

**THE CAUSES OF LOW ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOLS: A CASE STUDY OF RUARAKA ZONE IN NAIROBI COUNTY.**

BY

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E35S/09/06064

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE
AWARD OF A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION DEGREE OF MT. KENYA
UNIVERSITY**

OCTOBER 2012

ABSTRACT

Education is one of the most important aspects of human resource development. Poor academic performance not only results in the child having low self-esteem, but also causes significant stress to parents. The reasons behind children underperformance in school especially public schools cut across social, economic, environmental and political milieu. The information provided by the parents, teachers, pupils and about children's academic difficulties guides education stake holders to form informed solutions to such causes. However a multidisciplinary in-depth research is usually necessary before making a final diagnosis. It is paramount to find the reasons for a child's poor performance and come up with a "treatment" plan early so as to up the child's performance to full potential. Considerable research has focused on various factors that predict academic performance, researchers have offered varied explanations. Despite these explanations and previous studies contributing substantially to the field, they have however overlooked specific factors attributable to public primary schools. Unlike private primary schools, most public primary schools lack facilities and exposure to the outside world, a factor that contributes significantly to the child's socio-cultural integration and development. This is a great boost to academic performance.

Given the paucity of research on pupils in public primary schools and the reality that they encounter many barriers to academic performance, there is a pressing need to examine the factors that contribute to low academic performance. In the present study, the research sought to examine the various factors that influence academic performance with particular focus on pupils in public primary schools given that they constitute a large proportion of the population. In short the purpose of this study was to identify important influences on academic performance of pupils in public primary schools in Nairobi County, Kenya.