

**IMPACT OF ABSENTEESM ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF  
STUDENTS AT KYAMITHENGE SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAKUENI  
COUNTY, KENYA**

**By**

**PAUL MUMO KIEMA**

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## ABSTRACT

### Case study

In this project the researcher set out to investigate the impact of student absenteeism on their academic performance at Kyamithenge Secondary School in Makueni County, Kenya.

The methodology involved collecting empirical data on students' absenteeism and their academic performance in two consecutive school terms- Term 3, 2011 and Term 1 2012. Specifically performance was calculated as the difference in total scores expressed as a percentage of the earlier mark. A sample of 40 students was randomly drawn from the school population of 101. Data on causes of absenteeism was collected using a questionnaire administered on each of the 40 students in the sample.

The results of the study showed that absenteeism is a fact at the school. Though the rate is low, it is widespread. Academic performance was also found to be low in the school. The major cause of absenteeism at Kyamithenge Secondary School was found to be students failing to meet their financial obligations- payment of school levies – (50%) followed closely (at 38%) by sickness. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation was applied to establish the correlation between absenteeism and academic performance and a value of  $r = 0.0881$  was obtained showing that absenteeism had negligible positive impact on academic performance. This was understood to mean that academic performance in the school was more dependent on other factors, not absenteeism.

That the major cause of absenteeism in the school was due to non-payment of various levies was seen as a challenge to the school management. It is thus recommended that the school management investigate the issue further to establish its root cause then plan and act accordingly. It is suggested that frequent stakeholder meetings should be convened to create a good forum for the enlightenment of the parent/guardians. The other significant cause of absenteeism was found to be sickness. Whereas the school administration may not be in a position to help prevent sickness among the students there is a lot they can do in giving guidelines on what should be done (or what should not) when students become sick.