

**CAUSES OF POOR PERFORMANCE AMONG STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN GATUNDU  
SOUTH CONSTITUENCY**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED FOR THE REQUIREMENTS OF AWARD OF BACHELORS DEGREE TO  
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## **ABSTRACT**

The study is a descriptive survey designed to find out factors contributing to poor performance of students in selected public secondary schools in the Gatundu South constituency. Views were sampled through questionnaire from teachers and semi-structured interviews for students and parents. The study used simple random sampling to obtain a sample size of 50 teachers, 60 students and purposive sampling to obtain a sample of 10 parents. This gave a total of 120 respondents who were utilized to respond to the objectives of the study. The collected data was analysed using the SPSS computer program and Excel and then subjected to frequency counts involving simple percentages and analysis techniques using themes and comments from questionnaires and interview. This was to address the three research questions formulated to guide the study. The study revealed that factors that contribute to poor academic performance of students include: Inadequate Teaching and learning materials (T/LMs) and other study materials, teaching not done to the relevance of the syllabus, teacher and student absenteeism and lateness and Inability to complete the content of the teaching syllabus as school related factors. Outside school related factor include provision of basic needs and lack of parental involvement and monitoring mechanisms as Intensity of examinations and supervision. Recommendations were finally be made from the study based on the study findings.