

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO POOR ACADEMIC  
PERFORMANCE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS  
IN MANDERA COUNTY**

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**ABSTRACT**

Performance of students is a product of socio-economic, psychological and environmental factors. Education plays a significant role in political, economic and social realms of development. The study addresses factors contributing to girls' poor academic performance among secondary school girls in Mandera County. Principally the objective of this research proposal was to examine the status of girls' education in the district and their performance in national examinations. The study adopted descriptive survey redesign since it is a very valuable tool for accessing opinions and trends. A sample size of 50 respondents was used to carry out the study. The study questionnaires as research instruments to collect data for the study. After the data collection, the research arranged it into categories in their similarities and analyzed it using Microsoft Excel program. From the research findings the following conclusions were made; The study found out that majority of students were aged between 15-16 years and most of them were in form one and form two. Boys were more than girls in the schools of study. The number of girls decreased as the level of education goes up. According to the study the social economic status of most families where girls lag behind in performance was poor majority of them having average monthly income below 10,000 with only a few whose income was above 40,000. The poor discriminated their children according to gender while the well up did not. Girls in the area of study didn't attend classes as expected, their attendance was fair. The retention of girls in the school was not good. Boys academic performance was always above that of girls. The poor academic performance of girls attributed to community influence and household duties given by parents hindering girls carry on with their studies. Cultural beliefs also affected the girls as they had to undergo female genital mutilation which made them even drop out of school. The community had a very negative attitude towards the girls education. Parents with poor social economic status discriminated their children preferring to educate only the boys while the well up parents had no problem educating both. According to the study the possible solutions to make girls go to school and be retained as well as raising their academic performance was by doing away with cultural beliefs of the community and educate parents on the importance of education on female gender. Others solution is to raise their self esteem and motivate them by rewarding