

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO LOW ENROLMENT OF
ORPHANED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN
KIRAMWOK ZONE, BOMET DISTRICT BOMET
COUNTY.**

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Abstract

The study looked into the causes contributing to low enrolment of orphaned children in public primary schools in Kiramwok zone Bomet district Bomet County. In the study the researcher used quantitative approach for collecting data. Questionnaire guide played a crucial role in data collection containing several question to be answered by teachers schools selected in the zone. The researcher organized the data in tables showing various responses then he showed responses by tallying and worked out the percentage. The research had the following question to work on during his research e.g. what was the number of orphaned children in regular school in Kiramwok zone? What are the support services given to the orphaned children in regular schools in Kiramwok zone? What is the attitude of teachers and learners toward orphaned children learners? What I the general academic performance of the orphaned children learners in regular schools in Kiramwok zone? What is the present level trained personnel in special needs education? Are there guidance and counseling units in schools in Kiramwok zone? The study establishes that poverty, diseases and hunger causes the orphaned children to run away from school and becoming child laborers, beggars and prostitutes. The researcher recommends that guiding and counseling is one of the crucial intervention strategies one should apply to orphaned children for them appreciate themselves and improve their self esteem.

NGO and community based organizations (CBO), with support of CARE-Children, African Canadian Continuing Education Society (ACCESS) and Commonwealth Education Fund in Kakamega, have developed an alternative curriculum, which targets people under special circumstances like the average learners, orphan and street children to equip them with enough skills to enable them to join formal schools as well as cope with life outside school. For the move to be fruitful, the government should spearhead it.

Culture still plays a major role in many rural communities of Kenya. Issues such as early marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM) still affect families and need to be addressed urgently. Drugs have contributed in the past to indiscipline and school drop out. Government initiative has not been quite successful. Community support besides the extended family, communities play an important role in caring for AIDS orphans. In Kiramwork Zone Bomet, friends and neighbors should assist orphans with food, clothing, shelter, and educational needs. Children and adults in all the nine districts cited the mistreatment and exploitation of orphans by relatives, friends, and neighbors as a problem that orphans face. There is need to address these views and misconceptions so that orphans from these groups can be accepted and cared for. The

researcher also advises the government to train the teachers, school staff , and the community at large in order to curb stigmatization among the orphaned children and help them to have a successful life and self-esteem .