

**INFLUENCE OF SINGLE PARENTHOOD ON PRESCHOOL CHILD
AGED 3-5 YEARS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN MUTYAMBUA any
MAKUENI COUNTY.**

By

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**A Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Award of Bachelor of Education Degree Mount Kenya University**

JUNE, 2015

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of single parenting on the performance of learners aged 3-5 years in Mutyambua zone, Makueni County. The study was guided by the following objectives; To analyze the role of parents in early childhood development and education, to investigate the effects of single parenting in early childhood development and education, to formulate some measures or solutions to alleviate problems faced by learner of single parenting and to explore the challenges of single parenting in early childhood development and education. Descriptive Survey method was used to determine the status of the problem Orodho (2005). This was because questions were asked in an interview and through questionnaires. The researcher targeted thirty pre-schools in Mutyambua zone. Ten schools were used as the sample population whereby five were public and five were private-owned centres. Ten teachers were used as the sample population to represent the schools. Learners in the sampled schools were also taken as a sampled population. Ten parents of the sampled schools were selected. The total target populations were 60 respondents. Cluster sampling was used to group the schools into two categories; public and private. After clustering the schools into two categories, random sampling was used to pick five schools from each cluster. The study concluded the following; The major reasons for dropouts from schools were socio economic factors. These included family socio-economic status, parents' educational background and place of residence among others. Many single parents live in slums where their children have no access to recreational facilities, health facilities and other necessities that would enable them to broaden horizons and gain better understanding of their world. Most single parents have low economic status hence unable to provide good health and nutrition to their children. Some of the problems faced while educating children in per-school included; lack of financial resources to cater for children playing material, having many children feeding them properly is a problematic, transport for the children are a problem forcing children to walk long distances to and from school. Children who could not afford school uniform due to financial constraints of their parents feel isolated. The enrolment numbers from single parenthood families is minimal as compared to both parent families. This can be attributed to frustration single parent go through in day to day experiences, the parenting style of single parents may affect their children. Some may not be concerned about their children and thus fail to monitor their attendance to school or even fail to take them to pre-school in due time. The study made the following recommendations: Teachers need to support the children from single parents In order to makes the children feel physically, psychologically and intellectually superior which will build their self-esteem and self-respect. Government should supplement school levies and feeding programme in order for single parents create time from their busy schedules to attend to their children Moreover, many single parents are busy trying to provide for their children and have time to play with their children or attend activities in ECDE such as sports day and that government and other stakeholders should explore into investing in facilitating teachers' in-service training, refresher courses and on-the-job-learning for teachers to enhance early childhood education.