

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EFFECTS OF
DRUG ABUSE ON SECONDARY SCHOOL
DROPOUT IN GATANGA DISTRICT,
MURANG'A COUNTY.**

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REG. NO: E37S/09/05953



**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
DEGREE OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**



SEPTEMBER, 2012

Abstract

Drug abuse has become a problem among students in Kenya. In response, there has been extensive research about the factors that influence drug abuse among students. Among the risks factors identified include peer pressure, mass media exposure, family factors and self esteem. However, few studies have investigated the effect of drug abuse on secondary school dropout. This study sought to determine how drug abuse leads to secondary school dropout in Gatanga District. The ultimate aim of the study is that the findings will be used by the policy makers and planners to identify strategies of dealing with drug abuse in secondary schools. The objectives of the study were: to examine the causes of drug abuse among students in secondary schools, determine the effect of drug abuse on secondary school dropout and find strategies in place used to curb drug abuse in secondary schools. The study used a descriptive survey design. In view of this, the field survey method was adopted to collect quantitative and qualitative data using questionnaire and interviews. There were three types of questionnaires; Principals; Head of Department for Guidance and counseling and for the students. The researcher purposively sampled ten schools out of the thirty public secondary schools in Gatanga District.

The key findings from the study were that drug abuse among students is common. A variety of factors contribute to the menace with the majority of students citing curiosity, acceptance by peers, excess pocket money and parental influence as the major culprits. The study makes a number of recommendations for policy makers and further research.