

**ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS OF LOW COST BOARDING PRIMARY
SCHOOLS IN ENHANCEMENT OF LEARNING ACHIEVEMENT IN
LAISAMIS SUB-COUNTY, MARSABIT COUNTY, KENYA**

GALGITHELE BAICHA ANDREW

MED/00/1122/06203

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE AWARD OF MASTER DEGREE OF
EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

OCTOBER 2014

ABSTRACT

Since Kenya's independence in 1963, districts situated in arid Kenya have continued to exhibit extensively lower access, participation, and completion and achievement rates (Sifuna 2005). Reaching marginalized groups with education provision has recently been recognized as an urgent global concern (UNESCO, 2010). Since the introduction of free and mandatory education in Kenya in 2003, the number of children who have enrolled in formal primary education has increased tremendously. However, the pastoralist areas have continuously recorded a much lower enrollment and completion rates as compared to the rest of the country. The solution offered to enhance school participation in arid districts has been boarding schools. The ministry has generally been consistent in supporting these schools. Thus the general objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of low cost boarding primary schools in enhancement of learning achievement in Laisamis District, Marsabit County in Kenya. The study adopted mixed method research methodology; this entailed both quantitative and qualitative method. This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of interest in this study was head teachers, teachers, parents and pupils of low cost boarding primary schools in Laisamis District, Marsabit County. Stratified sampling techniques and simple random sampling was used to come up with the sample for the study. The researcher sampled all low cost boarding primary schools in Laisamis District, Marsabit County. The researcher picked all the 6 head teachers. The researcher classified the teachers, pupils and parents into two stratus; lower primary school and upper primary school. Thus the researcher used stratified sampling to pick 4 teachers per school; 10 pupils per school; 4 parents per school on both lower and upper primary schools. The researcher randomly sampled 4 education officers in Laisamis District, Marsabit County. Thus the sample size was 118 respondents. The data collection instruments to be used were questionnaires. The qualitative data was analyzed thematically guided by the research questions while quantitative data was descriptively analyzed with aid of SPSS 17.0. Descriptive statistic such as means, standard deviation and frequency distribution was used to analyze the data. The researcher further carried out inferential statistics specifically regression analysis. The study established that variables such as feeding program, school infrastructure and stakeholders' perception and attitude influence learning achievement in low cost boarding primary schools. The study concluded that feeding program among school children contributes to students' participation in school and there is relationship between poor nutrition and school performance. Similarly quality of learning facilities available within an educational institution has positive relationship with the quality of teaching and student performance. The teaching staff have positive attitudes towards low cost boarding thus enhance academic performance and also encourages the students to enroll with the low cost boarding primary schools. The study recommends that more food programs should be introduces in low cost boarding primary schools to help stop malnutrition and absenteeism in school children. Similarly Schools should construct comfortable classrooms which enhance learning achievement of the students and ensure there is adequate provision of instructional resources that facilitate teachers' instructional task performance and students' learning outcomes. Finally, Parents are advised to support low cost boarding primary schools and the government should increase low cost boarding primary schools grants.