

**SOCIO - ECONOMIC STATUS AND UNIVERSAL FREE
PRIMARY EDUCATION, A CASE STUDY OF KIAMBERE
PRIMARY SCHOOL, MBEERE DISTRICT**

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD
OF DIPLOMA IN TEACHER EDUCATION MT KENYA
UNIVERSITY**

September 2012

ABSTRACT

The study on-lines how the Kenyan Government has endeavored since Independence to provide a more accessible education for national development and modernization. The main purpose of the research was to determine how socio-economic issues of house hold impact on free education. This study mainly focused on the socio-economic factors of households, which affect the implementation of Universal Free Primary Education in Mbeere District-Kenya. The research was done in Kiambere Primary School, Gachoka Division of Mbeere District.

The literature review outlined how several commissions and recommendations on the implementation of free primary education and how poverty impacts negatively on the implementation of the free primary education. Several efforts by the government in 1974 and 2003 have been to implement free primary education ironically, several problems have contributed to low participation of pupils in this program and have ended up defeating the efforts of the government, on of the biggest being the level of socio-economic house holdings and poverty.

The main theme of the study was how these problems have affected the participation of pupils in learning activities. How often do pupils absent from school due to poverty related problems and how socio-economic background affects the performance; the pupils and in turn affect the implementation of free primary education.

The research adopted a descriptive survey method to investigate the existing condition in the primary school. The research instruments included the questionnaires, observation guide.