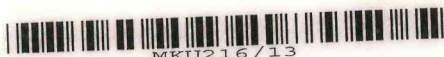


**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AFFECTING INTEGRATION OF LEARNERS WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS INTO MAINSTREAM PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTH
IMENTI DISTRICT, MERU COUNTY**



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ABSTRACT

Learning institutions at different levels should be commended for embracing inclusive setting learning. Imenti South has a number of schools which have children with all sorts of impairments. In these schools, special units have been set up where special syllabus provided by Kenya Institute of Education as Instructional tools are used by specially trained teachers. Lessons like activities of Daily living (ADL), Perceptual training skills, adopted physical education (APE) among others are taught to these needy cases. These children mingle with others in schools but they have special equipments materials and devices they may require to aid and ease their learning. It is for this reason that the researcher got interested in studying the contemporary issues affecting integration of learners with special needs into mainstreams public primary schools Imenti South District, Meru County. The objectives of the study were to: find out the extent to which the availability of appropriate teaching/learning resources affects the integration of learners with special needs in primary schools in Imenti South District, to determine the effectiveness of the teaching strategies used by teachers to teach inclusive classes with learners with special needs in regard to training, to investigate how social cultural factors affect the integration of learners with special needs, and to find out the extent of implementation of the policy of inclusion of learners with special needs into regular primary schools in Imenti South District. Descriptive survey design was used while quantitative and a qualitative approach was used to collect and analyze data. The Total sample population was 1156 respondents. Stratified random sampling was used to sample the teachers and pupils. Own made questionnaires and interview guide was administered to the sample respondents, collected data was organized and analyzed according to the objectives. Descriptive statistical tools mean frequency median, and percentages mode was used.