

**EFFECT OF POVERTY ON GIRLS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE: CASE
STUDY OF KABETE CONSTITUENCY**

By:

ANNE NAINI JOSHUA

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

According to UNESCO (2016), poverty is the denial of choices and opportunities. It means lack of capabilities to participate in the society effectively. The World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, came to a conclusion that poverty is a condition where human undergo severe lack of basic needs such as water, adequate sanitation to mention but a few. It does not only depend on a person's income but the extent to which a person can access facilities (World Summit on Social Development, 1995). According to the delegation African Union makers' report mandated to set policies of poverty reduction in Africa (Mwakapugi, 2016) defined poverty as a situation where persons cannot attain a minimum standard of living to access basic needs.

According to United Nations (2016) in 2000, the United Nations Millennium Summit adopted eight Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015. The first two goals are: wiping out extreme poverty and attaining worldwide primary education. Education being the instrument to reduce poverty. Similarly in Kenya, The development of the education sector as a vehicle to reduce ignorance and consequently reduce poverty has been top of the agenda of the Government of Kenya since independence in 1963 (Bundi, Reche, & Riungu, 2012).

Poverty restricts the likelihoods of educational achievement and at the same time educational achievement is key to eradicating poverty (Engle & Black, 2008). This is echoed by Nelson Mandela who stated that education is the most powerful tool to change the world (Nelson Mandela, 2016). Poverty is a global challenge that has contributed to poor performance in schools. In line with this argument, another study found out that children from poor backgrounds are characterized by lower degree of sociability and have disruptive classroom behaviors which contributes to low academic performances (Eamon, 2001).

A study conducted in South Africa on how effective is poor schools analyzing the link between poverty and educational outcomes found out that; the effect of pupil absenteeism was attributed to school fees balances due to poverty. Textbook sharing contributed to poor mastery of reading skills. In addition to that inadequacy of reading equipment contributed to poor performance (Berg,