

**ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF CO - CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ON
PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL KCPE PERFORMANCE IN KAKAMEGA EAST
SUB-COUNTY, KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT

Co-curricular activities are, a series of activities related with the school program, which help to bring out all round development of the pupils, outside the subjects for examination. Children today need knowledge, skills and personality. These three requisites are supposed to be provided by the school. The purpose of this study was to assess the effects of co-curricular activities on public primary school KCPE performance in Kakamega East Sub-County, Kenya. The study employed descriptive survey research design. The study population comprised of, 85 head teachers, 956 teachers, one District Quality Assurance and Standard Officer (DQASO) and one District Staffing Officer (DSO). A sample size consisting of 26 schools, 26 head teachers and 287 teachers participated in the study. The teachers were selected through simple random techniques while DQASO, DSO and Head teachers were selected by purposive sampling technique. The research instruments used were the questionnaire and the interview schedules. On validity of the instruments, the researcher used content validity while the test re-test method was used to test reliability. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics tools namely; regression analysis and the t-test. The results were presented in form of frequency counts and tables. The study findings show that there was a positive and direct association between sporting activities and KCPE performance among pupils in public primary schools in Kakamega East Sub-County. Inferential statistics do indicate that music and drama have a positive association on KCPE performance in public primary schools in Kakamega East Sub-County. The school factors had a negative and insignificant moderating influence on the relationship between co-curricular activities and KCPE performance in Kakamega East Sub-County. It was therefore concluded that sporting activities were found to influence KCPE performance; music and drama positively influence the KCPE performance and all the school factors with exception of school size had negative and significant effect on co-curricular activities and KCPE performance. Therefore, based on these conclusions, the following recommendations were made: the study proposes that the Ministry of Education should encourage all schools at all levels to participate in some type of co-curricular activity. The Ministry of Education should ensure provision of enough funds to buy adequate resources for Co-curricular activities in public primary schools and that the school management should take Co-curricular activities more serious and make sure they have qualified, enthusiastic personnel doing the coaching or advising in the area of Co-curricular activities. The findings of this study may be useful to the Ministry of Education, academicians and future researchers in improving educational performance through co-curricular activities.