

TITLE PAGE

**CHALLENGES ENCOURAGED BY LOW VISION LEARNERS DURING
THE TEACHING AND LEARNING IN AN INCLUSIVE SETTING IN
KATANGI ZONE OF YATTA DISTRICT.**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the challenges encountered by low vision learners during the teaching and learning in an inclusive setting in Katangi zone of Yatta district. The study particularly sought to investigate the challenges facing these learners and ways of helping them in Katangi zone of Yatta district. The study was conceived due to the fact that, the teachers, peers and even parents of such learners tend to think that these learners are good for nothing or they are a curse. The research was conducted through survey design, data being collected between August 012 to October 20th 2012 using questionnaires for teachers and interview schedule for both parents and learners. Target population was 25 teachers from 144 teachers, 5 schools out of 25 schools, 5 were teachers and 20 parents from 500 parents. The data was analyzed using tables and frequencies and percentages and presented using tables. The study established that the main causes of low vision in Katangi zone of Yatta district was cataract and other causes were genes and heredity, poor nutrition, disease, exposure to x-rays, miss-use of drugs, pre-mature birth, cord strangulation, accidents, under stimulation, poor hygiene and eye exposure to poisons.

The research found out that there were about 62.5% of learners with visual impairment. The research services included medical services, guidance and counseling, management of drugs and home training programmes. The research also indicated that the community has negative attitude towards learners with low vision, for instance 60% of the teachers accepted that they have a negative attitude. 15 % of parents accepted that they have negative attitude although 75% of learners had negative attitude. The study concludes that low vision learners are many in regular schools. Their problems can be rooted out or reduced by the collaboration of teachers, parents and the sighted peers, the government should train more teachers to assist these learners in the regular schools. Positive attitude should also institute in teachers, parents and the peers.

The study recommends that seminars and in-service courses should be offered to teachers to equip them with knowledge to assist low vision learners.

Parents should be sensitized through public Barazas sighted peers should be told to accept these learners and also the ministry of education should employ and post more teachers to the understaffed schools.