

**LACK OF SANITARY TOWELS ON DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS'
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN LUNGA LUNGA ZONE, LUNGA LUNGA
CONSTITUENCY, KWALE COUNTY, KENYA**

ELIZABETH CHIZI LUGWE

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ABSTRACT

The significant role of empowering girls and women through education in order to combat poverty, hunger, diseases besides stimulating sustainable economic development has been well documented. In order for this to be achieved, girls must have access to quality education besides attainment of quality grades in examinations in order to compete effectively with boys in the job market. However, academic achievement of girls in Lunga Lunga zone, day secondary schools in KCSE is dismal. For students to perform well in their academic work, they need to be consistently present and attend the lessons offered by the teachers. Being poor, some parents cannot afford to provide sanitary towels for their school going adolescent girls causing them to absent themselves during their monthly period. This effectively called for an investigation of the influence of lack of sanitary towels for adolescent girls on academic performance in day secondary schools in Lunga Lunga zone, Kwale County. The study applied a descriptive research design. The sample population was 110 (10 teachers and 100 students) in two mixed full day secondary schools which were randomly selected. A study guide was used in carrying out the project. The researcher used questionnaires and interviews to collect data. The data was then analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative techniques and presented graphically and on pie charts. It was found that, 90% of girls attend their menstrual period for 3-4 days per month. Up to 95% drop in their academic performance when they start their menstrual cycles as compared to their academic performance before adolescence. The study recommended enhancement of sensitization of parents on the significance of girls' education, provision of sanitary towels to girls in secondary schools by the government and enhancement of affirmative action and enforcement of laws on girls' rights among others. It is hoped that this study will equip education stakeholders with information on how to enhance the academic performance of girls not only in secondary schools but throughout the entire education system. Lack of sanitary towels greatly affect the academic status of the adolescent girls resulting to low level of education among the women in Lungalunga zone, Lungalunga constituency, Kwale County.