Does the quality of food fed to the children contribute to their expected physical and intellectual development? What were the major causes of malnutrition of children in the zone? The significance of the study was to identify the relevant possible solutions that contribute to children intellectual and physical development. At the same time the information would enlighten the parents and child care givers on the right food for the children growth.

The study was conducted utilizing samples drawn from eight public schools, one church sponsored school and two private owned schools in Kitoo zone, which has a total of twenty eight primary schools. Twenty two teachers and their respective standard officers in the zone gave information to the study. The study employed a descriptive survey research design and also used interviews for data collection. The data was analyzed using tables and graphs. Mean and percentages were reported using frequency distribution charts and tables. Finally suggestions and recommendations for further research were given.