

**CONTRIBUTION OF CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND ON ACCESS TO
SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN ARID AREAS: A CASE OF ISIOLO NORTH
CONSTITUENCY**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the contribution of Constituency Development Fund on access to secondary schools in arid areas with specific reference to Isiolo North constituency in Eastern Province, Kenya. The main purpose of this study was to investigate the contribution of Constituency Development Fund on access to secondary school in Isiolo North constituency Kenya. This study was guided by human capital theory and the theory of socialist economics of education, a theory that was forwarded by a French writer and historian called Louis Blanc. The study applied *ex post facto* design. In this design, the researcher does not manipulate the variables under study but instead, examines the variables in their existing condition. The study targeted teachers in the 11 public secondary schools in Isiolo North Constituency. The CDF committee members were also interviewed. The main respondents in each school included a head teacher and six other teachers. The study selected 30% of the target population because the sample size depends on what one wants to know, what is at stake and recommends 30% as an appropriate sample in an ex-post facto study. In total the sample size comprised of 50 respondents. The main research instrument that was used in this study was questionnaires and interview guides. Pilot study was conducted in one of the schools with a total of 7 respondents being involved. Pilot study enabled the researcher assess the clarity of the questionnaire items so that those items found to be inadequate or vague were modified to improve the quality of the research instrument thus increasing its reliability. Data was analyzed descriptively by using SPSS (Statistical Packages for Social Sciences) Computer package. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically. Based on the findings, the major problems cited were delayed disbursement, political interference and unfair criteria of identifying beneficiaries with means of 4.50, 3.92 and 3.79 respectively. The respondents unanimously agreed that students who are orphans but with good academic record should be awarded the bursaries as supported with a mean of 4.80 and a standard deviation of 1.00 which implies that the responses coalesced around the same response without differing to a great extent. The main weaknesses indicated by respondents include: lack of Transparency and accountability in the management of CDF (mean 4.55 and standard deviation 1.050), Tribalism/Nepotism in selection of CDF committee members mean 4.50 and standard deviation 0.712 and uneven distribution of projects within the constituency mean 4.28 and standard deviation 1.003). Efforts should be made by the government to disburse the funds to constituency bursaries committee that which is enough to meet the growing demand as well as finance the beneficiaries. It is better to finance a few beneficiaries and give them enough funds than dividing the money tiny amount that is insignificant. Similarly, the government should allocate more funds to this project to improve its affordability in reducing the school fees balance.