

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO
POOR PERFORMANCE IN THE KENYA CERTIFICATE OF
PRIMARY EDUCATION (KCPE) IN PUBLIC DAY PRIMARY
SCHOOLS IN THARAKA ZONE OF MUMONI DISTRICT**

KITUI COUNTY

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**THIS IS A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO MOUNT
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ABSTRACT

In many parts of Kenya, poor performance in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.) has been attributed to factors such as; absenteeism of pupils from school, lack of facilities, lack of teacher motivation, understaffing and lack of role models. However these factors differ depending on the critical region under study as well as school. Performance in Tharaka zone has been dismal in the past five years. This study therefore endeavored to study the factors that are influencing performance in the schools of Tharaka Zone of Mumoni District Kitui County. More specifically, the purpose of this study is to analyze social, economic, cultural and factors impacting on performance in Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) in public primary schools in Tharaka Zone of Mumoni District of Kitui County. This study used a simple random sampling design to sample teachers and pupils in the area of study. The sample size for the schools was 10 out of the 23 schools in the Zone that is 2%. There are a total of about 250 pupils in the 10 primary schools. Therefore the sample size of the pupils was 25(10%). Since there are about 50 teachers, 50(10%) of the teachers in the Zone were sampled for the study. The data collected is analyzed using tables and charts. Most of the social, economic, cultural and factors considered significantly affected the performance of the pupils. They include early marriages, child labour, few teachers as compared to the number of children, enrolment levels and number of lessons handled by teachers. The study concluded that the factors impacting on the performance of the pupils in the primary schools can be alleviated by ensuring that awareness of the role each stakeholder needs to play in the primary education is made. The study hence recommends that the government through the ministry of education should ensure the necessary facilities are provided to public schools. The government should consider improving the staffing levels in the schools since it adversely affects performance. The study did not look into factors related to classroom instruction and how they affect performance, hence it is recommended that further studies need to be conducted on these factors to describe their interplay with the factors described here to affect performance. The entry behavior was also not considered in this study. Hence there is a need to carry out research to ascertain the role of entry behavior in influencing the performance of the pup. Due to long distances to learning institutions, there is need for establishment of new institutions in Tharaka zone so as to reduce the long distances with leads to late enrolment thus drop outs. There is need for awareness creation to both parents and children of Tharaka zone of Mumoni District of Kitui County on the need and importance of education. The study also recommends that there is need of curbing cultural and social practices that affect the performance of the Kenya certificate primary education of public day schools in Tharaka zone of Mumoni District of Kitui County for instance, F.G.M (female genital mutilation), early pregnancies, early marriages etc. It is of vital importance that both boys and girls be given equal opportunities to access education. The study has shown that girls in Tharaka zone do much domestic work whereas the boys have enough time to study.