

**FACTORS INFLUENCING POOR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF
GIRL CHILD EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KIONGWE
ZONE, LAMU COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

Research has shown that millions of girls do not have access to school despite the concerted efforts to push the cause forward Okeke, Nzewi and Njoku (2008) identified child labour, poverty and lack of sponsorship, quest for wealth, bereavement, truancy, broken home, engagement of children as house helps, as factors or the clog in the wheel of children's access to education in the UNICEF A-Field made up of Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo and River states of Nigeria. According to the World Bank (2003), more than 350 million people, over half Africa's population, live below the poverty line of one Dollar a day. This simply means that poverty, too, excludes children, including the girl-child, from school.

This research project was conceived as a result of observing disparity between the girls' education performance as compared to boys and the fact that there is gender discrimination in our society where the girl child is segregated against the boy child. It therefore sought to study 'factors influencing girl-child academic performance in secondary schools in Kiongwe zone Lamu County.' The data for the study was sourced from the DEOs office Mpeketoni which clearly indicated that there is both low enrollment and poor performance for girls against the boys since 2007-2013. The disparity in performance was found to be 1 point with the girls lagging behind and the gap increasing each year. The descriptive research design of survey type was used in the study. The plan of study involved the use of questionnaire to collect data in order to test the hypotheses generated in the study. The study was conducted in Kiongwe Zone in Mpeketoni Sub County in Lamu County. The place had a network of gravened roads.

The researcher studied 1500 secondary school learners, 40 teachers in those secondary schools and 1200 parents. This is the total population of primary stakeholders and secondary schools in Kiongwe Zone. The researcher employed systematic sampling method that gave everybody an opportunity to be selected to reduce business; the researcher studied 1500 secondary school learners where he sampled 150 as ten percent, out of 40 teachers the researcher took ten percent which is 4 teachers out of 1200 parents, the researcher took ten percent and got 120 parents as sample. This study seeks to shed a light on how to best resolve the issue of poor academic performance amongst the girls within Kiongwe zone within the shortest time possible.