

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHALLENGES AFFECTING ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE OF ORPHANED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN
KEERA ZONE, NYAMIRA COUNTY.**

ZIPPORAH KERUBO MASIMBA

REG. NO. E35S110|02321

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE IN BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
OF MT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

SEPTEMBER 2013

ABSTRACT

Orphaned children in primary school undergo various social, psychological and economic challenges. These challenges have been found to affect their academic performance. The purpose of this study was to investigate challenges affecting academic performance of orphaned children in public primary schools in Keera zone, Nyamira County. This was a descriptive cross-sectional study involving 5 headteachers and 5 teachers from 5 primary schools. The schools were selected randomly whereas research participants were purposively selected. Data collection tools included open ended interview schedules. Raw data was analyzed manually for emergent themes. It was found that most of the orphans in the zone live in poverty, therefore they lack some of the basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing. They also lack learning materials like text books, exercise books and pens. In some schools, orphaned pupils face discrimination and stigma. Some orphans also lacked proper social support mechanisms especially guidance and counseling, this was found to affect academic performance of the pupils. It is recommended that caregivers of orphans be empowered economically so as to provide for the basic needs of the pupils. Teachers and caregivers should also establish psychosocial support mechanisms such as guidance and counseling, so as to improve academic performance of the pupils.