

**AN INVESTIGATION OF INFLUENCE OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT ON
PRESCHOOL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN TIGANIA WEST DISTRICT, MERU
COUNTY**

JOSEPH KINYUA GITONGA

NUC/MECD/012/00006

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION IN
EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

NOVEMBER, 2014

ABSTRACT

This research project is dealing with how school environment influence academic achievement of ECDE learners in public preschools in Tigania West District. The study found out the school environmental conditions that are present and their effects to learners in process of learning in public preschool. The researcher was guided by research objectives which focused on how lack of healthy school environment influence academic achievement, influence of hygienic practices on preschool academic performance, the impact of poverty on provision of healthy school environment and effects of health practices on learners academic achievement. The researcher reviewed the related literature to school healthy environment on preschool academic achievement following research objectives from international to regional to national and local perspectives which was got from books and other sources. The theoretical and empirical review was done in reference to what other studies and theories have reviewed about school environment. For systematic and organized process of conducting this research the researcher applied survey as the research design which involved both qualitative and quantitative approaches of data analysis. The sample was got from the targeted population using systematic sampling technique, simple random sampling technique and purposeful sampling technique to sample from a population of ECDE centers, learners, teachers, nurses and education officers. The researcher used different research instruments suitable for each group of respondents which included questionnaires and interview guides. The instruments were piloted and prepared following research objectives after being critiqued by the research experts who ensured their reliability and validity. The raw data collected was analyzed and presented using statistical analysis and numerical value. The statistical analysis involved tables and inferential statistics. The findings indicates that there is significant relationship between poverty and academic achievement, there was a significant interaction effect between family poverty and parental discussion associated with reading scores and there is significant relationship between hygienic practices and academic achievements in terms of providing enough Clean water, hand washing facilities and educating Parents and health practitioners. The researcher recommends that in order to improve ECDE learner's academic achievement efforts must be made to improve the public preschool's environment to make it conducive and child friendly. This is the role of the government, the school management and the parents where each one of them plays their intended roles. A further research must be carried out to fill in the gaps that are begging for answers such as investigating the roles of parents and guardians in preschool academic achievement, the determinants of performance in public preschools among other gaps. It was concluded that school environment greatly influence learner's academic achievement. This was so because where the school environment was good and conducive for learning the learners performed better than in poor environment which was not conducive for learning.