

**AN INVESTIGATION OF PERSONAL TRAITS OF AN EFFECTIVE TEACHER AS
PERCEIVED BY STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
GATUNGU SOUTH, KIAMBU COUNTY.**

BY

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Abstract

There are numerous studies carried out to resituate traits of an effective teacher. To be an effective teacher one must have deep content knowledge, organizational management and communication skills, being able to organize instructions and providing relevant assessment and fair evaluations. In addition, an effective teacher is responsible for creating a warm classroom climate to promote enthusiasm, motivation and interactive teacher-student relationship. Also, these studies imply an effective teacher is caring and understandable since these traits enhance learning. When asked what qualities constitute an effective teacher, most learners and teachers fail to agree on their ratings. Therefore, this study investigated personal traits of an effective teacher as perceived by students and parents from selected public secondary schools in Gatundu South, Kiambu County. The study applied a survey research design to population of 31 public secondary schools. Using Stratified Random Sampling, a sample of 90 high students and 40 parents was randomly selected from these schools. Data was collected using questionnaires and face to face interview with the respondents. Data was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. Data collected was presented using tables and frequencies. The data analysis revealed that in terms of teacher traits, both students and teachers said an effective teacher was one who encouraged students. In terms of classroom behavior, both the students and teachers chose preparation for lessons as the most important classroom behavior an effective teacher must possess. From the parents' interviews on traits, parents chose one who was knowledgeable but the girls in the study preferred a teacher who is approachable, while boys preferred one who was kind and loving. One classroom behavior, parents accentuate an effective teacher was one who was prepared for lessons, female students preferred one who explained concepts articulately while the males students preferred a teacher who presented information in an interesting manner.