

**STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION AND MANAGEMENT OF EARLY
CHILDHOOD CENTRES IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN CHUKA
DIVISION MERU SOUTH DISTRICT, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

This study was based on stakeholder's participation in management of Early Childhood Development Centres that are attached to public primary schools. Early childhood education is important because it provides the foundation for learning and the acquisition of basic attitudes. The objective of this study was to establish how stakeholder's participation affects the management of Early Childhood Centres in public primary schools in Chuka Division in Meru South District. The proposal reviews the literature of other studies that have been done in the past that are related to this study. The study looked into the importance of embracing ECD within government's policy and legislative framework. The project also reviews on other areas such as Educational Management, leadership styles, Early Childhood teaching certification, financing Education and community participation. The study used a descriptive research design by use of questionnaires. Qualitative and quantitative methodologies were employed. The research instruments were administered to a sample size of 99 respondents selected by both stratified and purposive methods of sampling. Validity and reliability of the instruments was determined through piloting where 10 members of the sample size were used. The researcher compiled the data, manipulated it and used the results to draw charts to present data. The researcher used descriptive statistics such as tables, frequencies and percentages to analyze the data. The results obtained indicate that; the management of the ECDE centres is effective, the people who manage the ECDE centres are qualified to manage, and the resources for the ECDE centres are well managed. However the headteachers were found to be facing some difficulties in management of ECD centres due to lack of training on issues pertaining to management of ECDE. The community is usually being involved in the decision making process. The study further established that; funding affects the timely provision of teaching and learning materials and delayed disbursement of government grants leads to delayed acquisition of teaching aids. The study established that; the school management committees are involved in the management of the ECDE, the SMC's are involved in the decision making for the ECDE centres, and that the SMCs do the monitoring of the ECDE centres. The study concludes that the headteachers lacked training on requirements and management of the ECDE centres the community was being involved in the management of the ECDE centres and that the funding was poor in the ECDE centres and it resulted to making the management of the ECDE centre, difficult. The study recommends that the headteachers heading the primary schools with ECDE centres, should be taken for training on the management of ECDE centres the government through the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) should employ more teachers and deploy them to the specified centres and that the grants provided by the government for the ECDE should be increased and availed on time.