

Absenteeism and its Effects on Performance of Pre -
School Children, Ndumberi Zone in Kiambu County

Roseline Njeri Mbugua

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ABSTRACT

This research was to study the effects of absenteeism on the performance of children aged 4-5 years in ECDE. This problem was leading to poor performance. According to Pamela Minett (1994) children whether they are fast learners or slow learners learn more quickly and make better progress when the learning process is an enjoyable experience, where they are provided with relevant books and materials. Absenteeism was a clear indication that children are not enjoying schooling and education at large. The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative research design. Six schools were selected out of twenty. The researcher used random sampling where all the participants had equal chances to be selected. The population was four hundred pre-school children aged 4-5 years. The researcher obtains information from six head teachers and twelve pre-school teachers. Data was collected using observation and questionnaire for head teachers and pre-school teachers. Data collected is analyzed using tables, pie-chart, percentages and bar graph as is found appropriate. Quantitative data was analyzed using S.P.S.S. (Statistical Package for Social sciences) software programme. The data was then used to compute statistical measures of central tendency. Frequency Tables were used to present the data. The research revealed that absenteeism is making the learners demoralized to learn thereby affecting their academic performances. Hence, the researcher recommend among others the sensitizing of the parents and initiating of school feeding as some of the ways to encourage daily attendance into the ECDE centers. The researcher used electronic calculator to find calculations and percentage she then presents the data using tables and graphs as seen appropriate. According to Gay (1989). It is concludes that absenteeism is a major problem affecting the performance in pre-schools. The researcher recommends that children should be with adequate support like feeding programme and parents should be sensitizes on the importance of early education.