

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO EFFECTS OF INADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SANITARY
TOWELS TO GIRL CHILD EDUCATION IN POVERTY STRICKEN AREAS IN
EKALAKALA ZONE IN MACHAKOS COUNTY**

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BEDA/000513/1122/06168

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MANAGEMENT AND CURRICULUM STUDIES AS PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)
DEGREE OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

April 2015

ABSTRACT

Some studies have shown that about 1 in 10 school-age African girls do not attend school during menstruation. This suggests that girls are forced to be absent during their period and thereby lose critical learning time. On average, about 4 days per month can be lost, which can add up to 528 days of schooling across the years that a girl should be in school. The study wanted to investigate the effects of inadequate supply of sanitary towels on education in poverty stricken areas in Ekalakala zone in Machakos County. The tool for data collection was questionnaire and interview guide. The target population was teachers and pupils in all schools in Ekalakala Zone. The study used descriptive survey designed because it can give elaborate results compared to other design. The sample size was 10 teachers of whom 4 are male and 6 are female and 30 standard eight girls in the sampled schools in the Zone. Teachers were purposively sampled while the pupils were sampled through simple random sampling following the class attendance register where the first three girls were picked in order. Views were sampled through questionnaires and interview focus group. Data was subjected to frequency tables involving simple percentages and bar graphs using themes and comments from questionnaires and interview. This addressed the three research questions formulated to guide the study. The research was guided by ecological theory by Bronfenbrenner's (2008) which suggests that a person's surroundings including their home, school, work, church, neighborhood, culture and government have an influence on the way a child develops. The implication of this theory to the study in relation to teaching and learning. This theory ensured that the researcher remain relevant to the study objectives.

