

**THE CONSTRAINTS FACED BY PUBLIC DAY
SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MAGUMONI DIVISION
MERU-SOUTH DISTRICT, THARAKA NITHI COUNTY**

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**A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED TO SCHOOL OF
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ABSTRACT

The Government of Kenya since independence has attempted to provide basic education to all in the endeavor to solve problems of illiteracy and ignorance with some degree of success. The International Labour Organisation mission to Kenya in 1972 recommended universal and free education of 8 to 9 years. In 1974 the Government of Kenya tried to implement this recommendation but later the programme was dropped. With attaining power in 2002, the NARC government introduced Free Primary Education (FPE) in 2003. The introduction of FPE increased the number of pupils completing the first cycle of 8.4.4 system of education compared to earlier years. Prior to introduction of free primary education, the wastage rate among the standard eight pupils was high, yet many students wanted to pursue high education. The inception of day secondary schools in Magumoni Division is a new practice that is picking up to dilute the problem of wastage. The study adopted a descriptive survey design to study the problem faced by day secondary schools in Magumoni Division – Meru South District in an attempt to solve wastage among standard eight pupils. The study utilized questionnaires, interview and observation schedules as research instruments. The target population comprised 1350 students of the 13 day secondary schools in the division, 13 head teachers, 70 teachers and 119 members of board of governors. The researcher used cluster random and purposive sampling to select 10% of the 1350 students, 40% of the 13 head teachers, 40% of the 70 teachers and 40% of the 119 members of the board of governors. Data were analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The results were presented in tables of frequency distributions and percentages. The findings revealed that the fee paid by day secondary students is affordable by majority of poor parents/guardians. The study also found that the government and other stakeholders have not addressed drug abuse so as to curb school dropout, truancy, absenteeism and to cater for the influx caused by the introduction of free primary education. Other findings include inadequate learning and teaching equipment, pregnancy, indiscipline and shortage of funds to run the schools. The study concluded that day schools are faced with myriad problems ranging from teaching staff shortage and wastage.