

**EFFECTS OF FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION ON ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS: A SURVEY OF
KHWISERO SUB COUNTY KAKAMEGA COUNTY.**

BY

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of free primary education on performance in KCPE Examinations in public primary schools in Kenya, particularly Khwisero sub county Kakamega County. The study was guided by the following objectives: To find out whether the government provided materials are adequate, to find out whether free primary education has negatively affected the teacher learner relationship due to increased enrolment, to find out whether the attitude of the teachers, learners and parents towards free education affects academic performance and to determine if the public schools learning environment affects performance and programs in public primary schools especially in national examinations. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used to collect data while adapting a descriptive survey design. Data was collected from a target population of 50 respondents. 3 head teachers, 12 teachers, 10 parents, 3 religious leaders, 2 local leaders and 20 learners. Census was used to sample the population which was later stratified into three strata. The study used probability and non probability procedures to get the sample size. Schools were randomly selected before finally settling on one, Eshiakhondo primary school in Khwisero Sub County. Questionnaires and interview schedules were used to collect data. Validity of the research instruments was determined by a pilot study while reliability was ensured through test retest method. Data was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively and presented in form of tables, graphs and pie-charts. The main findings of the study were that free primary education came with increased enrolment which negatively affected the teacher learner relationship due to the increased teacher learner ratio that reduced the contact hindering effective delivery of content and follow-up by the teachers and learners. The government provided materials also came across as inadequate as the ratio of sharing especially books was too high and the rate of replacement very low over the years. Major recommendations were; the government should hire more teachers to curb the increased school enrollment to ensure teachers handle smaller classes and the teacher learner ratio be maintained at 1:50 as recommended. It was also recommended that parents and guardians be encouraged to take a more active role and supplement the government provided materials and pay some levies to ensure smooth running of the school programs.