

**EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES OF ORPHAN  
LEARNERS IN KIGANJO ZONE, GATUNDU SOUTH DISTRICT,  
KIAMBU COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

The core problem of this study is that, in spite of government's great involvement in promoting the wellbeing of learners with special needs, the case of orphan learners have not been adequately investigated. Too many orphans are seen to be leading a normal life despite the many problems that arises immediately both parents dies. This misunderstanding and ignorance on the part of the general public, relatives, teachers and classmates have caused the orphan to be faced with many educational challenges. To this end, the purpose of this study was to find out the challenges faced by orphan learners. The main problem underlying the challenges facing learners includes the psychological effects on the orphan learners. Such effects may include physical, psychological, mental and emotional factors. The main focus of the objectives was to investigate behavioural changes in the orphan learners and the attitudes of learners and teachers towards education of orphan learners. The researcher used descriptive survey method. It adopted an explanatory approach in investigation educational challenges facing orphan learners. The research instruments the researcher used include questionnaire, observation and interview methods. This helped the researcher get maximum information from the respondents. During data collection, the researcher involved questionnaire divided into three categories. It started with the demo graphic questions then followed with a mix of structured open-ended questions. In the investigation, the researcher observed orphan learners and interviewed sampled learners and teachers. The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative techniques during the data analysis. The researcher used person's product movement correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) to analyze data. The study of educational challenges facing orphan learners provided both theoretical and practical implications on the education of orphan learners in future in Kenya. Theoretically, it shed knowledge on how to change the attitude of learners and teachers towards orphaned learners in school. This gave the significance of the study. The research gave what other scholars had read and documented about orphan learners. The researcher filled the gaps left.