

**CHALLENGES FACING THE INTEGRATION OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MERU
SOUTH DISTRICT, THARAKA NITHI COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

This study was to investigate the challenges faced in the integration of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in enhancing the quality of secondary school education in Meru South District of Tharaka Nithi County. The foundation of the study was to find out the challenges that may hinder the integration approach, and more so, if computer use in the schools has led to better content delivery. The target population was 52 head teachers, 500 teachers and 2000 in public secondary school in Meru South District. This study was narrowed to 3 secondary school in Meru South District that have benefited from government' grants of computers and the study took place in March and April of 2015. The study involved form Three and four students from Chuka Girls' High School, Ikuu Boys' High school and Chuka Boys' High school in Meru South District as they have been in the institution long enough to have adequate information on the subject of study. Cluster sampling was used in the selection of the teachers. The researcher's participation in actual teaching was linked with the questionnaire was keenly scrutinized to obtain relevant information for compiling research findings to be printed for qualitatively and by Tables and bar graphs. The analysis of challenges faced by teachers in using computers will be expected to serve as preparedness measures for teachers as they utilize the gadgets for effective delivery. The qualitative data obtained in the study was analyzed by organizing them into similar themes and tallying the number of similar responses. The results of data analysis were presented using frequency distribution tables, bar graphs and pie charts. The findings of the study revealed that students, teachers and head teachers depend largely on ICT services in their day to day activities. It was also noted that teachers and students experienced problems when using the ICT services which the head teachers we trying to find out the solutions. The researcher recommended that the school administration, the government and any other educational bodies should support acquisition of ICT facilities like computers, projectors, internet and video conferencing to secondary schools in Meru South District, teachers should be offered in service training on how they can effectively integrate ICT tools in the teaching process. Also the use of ICT facilities in teaching should be encouraged to all teachers as well a fully equipped ICT department should be created and continuously supported by the school administrations to provide the needed training to both the teachers and the students. It was hoped that the findings of this study will form a basis for better orientation of head teachers regarding ICT integration and best ways to tackle the challenges that may be encountered during the implementation of ICT.