

**FACTORS INFLUENCING POOR PERFORMANCE OF
CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF KIGANJO
ZONE IN GATUNDU SOUTH DISTRICT; OF KIAMBU
COUNTY**

BY

NDUA STEPHEN KIARIE

E35 S111/01452

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION
(ARTS) OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

SEPTEMBER 2013

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research study was to examine different factors influencing the academic performance of primary school pupils in primary schools in Kiganjo Zone of Kiambu County. The objectives of the research study were to find out whether learning and teaching materials were important to the children learning, examine the factors that have contributed to poor academic performance of pupils in Kiganjo zone, identify the effects of malnutrition on academic performance of pupils, determine ways of improving academic performance of pupils in schools and compare academic performance of pupils in relation to socioeconomic status of the family. The research study adopted the descriptive survey design. The researcher included 96 primary school teachers, 30 primary schools, 30 head teachers and 30 parents. The researcher used convenient sampling technique in raw data collection. The sample size were 12 primary schools, 24 primary school teachers, 12 primary school parents and 12 primary school head teachers. The researcher collected the raw data using questionnaires and interview guides. The analyzed data were be quantatively and qualitatively and presented in form of frequency tables, graphs and pie-charts. The researcher made the following conclusions from the data findings obtained:- Most of the primary school teachers sampled were female by gender, Most of head teachers sampled were male, Most of the parents were female by gender, Most of the primary school teacher sampled strongly agreed that learning and teaching materials used by teacher were important for good academic performance and learning materials, Lack of learning and teaching materials in school was the main factor that contributed to poor performance of pupils in primary school in Kiganjo zone, Most of primary school teacher strongly agreed that malnutrition affects academic performance of the pupils in pupils in primary school, Pupils from well-up socioeconomic families performed above average in their academic work. From the conclusions obtained, the researcher drew the following recommendations:-Government of Kenya (GoK) should ensure balance in teachers' recruitment; Government of Kenya (GoK) should ensure gender balance in headship appointments, the primary school teachers should be sensitized on the need of using adequate and appropriate learning and teaching children, the parents should be adequate on the importance of learning and teaching materials to children teachings and learning. There should be workshops in primary schools for parents to come up and make improved materials, the parents should be educated on the importance of proper nutrition among the children. This is so because malnutrition was found to affects academic performance, the government of Kenya (GoK) should be provide funds for the poor families in Kenya become poor socioeconomic status of the families was noted to affects pupils academic performance at primary schools.