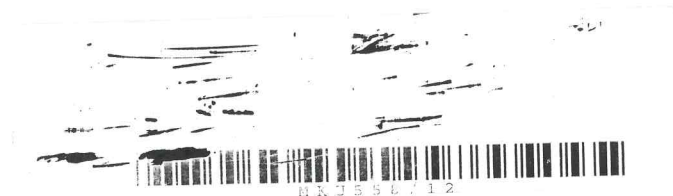


**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHOICE OF PHYSICS BY GIRLS IN THE
PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF KYUSO DISTRICT, KENYA**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
DEGREE OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**



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ABSTRACT

The study was mainly on the factors influencing the choice of Physics by girls in the public secondary schools of Kyuso district, Kenya. The study had four objectives: To determine the influence of school related factors on girls participation in Physics in the public secondary schools of Kyuso district, to investigate the influence of students' related factors on choice of Physics by girls, to investigate the influence of school administration on girls' participation in Physics and to find out how teacher related factors influence girls choice of Physics in the public secondary schools of Kyuso district. The literature review focused on curriculum changes in Kenya since independence, girls aspirations in schools, teacher related factors influencing choice of Physics, Physics related factors and role of administration, choice of electives in schools, theoretical frame work, conceptual frame work and summary of the literature review. Descriptive survey design was used and 34 respondents participated in the study; Physics heads and career teachers of 17 public secondary schools in Kyuso District. Findings revealed that inadequate teaching equipment and inadequate relevant textbooks of Physics are some of the school related factors that influence choice of Physics by girls. Students related factors that influence choice of Physics by girls are perceptions that Physics is difficult, and lack of confidence in handling Physics practical and experiments by girls. Findings also revealed that lack of financing to attend Physics in-service, lack of motivation policy for good students' grades in Physics and inadequate curriculum supervision also influence choice of Physics yet this is the role of school administration. It was found out that teachers failed to guide students when taking electives and also Physics teachers decided on the students who take Physics. The study recommended that enough equipment should be acquired and also relevant Physics textbooks should be availed for use by students. It was also recommended that Physics KCSE examiners should be engaged to talk to the students about Physics performance and do away with the perception that Physics is a difficult subject.

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