

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SCHOOL-BASED FACTORS
THAT AFFECT THE PERFORMANCE IN KENYA CERTIFICATE OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION IN KIAMBU COUNTY.**

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ABSTRACT.

Academic performance in KCSE in almost all the subjects offered has been low in Gatundu division, Kiambu County. However, the major factors contributing to this trend have not been clearly understood. This therefore limits the ability of educational stakeholders to improve the performance in KCSE. The purpose of this study was to investigate the socio-economic, socio-cultural and school based factors that are affecting student's performance in KCSE in Gatundu Division, Kiambu County. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. This study adapted survey descriptive design. The target population for this study therefore constituted about 1370 form four students, 10 form four class teachers representing all the 10 classes (streams) in the 10 schools, and 10 head teachers totaling to 1390 people. The sample size comprised of 124 respondents or about 18 respondents in each of the seven schools including head teachers form four class teachers and form four students. All the head teachers and form four class teachers of the sampled seven schools were purposively included in the sample of respondents. Three quality assurance and standard officers were also interviewed. The study used questionnaires, interviews and observation schedule.

Findings revealed that socio-economic and socio-cultural factors affected KCSE performance in the county. It also revealed that school based factors like teacher shortage among others contributed to poor KCSE performance in the county. Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that socio-economic and socio-cultural and school based factors affected KCSE performance. Based on the findings it was recommended that the schools should be provided with the required facilities to facilitate learning. It was also recommended that the government should provide bursary for needy children and employ more teachers to tackle the problem of teacher shortage. The study also recommended that the head teachers should supervise teachers to ensure quality teaching and should strive to enhance discipline in the school. The community should be educated on the importance should also be sensitized on the importance education. The study suggested that a study on assessment of the implications of current policies on the education of the nomadic and pastoralists. It was also suggested that a study on an investigation on the effects of social cultural practices on education of the nomadic pastoralists should be conducted and lastly a study on effect of teacher demographics on student performance should be conducted.