

**POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN NATIONAL EXAMINATION BY  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS: A CASE STUDY OF BURA DIVISION, FAFI  
SUB-COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

In some regions of Kenya, poor performance in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E.) has been attributed to factors such as; indiscipline, poverty, lack of facilities, lack of teacher motivation, understaffing and lack of role models. However these factors differ depending on the critical region under study as well as school. Performance in Bura Division, Fathi Sub County has been dismal in the past five years. This study therefore endeavored to study the factors that are leading to poor performance in the schools of Bura Division. The purpose of the study was to assess the poor academic performance in National Examinations by pupils in Bura Division, Fafi Sub - county. The specific objectives of the study were; to determine the relationship between poverty and performance of pupils in national examinations, to determine the relationship between school facilities and performance of pupils in National Examinations, to determine the relationship between the quality of teachers and performance of pupils in National Examinations, to determine the relationship between indiscipline and performance of pupils in National Examinations and to determine the relationship between home environment and performance of pupils in National Examinations. The study was anchored on the Lathering Von Bertalanffy (1956) contemporary theory. The study reviewed literature based on research objectives. The study used descriptive survey design combining both qualitative and quantitative research strategies. Simple random sampling was used to select the pupils and the teachers from the 3 (33%) primary schools that were used in the study. The three schools were selected because they were the ones which had candidate classes which the researcher had interest on. From the 3 (33%) schools a sample size of 15 (21%) teachers (7 females and 8 males) and 70 (21%) pupils from standard five up to standard eight (40 males and 30 females) was selected for the study. The methods of data collection were questionnaires and interviews. Reliability and validity of the instruments was assessed through a pilot study prior to actual data collection procedure. Computer programmes such as excel were used to analyze both qualitative and quantitative data. Data was presented in pie charts, tables and bar graphs. The study revealed that school facilities are important for pupils to perform well in examinations. The study also revealed that unqualified teachers do not teach well and this leads to poor performance in National Examinations. The study revealed that children who are in disciplined perform poorly in National Examinations. Finally the study revealed that parents who encourage their children contribute positively to children's performance. Based on the findings, the study recommends that; in order to improve performance in primary schools, School facilities should be provided by the government and parents to facilitate learning. More teachers should be trained to cater for the growing number of pupils due to free primary education. The school environment should be made conducive for the pupils for example a clean environment should be emphasized and security provided. Parents should be sensitized on the importance of participating in their children's education and school activities.