

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS AFFECTING ACADEMIC  
PERFORMANCE IN KCPE IN RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN  
MATHIRA EAST DISTRICT, NYERI COUNTY**

**Kibuchi James Kinyua**

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## ABSTRACT

This study sought to assess the factors affecting academic performance in KCPE in rural primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County. This study was guided by the objectives like to identify the influence of gender on academic performance in rural primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County, to identify the influence of incentives on academic performance in rural primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County, to establish how availability of resources influence academic performance in rural primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County and to establish the influence of school management on academic performance in rural primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County. In this research both qualitative and quantitative research paradigms were used. The research design which was adopted in conducting this study was descriptive survey. To select the 5 schools out of the 15 schools in the County, probability sampling was used. The reason for this was that each unit in the population would have an equal chance of being studied. Still, the researcher was able to generalize to the larger population and make inferences, thus its appropriateness for the study. In this study, the researcher used a questionnaire, structured interview guide and checklists to get data. The data obtained from the questionnaires and interviews was compared and interpreted. The data was checked for extremes such as consensus responses to disagree or agree with them. The data was then coded so as to allow for statistical analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to answer the research questions and objectives in relation to the research questions. The data was then analyzed using the Microsoft Excel Package. The results from the data analysis were interpreted, inferences made and presented descriptively using frequency Tables. The study found that gender seemed to affect K.C.P.E academic performance in all public primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County. The boys had an upper hand in academic performance. It was also found that of the different types of incentives given, token (money) seemed to influence K.C.P.E academic performance in a greater way than all the other incentives. It was however not practiced in many schools. The study also established that K.C.P.E academic performance was directly linked to availability of resources. Both human and physical resources had a direct influence on the performance. More resources meant better academic performance. Most schools had adequate physical resources while their human resources were wanting. Lastly, through the study, it was found that school management influenced the K.C.P.E academic performance in public primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County. More SMC and PTA meetings meant synergy in the school affairs which trickled down to the students' performance.

The following recommendations were made from the study:

1. All the education stakeholders should address the discrepancy in K.C.P.E academic performance in primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County.

This should seek to ensure that factors contributing to poor performance among the girls are adequately addressed.

2. Although one may argue that providing incentives is tantamount to bribing the students, the schools should ensure that incentives are offered to the students and teachers to motivate them. Token should be more embraced for it had the best results.

3. The government should ensure that public primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County are adequately equipped with resources so as to improve academic performance in the area. Greater emphasis should be on the human resources.

4. All public primary schools in Mathira East District, Nyeri County should encourage more SMC and PTA meetings in a year so as to create synergy in the schools and consequently improve academic performance in the schools.