

**HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC ON ORPHANED LEARNERS AND ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC DAY SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KAMACHARIA
ZONE, MATHIOYA SUB COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

HIV/AIDS is one of the serious world health problem .the epidemic continues to expand affecting both adult and children resulting into unique social and economic consequences .world wide it estimated that more than14 million children under 18 years have been orphaned as result of Hiv/aid according to UNAIDS,2006 report on Global Aid pandemic

This research shows orphans have continued to perform poorly in school work, it also set to find out challenges facing orphans in Kamacharia zone as well as intervention strategies that support HIV/AIDS orphans

.This research is of importance in that guidance and counseling forums of guardians of /these Hiv/aid orphans and making them perform better .it should be noted lack of basic needs, proper care ,parental love ,guidance and counseling are among challenges faced by these learners

Other studies done others scholars about HIV/AIDS orphans shows that children who have lost one or both parent s due to HIV /AIDS before an age of 18 years (Mwaura and Wanyera,2007)According to them stigmatization ,family, emotional impact, education are some of challenges encountered. In intervention the Government should come out and support them with funds to cater for their basic needs by also provision of bursary to keep them in school they should be protected through legal and human rights

. The research uses quantitive approaches since it results in a numerical representation of data .the study wads conducted through a census survey which targeted principals ,teachers ,and parents in Kamacharia zone, in Mathioya sub county of Muranga County .the researcher used purposeful sampling where he selected principals and Teachers who had orphans the researcher also observed ethics by enhancing confidentiality .

Data analysis and presentation was done using quantative and qualitative analysis through using tables and their explanations.

Public need also to be educated on how to protect them from being infected by HIV AIDS which has caused large numbers of orphans who are often left to find their own means of survival. Public should be fully involved in home cares where they will help the infected and affected families.

The research recommends that public should be sensitized in order to be tested for HIV/AIDS status and advised accordingly.

Guidance and counseling forum should be seriously addressed to support learners in order to gain skills to reduce the menace of HIV/AIDS.

This study concludes that the government has a lot to do to support these HIV/AIDS orphans in learning as education a fundamental right as enshrined in the UN convection of human rights.

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