

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE  
PERFORMANCE OF KENYAN JUDICIARY: A CASE OF MAGISTRATES COURTS IN  
KITUI COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this research study was to assess the influence of corporate social responsibility in the performance of magistrate courts in Kitui County. The study had three specific objectives namely; to determine the effect of paupers' suits expenses by the court on performance of magistrate courts in Kitui County, to establish the effect of witness expenses by the court on performance of magistrate court in Kitui County and finally to establish the effect of moderating factors on the relationship between corporate social responsibility and performance of magistrate courts in Kitui County. The target population was 163 comprising of all the heads of court stations, Executive officers, customer care officers and location chiefs in Kitui County. A descriptive correlational survey research design was adopted for the study and utilized the key informant method in data collection. Both primary and secondary were used in this study. Primary data was collected through the use of key informant method and a self-administered questionnaire. Secondary data on the other hand, was obtained from the already written literature which was used to cross-validate and check the consistency of the questionnaire responses. The study variables were measured using both the ordinal scale and summated scale (likert-type scale) because these scales not only have more informational value but they come handy with respondent centered studies. The questionnaire was pre-tested on pilot respondents who did not form part of the study respondents but knowledgeable in the study aspects in order to ensure their validity and relevance. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to measure the reliability of the scale. The data collection instruments were administered to all the respondents in Kitui County. After the data was collected, the researcher edited them to ensure their completeness and consistency, Coding and classification then followed to ensure sufficient analysis. The data was then entered and analyzed by simple descriptive analysis using statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) version twenty to generate cumulative frequencies and percentages. The data was then analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The regression results shows that the magistrate courts' largely depends on the CSR with 41.1 percent of their performance being explained by CSR ( $R^2 = 0.411$ ). The study was based on the premise that corporate social responsibility influence performance of magistrate courts but this influence is moderated by three main moderating factors. The study results supported this premise in that corporate social responsibility was found to significantly and positively influence the performance of magistrate courts in Kitui County. There is need for magistrate courts in Kitui County to employ CSR in their operations as this improves their level of their performance. This is mainly because the study found out that performance of magistrate courts in Kitui County was dependent on the corporate social responsibility.