

**EFFECTS OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN
LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KAJUKI ZONE, THARAKA NITHI COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The researcher intention was to investigate the effects of communicable diseases on public school going children, their consequences and effects on the pupils and the society at large and the measures undertaken to control the rate of spread of the diseases. The purpose of this study was to highlight the factors leading to high rate of communicable diseases spread; to the concerned stakeholders in education sector and the scholars who may desire to carry out further studies on the same phenomenon. The study also helped the government and other stakeholders of education in collaboration with other discipline related to education in formulation of policies that guided and improve the situation of infection illness in Kenyan schools. The research was carried out in all the public primary schools in Kajuki Zone, Meru South County. The researcher was guided by objectives such as, to investigate the effects of communicable diseases on academic performance of pupils, to investigate the level of knowledge on communicable diseases by teachers in, to determine measures to counter communicable diseases in different schools in the study area. During the study the researcher applied the cumulative risk model.

The study was based on cumulative risk model which states that the multi-determined nature of academic achievement is such that no one factor, such as access to health care or health status, may be identified as causing or preventing academic success. The study adopted descriptive research design which involves systematic collection of data by means of questionnaires and interview questions. Later the data was analyzed to give a report of the study as it existed from the reality. The sample consisted of 22 public primary schools in Kajuki Zone.. The researcher got a sample through random selection depending on the location of the school. Questionnaires and interview as data collection instruments were administered to students and teachers in the selected schools. Once the data was collected it was analyzed by use of tables and figures. This consisted of return rates of distributed questions and responses from interviews that were conducted. It includes the answers given as the causes of communicable diseases which were poor sanitation overcrowding in classrooms, poverty which leads to poor medical access among others. The researcher gave the summary of the findings as the existed in the field. The conclusions were made from the data that was collected in the selected schools. Finally consequences of communicable diseases were highlighted e.g. increase of class absenteeism which leads to poor performance, increase in suffering among pupils. The researcher suggested on further research on how this problem would be eradicated completely. This study aimed at benefiting the students, the society, future researchers and the world at large since good performance in schools leads to development of the country.