

EFFECTS OF SPIRIT POSSESSION ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF GIRL STUDENTS' IN LAMU COUNTY

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Abstract

For many years, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) results of girls in Lamu County have been one of the poorest in the country. Despite efforts being mounted by the Kenyan government at various levels to improve these standards, however instead of improving the situation is worsening. This project focused on spirit possession as one of the possible causes of the perennial poor performance among girls in Lamu County. The research sought to identify the causes of the rising cases of spirits possession and their effects on the academic performance of the girl students in Lamu County. Data was collected from students, teachers, and the schools' administration by use of a questionnaire, focus group discussion and oral interview. Findings indicate that the issue of spirit possession has greatly affected the performance of girls in the county. The causes of the rising cases were found to be; Desire by some people to maintain the status quo in the society, polygamy, desire by some parents to get wealth easily, envy and jealous, natural catastrophe, lack of interest with school, unpreparedness during exams among others.

Regarding their effects on the academic performance the results identified; Loss of interest in some subjects or in learning altogether, dropping out of school, deterioration in the performance, poor mean score among all the students, transfer of good students to other areas, disruption of learning activities among others. In the light of these findings, it is recommended that the schools management and administration should first determine the genuiness of the case so that those ones that are feigning should be punished while those who are genuinely possessed be cured by specialized sheikhs to be employed by the schools. In the same line the schools should ban music, neither applying perfumes nor using sweet scented oil within the school compound because they provoke spirits and make them possess the girls. Finally the school should hold prayer sessions regularly and avoid making the students' progress records public nor hold any prize giving ceremony to avoid evil from envious people.