

**INVESTIGATING FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO POOR  
PERFORMANCE IN PHYSICS IN KCSE BY STUDENTS IN  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF KATHONZWENI DISTRICT;  
MAKUENI COUNTY**

**JUSTUS MUTUKU MUINDI**

**BEDS/000513/112/10635**

**A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION (SCIENCE) OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

**MARCH, 2015**

## **ABSTRACT**

Performance in Physics by students has persistently been poor. This study sought to investigate the factors contributing to the poor performance and to establish the strategies that can be adopted to improve performance in Physics by students in secondary schools in Makueni County in Kenya. The study determined the school based factors that affect students' performance in Physics in secondary schools, socio-cultural factors that affect them and their personal factors that affect performance in Physics, and established the strategies that can be adopted to improve performance in Physics. Descriptive survey research design will be adopted for the study. The study was carried out in four selected secondary schools of Kathonzi District which has a total of 14 secondary schools. The target population was 96 respondents which comprised of 80 secondary school Physics students, 4 head of Science Department, 8 Physics teachers and 4 head teachers. The population was sampled using the stratified sampling technique so that all categories of schools will be included in the study and then proportionately sampled. The data for the research was collected by use of three questionnaires; student, teachers and head teachers questionnaires. Data collected was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (S.P.S.S) and then presented in form of frequency tables and percentages. It was anticipated that the findings of this study will give curriculum developers new insights into emerging issues on performance and influence the Ministry of Education on policy formulation. Students were also expected to benefit from the findings; because improved Physics performance will give them opportunities to pursue science related courses in higher institutions of learning and middle level colleges.