

**EFFECTS OF POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
WENDANYI DISTRICT IN TAITA-TAVETA COUNTY**

KENYA

BY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of poor academic performance in secondary schools of Wendanyi District in Taita-Taveta County. The objectives of the study were to: establish the strategies being employed by public secondary schools to improve students' poor academic performance; determine the relationship between the academic performance improvement strategies employed and the performance of students in KCSE; and identify academic performance improvement lessons that can be learnt from schools that consistently perform well at the KCSE level. The study was guided by well performing Schools Model by Lezotte (2010), i.e. instructional leadership, focus on school mission, safety and orderliness of schools, expectations for success, home-school relations, frequent monitoring of students progress, and opportunity to learn for students. The research employed a survey design targeting all principals, heads of departments, teachers, Parents and education officers in charge of all the secondary schools in Wendanyi District in Taita-Taveta County. Data was collected in all secondary schools in the county. Stratified sampling technique was used to select some schools for the study. The sampled schools were stratified according to performance, that is, those that have been consistently performing well for the last five years (2006-2010), and those that have been consistently performing poorly for the same period. All the principals of the sampled schools took part in the study. Simple random sampling was applied to obtain the actual sample of cases in order to get in-depth information (Mugenda and Mugenda 1999). The total sample size number of respondents was 54 schools. Questionnaires and an interview guide were used for data collection. Prior to the actual data collection, a pilot study was conducted to ascertain the reliability and validity of the instruments. The study gathered both qualitative and quantitative data. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics including frequencies and percentages. Qualitative data was put under themes consistent with the research objectives. The study recommends that secondary schools should put emphasis on the correlates of effective schools that were identified to positively influence poor academic performance.