

**INVESTIGATION ON FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE
GROWTH OF PRIVATE TERTIARY LEARNING INSTITUTIONS IN
BUNGOMA WEST DISTRICT[BUNGOMA COUNTY]**

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REG. NO E35S110/01000**



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

AUGUST 2012

Mount Kenya University
LIBRARY



MKU419/12

ABSTRACT

According to MOE records 2011 and MCT records 2011, Bungoma is currently home to 82 middle level colleges and 221 secondary and primary schools (MOE Bungoma West 2011) and about 16 financial institutions (MCT 2011). The private learning institutions amount to about 75% of all learning institutions (MOE Bungoma West 2011). It is also estimated that about 60% of these institutions have come up within the last 10 years (MOPHS Public Health Records 2011).

According to district public health department where institutions are inspected before registration, more than 10 new institutions have applied for registration within the last six months. This means that the number is still growing.

This study was out to investigate the factors that contribute to the growth of these private learning institutions in Bungoma west district, Bungoma County, Kenya. The participants in the study were managers or owners of PTLIs who were selected randomly from the district. The major focus was on industrialization, information technology, infrastructure and capital accessibility and whether they contribute to growth of private tertiary learning institutions in the district.

The Survey design was used to get the views of the owners or managers of the sampled private tertiary learning institutions. The PTLIs involved in this study were the ones offering business and management courses, science and technology, health sciences and art courses. The participants in this study were the owners or managers of private tertiary learning institutions in Bungoma West district. The total number of private and tertiary learning institutions is 82. The study picked 66 PTLIs as target population and a sample of 52 as representative sample.

The sample selection was drawn using stratified random procedure. The desired sample size was determined by a Krejcie (1970) model generated by Morgan (1990). The instruments for data collection in the study were questionnaires. This was made up of both structured and unstructured questions to avoid being too rigid and to quantify the data especially where structured items were used.

The researcher delivered a covering letter alongside the questionnaire to all selected respondents to introduce the researcher to all the respondents as well as to request them to participate in the study.

The questionnaires were responded to and collected immediately after which they were checked by the researcher to find out if they all had been appropriately responded to.

The validity of the research questions was based on expert opinion of the supervisor who checked and verified its content to ensure that its measure achieves its expectations. The reliability of the research instrument was achieved by pre-testing the questionnaire in a pilot study in the area where the research was carried out.

The data collected from questionnaires was edited, coded and analyzed using Microsoft excel and presented using tables, graphs, charts and percentages. Data was analyzed to generate a number of descriptive statistics. It was given value to reflect the original variable or response categories. Conclusions and recommendations were made on the basis of the findings drawn from the generated and analyzed data.