

**IMPACTS OF MENTAL DISABILITIES TO THE LEARNERS, TEACHERS
AND PARENTS IN ECDE PROGRAMMES IN LANG'ATA DISTRICT,
NAIROBI COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

In the past, efforts in educational systems have consisted of mental disabilities educational programmes in segregated settings. The unfortunate consequence of such differentiation, although well intended has often been further exclusion and neglect of these learners hence adverse impacts as far as learning of these are concerned. It is in line with this that the government advocated for the implementation of special needs education in regular schools. It is worth noting that children with mental disabilities have immense difficulties in exercising their rights to education. Many are not able to access education in their neighbourhood ECDE centres while others who had enrolled have dropped out of the education system despite the on-going efforts to implement the inclusive education policy.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the impacts of mental disabilities to the learners teachers and parents in ECDE programmes in Lang'ata District, Nairobi county. Four objectives and research questions were formulated to guide the study. The researcher sought to establish if there are sufficient teaching and learning resources for learners with special needs, to examine whether the primary school curriculum is suitable for learners with special needs, among other objectives. The study would adopt an ex-post facto research design. The researcher would target public primary schools and ECDE centres with special units in the district from which a sample of 20 teachers, 20 parents and 20 head teachers were selected. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 48 teachers handling learners with mental disabilities in their classes to participate in the study.

Research instruments included questionnaires for head teachers, teachers and parents and an observation schedule for the same. Before the main study, a pilot study was conducted to test the validity and reliability of the instruments. Using descriptive statistics, the data was analysed and presented in terms of Frequency tables, pie-charts, graphs and percentages.