

**EFFECTS OF SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME ON PERFORMANCE
OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN MWINGI DSITRICT, KITUI
COUNTY,KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate on the effects of school feeding programme on performance of primary schools in Mwingi District, Kitui County. This study was guided by the following objectives; to investigate on the nature of school feeding programme on attendance and enrolment of primary school pupils, to determine the effects of school feeding programme on performance of primary school pupils and to explore the challenges affecting head teachers in the implementation of school feeding programme in Mwingi district. This study employed a descriptive research design for descriptive purposes. The target population included the head teachers, teachers, parents and cooks of public primary schools in Mwingi district. There are 37 public primary schools in Mwingi district and out of these only 20 schools were selected because of accessibility Simple random sampling was used to select one head teacher, 5 pupils, 2 cooks, two teachers and 2 parents from each school for interviews. The sample size was 240 respondents; the main tools of data collection for study were questionnaires, interviews, schedules and also observation checklists. The purpose of the pilot study was to enable the researcher to ascertain the validity and reliability of the instruments. The descriptive statistics was invaluable as a statistical tool for data analysis by describing data in such a way to portray the typical respondents and to reveal the general pattern of responses. The statistics were generated with aid of computer software, Microsoft excel for the purpose of communicating effectively to the ultimate users. The findings were presented using both graphical and tabular presentations such as the pie charts, histograms, line graphs and bar charts, during the research the social, economic, political and cultural information of Mwingi district, Kitui county were held with a lot of care. The study found out that schools meals are a good way to channel imperative nourishment to the pupils which in turn helps promote the children's' performance. This was realized as good performance was reflected in schools with the feeding programme compared to schools without it. The study also concluded that the programme improved the enrolment and attendance of pupils in public schools of Mwingi district. The study recommended that all the primary public schools in Mwingi district to implement a feeding programme to promote and facilitate the expected performance of the pupils.