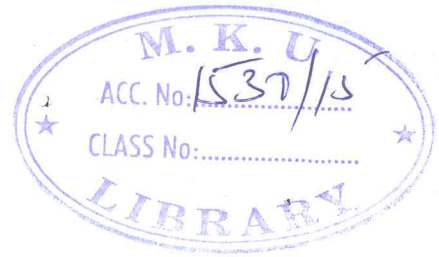


**FACTORS INFLUENCING STUDENTS IN THEIR CHOICES OF  
OPTIONAL SUBJECTS: A CASE OF FORM TWO STUDENTS IN  
PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN IGEMBE SOUTH, MERU  
COUNTY, KENYA**



**By**

**MERCY MWENDWA MUTUA**

**BEDA/111/01058**

**A Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Award of Bachelor of Education (Arts) Degree of Mount Kenya University**

**OCTOBER, 2014**

## ABSTRACT

Secondary School Education in Kenya is designed to enable the youth to play an effective role in the life of the nation by impacting to them the necessary skills and knowledge and inculcating the right attitudes. Choice of subjects is a common feature of each national curriculum. This study is concerned with factors influencing the choice of optional subjects in secondary schools in Igembe South Division. This report also suggests great disparities exist between male and female in subject choice. It is in view of this, that this study sought to find out the factors that influence form two students in their choices of optional subjects. The study aimed at investigating the role played by the school curriculum, gender differences, school quality and practice, subject teachers, family background, career aspirations, economic status of guardians and learners on the choices of optional subjects. The design that was used for this study is Ex-post facto design. The research was carried out in Igembe South Division of Meru South District to find out the factors that influence students in their choices of optional subject. The district has 62 secondary schools of which 5 are private. Igembe South division has 20 registered public secondary schools. The target population for this study included the 20 public secondary schools in Igembe South Division, Meru-south district. A total number of 200 male and female form three students were sampled from the 6 public schools. The questionnaire items and design was arrived at after extensive review of literature on the problem topic. The questionnaires was administered personally by the researcher to the respondents to ensure full and

prompt responses. Information collected was treated with confidentiality. For the qualitative data, patterns or themes were identified while the quantitative data was analysed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. The data was processed using statistical package for social science (SPSS) and given in frequency tables and percentages. The study established that students get information about the importance of studying various subjects from different people. the study found out there is a relationship between the type of school and subjects offered to students this was as a result of that the schools that were more improved had better facilities various schools levels affected the studies of the respondents as there was evidence to confirm that schools. The study established that the masculine image of males and females as presented by science in schools made it particularly difficult choice for adolescent girls to venture in the science field and boys had an advantage because of their masculine nature when it comes to the science related fields. The study revealed that well educated guardians were able to advise their students appropriately regarding the choosing of the optional subjects. The study revealed that the students had different career choices and they were choosing different subjects which would suit them in their future careers.