

**ROLE OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENT IN QUALITY ASSURANCE AND
STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN WAJIR EAST
DISTRICT, KENYA**

ABDI AHMED DAGANE

MED/NRB/09/012

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND
ADMINISTRATION OF
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

DECEMBER 2011

ABSTRACT

The desire to provide quality education for all Kenyan children was one of the major objectives of the struggle for independence. Available evidence (Ofsted, 2005) however shows that some schools go for as long as two to three years without being inspected. Also, rarely do Heads of Departments supervise curriculum effectively in their departments. This has been the case in Wajir East district, with most schools going for as long as two years without the supervision of the Quality Assurance and Standards Department of the MoE. This study, therefore sought to investigate the role of Heads of Department in quality assurance and standards in public secondary schools in Wajir East district. This study was guided by Piaget's Theory of Cognitive Development advanced in 1964. Piaget's Theory emphasizes that effective curriculum supervision translates abstract concepts into concrete facts enhancing performance. The study employed a descriptive survey study. Purposive sampling was used to select 30% of the schools in the District. The schools were divided into strata's depending on the schools mean grade at the 2010 KCSE: those schools with more than 5.0 mean grade were categorized as "good academic performers" while those below 5.0 were categorized as "poor academic performers". The respondents for the study were Heads of Departments in the selected schools. Heads of Departments were sampled purposively in each school. Questionnaires were the main data collection instruments. Descriptive methods were employed and data presented in the form of frequency distribution tables and pie charts that facilitated description and explanation of the study findings. SPSS was used to generate frequency distribution tables. The findings were expected to provide schools in Wajir East District, Ministry of Educational Planners and KIE with a better understanding of the important role of HODs in quality assurance and standards supervision in public secondary schools. The impact of effective supervision of Quality Assurance and Standards in public secondary schools especially with a follow up by Heads of Departments was clarified.