

**THE IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS ON EDUCATION OF THE ORPHANS
AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN LOWER PRIMARY: A CASE
STUDY OF ITHIRU ZONE, KANDARA DIVISION, KANDARA
DISTRICT, MURANG'A COUNTY
KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

A descriptive study conducted in Ithiru Location, Kandara Division, Kandara District in Muranga County. The study was carried out to examine the challenges which children affected by HIV/AIDS face.

The study had the following objectives.

- It assessed the impact of HIV/AIDS Orphans and vulnerable children in primary school.
- It identified the type of caregivers those children were staying with.
- It found out the challenges which those children were faced.
- It assessed the academic progress of those children and assessed the intervention measures adopted for those children while in school.

The teachers identified 15 HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children for more respondents. A questionnaire was designed to collect data from the teachers and an interview guide to collect from the young children.

Findings indicated that there were 32 HIV/AIDS orphans in the selected primary school of Ithiru. 9 of them were living with mothers; nine with grandparents, 6 with fathers and the rest were with aunts and uncles while 2 were in orphanages. Many of them were experiencing psychosocial challenges while a reasonable number was not receiving materials needed. It was established that some were not performing well and according to the teachers, some were not attending school regularly and some had a problem of repeating grades while some had dropped out of school. It was recommended that schools develop instructional policies on HIV/AIDS, intensification of testing and counseling, provision of immediate training of teachers to remove the barriers to healthcare by tackling stigma and discrimination.