

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO EFFECTS OF DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON
LEARNING IN MARAGUA DISTRICT, MURANG'A COUNTY, KENYA.**

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E37S/09/06124

**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL
FULLFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION DEGREE OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

OCTOBER 2012

ABSTRACT

Drugs and substances of abuse are common in today's life. What is even worse is that they have found their way to institutions of learning. This study intends to find out the effects of drugs and substance abuse in secondary school going youth in Maragua district and show the effects of the same in the overall education outcomes.

Most of the school going youth is prone to vices like drug abuse and pre-marital sex due to peer influenced. They are easily taken into new habits by their older peer due to the fact that most of them want to identify themselves with their peer groups. The study intended to examine the prevalence for substance abuse, the commonly abused drug in schools and its immediate effects on the learner's education life. The study would investigate some of the reasons as to why students fall for drugs. It would also go a long way in finding what the teachers are doing to combat this destructive habit. The school administration frustrations from drugs abuse and their effort to curb them would also be evaluated by the study. It sought also to examine efforts of the education officers in fighting drugs among school going youth in Maragua District.

This survey would server as a guide during training and a data source for effective strategies in Maragua District, Murang'a County. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The target population was 45 respondents which comprised of 30 secondary school students, 10 teachers 2 administrators, 2 support staff and 1 education officer.

It was evident that the commonly abused drugs in schools are: tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, snuff and cocaine in that order. Some of the reasons given for the abuse of these drugs are: desperation, peer pressure, imitation from parents and escape from reality. It is hoped that this findings will help educators to improve in their efforts to fighting drugs in schools, establish strong guidance and counseling departments and eradicate this deadly vice. It will help in developing a sober nation whose economy drivers are youth, willful, focused and goal oriented.