

**THE INFLUENCE OF POVERTY ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CASE OF ITHANGA ZONE IN THIKA EAST
SUB-COUNTY OF KIAMBU COUNTY.**

MWANGI JANET WANGECHI

E37S111/06910

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUB-MITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL
STUDIES AND MANAGEMENT MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
IN SCIENCE DEGREE.**

OCTOBER 2014

ABSTRACT.

Access to education was one of the important basic human rights in all societies .In Kenya, the provision of education had been one of the most critical issues of government social policy especially since after independence in 1963.Poverty had however remained a stumbling block for most people to attain the basic right .This study seek to investigate the influence of poverty on academic achievement of secondary school students in Ithanga zone in Thika East sub county of Kiambu county. The objectives of the research study were to identify the causes of poverty among secondary students in Ithanga zone of Thika East sub county ,explore the types poverty encountered by secondary school students in Ithanga Zone of Thika East sub county ,determine the effects of poverty on academic achievement of students in secondary schools in Ithanga zone of Thika East sub county to find out the intervention measures undertaken to improve the academic performance of poverty stricken students in Ithanga zone in Thika East Sub county of Kiambu county .The methodology guiding This study was a case study. Descriptive survey design was used to chose the sample population. The target population in the study were 840 secondary students, 7 secondary school principals, 42 secondary school teachers and 7 PTA parents representative. The researcher sampled 40% of the target population .Random sampling procedure was used to get members of the sample. Questionnaires and interviews were the instruments were used in the data collection from the respondents. The raw data collected was analyzed and presented using frequency and percentage tables, graphs and pie charts. From the data finding obtained the researcher drew the following conclusions .From the data findings obtained ,the researcher drew the following conclusions Most of the respondents sampled were male by gender .Male gender was presented by 57% .On the marital status of the respondents , most of the respondents were married .From the data findings obtained on the causes of poverty among secondary school students in Ithanga zone ,Large family size was the main cause of poverty among secondary school students as it was mostly reported by the respondents . From the data finding on the types of poverty encountered by secondary school students in Ithanga zone , absolute poverty was the main type of poverty encountered by secondary school students in Ithanga . From the data finding obtained on the effects of poverty among secondary students in Ithanga zone, the researcher concluded that poverty made secondary school to perform poorly in their academic tasks From findings on the intervention measures undertaken in secondary school to assist students to improve academically, the researcher concluded that the schools were applying bursaries for poverty stricken students and initiating school feeding programs in their schools

. The researcher had recommended the following .The Teacher Service Commission (TSC) should ensure gender balance in their secondary school teachers' recruitment to ensure gender The parents should ensure small family size which they can manage .This was so because large family size was found to be the major cause of poverty among secondary school students in Ithanga zone .Both parents should involve themselves in an income themselves in an income generating activities to ensure that the family get basic human needs such as food, clothes and shelter .All secondary schools should initiate school feeding programs in order to retain poverty stricken students in schools and This would motivate these students and as a result these students from poverty affected family perform better .All secondary school parents in the entire Ithanga zone should partner with the secondary school administration in the provision of school feeding programs in schools as an intervention measure for assisting poverty stricken students in improving their academic performance. Secondary school principals should minimize sending off students home for school fees as chronic absenteeism of students from schools affect their performance negatively .This was so because students from poverty stricken homes were found to be out of school frequently due to lack of school fees. The area member of parliament (MP) should fund the needy students through the constituency development fund (CDF) to make them realize their dreams