

FACTORS INFLUENCING PERFORMANCE IN
BIOLOGY AT MUTHITHI SECONDARY SCHOOL

BY

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ABSTRACT

For one to progress from one level of education to another good performance in examination is a requirement. Biology is one of the subjects in secondary school curriculum, however it has been noted that performance in biology at KCSE has been comparatively poor in relation to other subjects. This study aimed at determining the poor performance in Biology at secondary school level. The objectives of the study was to find out whether resources used to teach Biology, teachers' attitudes, teaching methods used and outside school factors influence performance in Biology. The study population comprised of all the 800 students of Muthithi Secondary School. Data was collected from the sample which comprised of 160 students and 3 Biology teachers using questionnaires. The data was analyzed by the use of frequency distribution and percentages. The researcher established that poor performance in Biology is as result of interplay of factors such as students attitude towards the subject which they perceive as difficult, inappropriate teaching approaches that are teacher rather than student centred, inadequate mastery of teaching subject content by some teachers, inadequate teaching and learning resources such as textbooks and laboratory equipments and apparatus and heavy teaching loads for the teachers. The researcher recommended that Biology teachers should be exposed to appropriate teaching and learning approaches that are learner centred rather than teacher centred. The learner centred teaching and learning approaches actively engage the learner in the learning process for effective mastery of the subject content matter and promote a positive attitude towards the subject. The school should provide adequate resources required for teaching Biology.