

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS INFLUENCING THE STUDY OF PHYSICS IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MATHIOYA DISTRICT, MURANG'A COUNTY.**

BY

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATION
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ABSTRACT

As noted by Osborne et al. (2003), “the investigation of students’ attitudes towards studying science has been a substantive feature of the work of the science education research community for the past 30–40 years” (p. 1049). Its importance is emphasized by a persistent decline in post-compulsory high school science enrollment over the last two decades which has generated concern in many countries, including the UK (Smithers and Robinson, 1988), Australia (Dekkers and DeLaeter, 2001), Canada (Bordt et al., 2001), India (Garg and Gupta, 2003), Japan (Goto, 2001), the United States (National Science Foundation, 2002), and every country in the European Union (Commission of European Communities, 2001). Students’ increasing reluctance to choose science courses, and physical science courses in particular, in their final years of secondary education has important implications not only for the continuity of scientific endeavor but also for the scientific literacy of future generations. As a result, development of positive attitudes towards science, scientists, and learning science, which has always been a constituent of science education, is increasingly a subject of concern. The study of physics is very crucial because of its contribution in the world e.g. in the sector of transport, technology, medicine and many more. Having understood the importance of this the government of Kenya has engaged in In-service course to enhance better performance of mathematics and science subject through Strengthening Mathematics and Science in Education project. The purpose of this study is to determine the factors influencing the study of physics in secondary schools. The objectives of the study were: To determine the student factors that influence enrolment in Physics at KCSE level in public secondary schools in Mathiyoa district, To establish the influence of the Physics teachers in the students’ choice of Physics at KCSE level in public secondary schools in Mathiyoa district, To investigate the effects of the school environment on students’ choice of Physics at KCSE level in public secondary schools in Mathiyoa district. The research will take a descriptive survey design and target pupils, teachers and principals. Random sampling was used to select pupils and teachers. Principals of the sampled schools were purposively sampled in order to provide administrative information. Questionnaires were used as the main tool for data collection. Both qualitative and quantitative data was generated. Descriptive statistics such as measures of central tendency and means were used to analyze data. Results were presented in percentages, frequencies and where necessary reported as narrative.