

**FACTORS LEADING TO POOR PERFORMANCE OF
STUDENTS IN MATHEMATICS IN PUBLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN RARIEDA SUB-COUNTY,
SIAYA COUNTY**

BY

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BEDS/000513/2122/12111

**A Research Project Submitted In Partial Fulfillment of The
Requirements For The Award of A Degree of Bachelor of Education
of Mt. Kenya University**

APRIL 2015

ABSTRACT

The performance of students in Mathematics in KCSE has been generally poor as compared to other subjects in Kenya and in particular Rarieda Sub-County. The importance of a National Examination cannot be underestimated in academic development, but students taking Mathematics as a subject of study posts results which are always dismal. This study was initiated to find out the factors that lead to students' poor performance in Mathematics in the Rarieda Sub-County. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design to establish the factors that lead to students' poor performance. This study was carried out in Rarieda Sub-County, Siaya County, which has a total of 24 public day secondary schools. This study targeted a population of 300 respondents. This population was sampled using both the random sampling technique and purposive so that all categories of schools in the sub county were included in the study and then proportionately sampled to give equal chances of respondents. The population of this study include: 1 D.E.O, 24 Principals, 24 Heads of Departments (Mathematics), 24 teachers teaching Mathematics and 343 form four students taking Mathematics in Rarieda Sub-County. The sample size of the study was composed of 1 D.E.O, 5 public secondary schools, 5 Principal's, 5 Heads of Department (Mathematics), 10 teachers teaching Mathematics and 35 form four students taking Mathematics who were purposively selected to give a total of 60 respondents from 24 public secondary schools. Research instruments used were questionnaires, interview schedule and observation schedules. This study was based on the contemporary organization theory which states that "all systems are characterized by an assemblage or combination of parts whose function is interdependent." The objectives were to: determine significant factors leading to poor performance in Mathematics including the adequacy and management of physical and material resources, attitude of students and teachers towards learning and teaching of Mathematics and supervision and curriculum implementation. The study is significant as its findings will be used by education policy makers and pre-service training of Mathematics teachers so as to equip them with more skills to help improve the dismal performance in Mathematics in Rarieda sub-county. The content validity was tested. Test-retest method was used to test the reliability of the instruments. It is expected that the findings of this study will improve the performance in Mathematics by students in public secondary schools in Rarieda Sub-County. While the study of Mathematics will certainly have a direct relevance to careers such as Land Surveying, Economics, Technology, Engineering and Medicine, the importance of Mathematics lies in the number of basic skills it provides which graduates can 'market'. More and more Mathematics graduates are now finding themselves in jobs that include banking, advertising, the media, business management and the armed forces hence the need to improve performance in Mathematics in the sub county. The study found out that teaching and learning resources have a great influence on the performance of students in Mathematics in public day secondary schools in Rarieda Sub-County. All the schools under study did not have Mathematics resource rooms.