

Effects of Child Labour on Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination performance in Igembe District Meru County From 2005—2009

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A Project submitted in partial fulfilment for the Degree of Master of Education in Educational Planning, Management & Administration of Mount Kenya University.

NOVEMBER, 2011

ABSTRACT

Child labour and child abuse represent significance aspect of problems facing the present generation of children in the world today. This study presents an overview of global problem of childlabour and abuse, with emphasis on the issues for research prevention and policy decision. As evidenced by many empirical studies childlabour is experienced by millions of children in Africa and other developing countries. It has many deleterious consequences for most of the children. UNICEF defines childlabour as some types of work performed by children below 18 years of age and a child as anyone below 18years. Childlabour refer to employment of children at regular and sustained labour that is illegal, exploitative and harms children morally, physically, and psychologically and blocks them from regular school attendance (ILO Report-2005) and [www childlabour photo project child and wikipedia. Org. /wik/ childlabour](http://www.childlabourphoto.org)). In reference to Igembe District; our focal study sample, child labour and abuse is very rampant. This characterizes their formal education with absenteeism, truancy and dropouts. The study sought to explore the effect of child labour on K.C.P.E performance in Igembe District. The study was be guided by the following objectives; to determine the cause of child labour and abuse, to analyze the trends of K.C.P.E performance and finally to suggest strategies and recommendations on how to combat child labour. The related literature was reviewed and the identified gaps influenced the results of the study conducted. The study was conducted only in Igembe District. Questionnaires and interview schedules were administered as follows; one copy for the zonal officer, one for each of the 30 head teachers of each of the sampled primary schools, one for each std 8 class teacher of the sampled schools and three copies per school for each of the std 8 candidates to be filled by candidates index number one, two and three (1-3).The study covered thirty public primary schools. The data collected was analyzed in frequency tables and percentages. The research revealed that with prevalence of child labour this characterizes schools with absenteeism and drop out, which consequently undermines K.C.P.E examination results for the concerned schools. Analysis also manifested that it is not only miraa business, household, mabuuti, tea/coffee picking that affect learning but also low attitude towards education in the district. The conclusion was drawn based on the research objectives and the necessary recommendations were made. Otherwise, the significance of the research conducted long term effects highlights, makes recommendations and suggests strategies of reducing and even eliminating child labour with a view to improving K.C.P.E performance.