

**FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE POOR
PERFORMANCE IN KENYA CERTIFICATE OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION IN GATANGA DISTRICT**

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E35S/09/05931**

**A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE
AWARD OF THE DEGREE IN EDUCATION (ARTS) TO
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**



OCTOBER, 2012

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ABSTRACT

Education is one of the most important aspects of human resource development. Every student should have the opportunity to his/her academic potential. It is generally noticed that at least 30% of students in classroom get poor marks. Poor performance should be seen as a "symptom" reflecting a larger underlying problem in students. This symptom not only results in the students having a low self-esteem, but also can cause significant stress to the parents. It is essential that this symptom be analysed to discover its underlying causes and find a remedy.

The purpose of this study is to identify the factors that contribute to poor academic performance of secondary schools in Gatanga Division.

Literature review covered the development of education in Kenya, emergence of Secondary schools, various factors affecting academic achievement, such as school, teachers and students' related factors. The study employed Ex-post factors design, data was carried out in one Secondary school in Gatanga division. The study used questionnaires to solicit data from 12 teachers and 45 students. Findings revealed that there were school based factors that were responsible for poor performance in Secondary schools. These included lack of facilities and poor school management.

Findings also revealed that **teacher related factors** such as qualification, motivation, work load, preparation contributed to poor performance. Findings also revealed that **student related factors** were responsible for poor performance. It was also found out that lack of facilities and basic amenities in the schools was another factor leading to poor performance. Schools were not inspected or supervised adequately. Lack of supervision of schools was another factor that contributed to poor performance. Based on the findings, it was concluded that **school related factors**, student and teacher related factors, lack of supervision were the major causes of poor performance in Secondary schools in Gatanga Division. The study therefore recommended that Secondary school should be inspected before they are registered to ensure that they meet the required standards. It was also recommended that the government should come in and ensure that such schools have the required number and qualified teachers.