

**THE IMPACT OF POVERTY ON PRIMARY EDUCATION
IN MWINGI EAST DISTRICT IN KITUI COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Mwingi East district to survey the impact of poverty in the area that affects the education in primary schools. The area lies within the semi arid zone of Kenya, which receives little rainfall of approximately 500mm per annum. Due to inadequate rainfall there is shortage of water and green pastures for livestock hence low animal and crop produce which are the main source of wealth for these people hence poverty pops in affecting children's learning.

Poor education is a medium through which poverty is passed on from one generation to the next. Poverty is not only about income; it is also about inequitable access to services, lack of opportunities, reduced outcomes, and reduced hope and expectations. Missed schooling or poor education achievement can undermine efforts to escape from poverty. Children who attend primary and secondary education and are able thereafter to pursue higher education are more likely to attract higher incomes and bring up their own future offspring out of poverty. Children from poor backgrounds are more unlikely to continue in education and are more likely to be engaged in lowly paid jobs. In the increasingly knowledge-based economy, education is found to be critical determinant of poverty or wealth.

A high number of school drop-outs have been recorded due to malnutrition diseases like marasmus, kwashiorkor and other related diseases.

In this study, we propose to explore how poor parents transmit poverty and disadvantage to their children through poor primary schooling in Kenya. The study emphasized on the intervention of the government to increase its funding of free primary education to areas with hostile climatic conditions so as to eradicate the biting poverty in these areas if vision 2030 is to be realized successfully.