

**ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF HIV AND AIDS ON GIRL CHILD EDUCATION: A
CASE STUDY OF KAWELU SUB LOCATION, KITUI COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

HIV and AIDS pandemic is menace that is constantly robbing the country's economic growth especially the education sector. Averagely, about 2 million Kenyans die yearly from HIV and AIDS related illness. These include teachers, parents and curriculum developers while at the same time leaving the orphans exposed to stigma. Girls are the most affected by the pandemic, evidenced from the progressive records and KCPE results. The objective of the study was to identify the effect of HIV and AIDS on girl child education in the three primary schools within Kawelu sub location of Kitui County namely: kawelu primary, winduma primary and itumba primary school. The raw data obtained was analyzed and presented in form of tables and frequencies. The researcher used questionnaires to collect information with the permission from both the district education officer and head teachers. After carrying out the study the researcher found out that most girls who are affected perform poorly in their academics due to factors caused by HIV and AIDS, lack of role models, assuming parenthood at early age, inconsistency attendance to school, vulnerability, exposure to sexual abuse and insufficient sensitization on HIV and AIDS. The study purpose that all stakeholders in education should stand out and shelter the vulnerable from stigmatization, exploitation, assuming parenthood in absence of parents and encourage them in learning.