

**ROLE OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE FUNDS ON
IMPROVEMENT OF SELECTED EDUCATIONAL
FACILITIES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

In the recent past the government of Kenya has injected a lot of money to the education sector through the Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) to improve on infrastructural facilities. This is because education is considered to be an engine of growth and key to development in every society based on its quality and quantity. The purpose of the study was to investigate the role of Economic Stimulus Package on Infrastructure Development in secondary schools in Nakuru County; Kenya. Four research objectives guided the study. Research objective one sought to identify the projects that have been funded by ESP in secondary schools, objective two sought to determine the role of ESP funds in improvement of selected facilities in secondary schools, research objective three sought to examine the challenges facing educational projects funded by the ESP funds in secondary schools while objective four sought to suggest appropriate strategies that can be put in place to mitigate the use of ESP funds in secondary schools in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study used ex-post facto design. Data in the study was collected using questionnaires and were analyzed by use of qualitative and quantitative techniques. Findings on the role of Economic Stimulus Package on Infrastructure Development in secondary schools revealed that majority of school lacked infrastructure development in the recent past. Majority of principals indicated that they had libraries, science laboratories, classrooms, but majority of schools lacked water tanks and computer laboratories. Findings further indicate that PTA funds, ESP Funds, Government Infrastructure Funds and Constituency Development Funds had contributed to improvement of schools infrastructure to a small extent. Findings on the Economic Stimulus Package Funds revealed that although schools received ESP funds for centres of excellence and towards water harvesting, majority of principals and computer teachers were not aware of the existence of Economic Stimulus Package. Based on the findings, it was concluded that most secondary schools had libraries, science laboratories, classrooms, but majority of secondary school lacked water tanks and computer laboratories. On the role of Economic Stimulus Package in Improvement of Infrastructure in Secondary schools, the study concluded that the funds sent through ESP were not sufficient and had not greatly improved the infrastructure in the schools. Most projects funded by ESP were not complete and not in use. The workmanship employed in the ESP funded project was not to the required standard. The study lastly recommended that the government should provide the funds that will have maximum impact on infrastructure, and should invest heavily in the requisite ICT infrastructure for example provision of computers, multimedia laboratories and related accessories to schools. To secure economic and social benefits, investment in Kenya should aim at stimulating the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and education sector should put priority in areas like construction of new schools, digital Laboratory for secondary schools and employ computer teachers. For further research, the study suggested that a study on the role of government on integration of ICT education and training in education and institutions and a study on influence of teachers' competence on ICT skills on integrations of ICT education in training institutions to be conducted.