

**ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THARAKA SOUTH
DISTRICT, THARAKA NITHI COUNTY-KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT

NGOs have been key promoters of all aspects of social-economic welfare of Kenyans for the past two decades. Some of these organizations in education include catholic relief services, Christian children foods, SOS-Kinderdorf International (Thierry, 2002). This study sought to investigate the roles of NGOs in the management of primary schools. This study has been necessitated by the fact that many NGOs have for alongtime been only involved in funding education projects but not actively involved in the school management which is very crucial. The study was conducted in 15 randomly selected primary schools in Tharaka South District, Tharaka Nithi County. Data was collected form 15 head teachers, 30 NGOs representatives, 15 school committee chairs and 30 pupils from the 15 randomly selected primary schools in the study area. This made up a total sample population 90 respondents. The study employed the descriptive survey design and used four predesigned questionnaires to collect data. The validity of the questionnaire as a tool of research was determined using a pilot study. The researcher obtained a research permit from the National Council for Science, Technology as required by law, and went to the selected schools to collect data. The raw data collected were then cleaned, edited and processed using MS excel Spread sheets. The processed data were represented in form of Charts and Graphs generated from the MS Excel spread sheets for ease of analysis. This data demonstrates the level of participation of NGOs in the management of primary schools in Tharaka South District Tharaka Nithi County, how it affects the performance of these schools, and how this can be improved. For instance, majority of the respondents attested that the roles of NGOs in the management is currently limited, agreed that their participation in management has, or would have a positive effect on the academic performance of these schools and identified conflict of interest between NGO representatives and School Management Committee representatives as the main challenge NGOs were facing in the management of primary schools. Recommendations are laid forth on what steps ought to be taken to make all the stake holders in these schools work together for the betterment of the performance of these schools. They include, among others, that NGOs be given the opportunity to manage these schools, in conjunction with the SMCs, to help improve their performances. These recommendations are expected to help guide the process of policy formulation in the education sector.