

MT. KENYA UNIVERSITY

**FACTORS INFLUENCING LOW ENROLMENT NUMBER OF
STUDENTS IN PHYSICS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

(A Case Study of Secondary Schools in Keumbu Division, Kisii County)

BY

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Abstract

This study focused on the factors faced by schools in the low enrollment number of students in physics in Keumbu Division. The objectives of the study were to find out the factors faced by schools in Keumbu Division in Kisiicounty and establish the role of physics teachers, administration and stakeholders to influence good number of students to take physics. The accessible population was five secondary schools in Keumbu Division. The study used purposive sampling to one boy's boarding school, one girl's boarding school, one mixed day and boarding school, and two mixed day schools. Questionnaires and semi structured interview were used to obtain data. Tables and bar graphs were used to present the findings which were analyzed using percentages while qualitative data was transcribed and organized into similar topics and presented in form of interpretive reports. The study revealed that there is low enrollment number of students in Physics in KCSE in many secondary schools as compared to other science subjects like Biology and Chemistry. This has been attributed to some factors like poor performance of Physics in national examinations, theoretical teaching approaches applied by some teachers, peer group influence and mathematical inability. The study revealed that these factors among others have caused many students to drop Physics when it becomes an optional subject in form three. The study recommended that the Government to provide scholarships to students who pursue courses that require physics as a way of encouraging many students to take physics, Physics teachers should improve in teaching methods approaches, Should accept criticism from learners, fellow teachers and the administration, the education planners should modify the curriculum that will encourage many students to take Physics, secondary schools without properly equipped laboratories should be encouraged to register their students for general science where physics is studied as one of the subject, diagnostic mentoring of students should start as early as in form one to identify their problems and guide them appropriately especially on career choice and job opportunities related to physics and trained SMASSE teachers should get promotion or certificates issued to them should be recognized to encourage many science teachers to be trained hence improving teaching methods and approaches.