

**CHILD LABOUR AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC SECONDARY
SCHOOLS; A CASE STUDY OF NUU DIVISION IN MWINGI EAST DISTRICT,
KITUI COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The research was conducted to investigate the prevalent problem of child labour in Nuu Division of Mwingi East District. The basic objective was to identify major types of child labour, their causes and suggest mechanisms set in place to mitigate the problem among school going children of the Division. The researcher formulated three research objectives and three questionnaires to solicit data from the field. Five questions helped in the designing of the questionnaire for teachers, child laborers, leaders and parents' secondary data from libraries, ILO/IPEC/research outcomes and internet sources were utilized. The results were analyzed, summarized and eventually presented using table, frequencies, percentages, charts and graph. From the research, it was evident that child labour is prevalent in the Division.

However, children of school going age work for variety of reason, the most important being poverty. Thus HIV/AIDS leading to orphans, traditional family size, peer influence, 2010/2011 famine and lack of current guidance and counseling on importance of education, were other reasons. Child labour practice makes children objects of extreme exploitation such as working for children development therefore, the practice must be curbed. Guided by the research findings, the government together with key stake holders should ensure that the provision in the Children Act (2001) for protection, case participation and development of the child are enforced for this ensures that the children get free and compulsory primary Education and individuals or organizations bent in violating children rights are dealt with single handedly. The government should assist the needy children families through poverty eradication plans and bursary be extended to them. A draft of child labour policy paper ought to be finalized to provide for institutional frame work to keep in pace, evaluate and coordinate aspect involving child labour. The teachers should be regularly in-serviced/trained on how to guide and counsel potential child labourers. Lastly, for us to win the ensuing battle against child labour, much more is needed to be accomplished and therefore all parties concerned need to work as a team.