

AN ASSESSMENT ON THE POOR PERFORMANCE IN ENGLISH
IN MTITO-ANDEI DIVISION, KIBWEZI DISTRICT.

BY

LILIAN MUTHONI NJABANI

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ABSTRACT

Poor performance in English in secondary schools in MtitoAndei division has led to poor performance in other examinable subject. English is the language that is used for instruction. There is a breakdown of communication between students, teachers and the community at large due to the language being performed poorly.

Performance in the English subjects during the KCSE has been poorly performed especially between 2009-2011. The researcher aimed at identifying the causes of these poor performance of English in Mtito Andei division in Kibwezi district. Secondly the researcher exposed the existing effects of poor performance and thirdly provided remedies aimed at propelling performance improvement in English.

Chomsky (1965) made a disintiction between grammatical competency and performance. He stated that language plays a vital role in expressing our thought, verbal thinking and problem solving.

If the poor performance is left unaddressed then the language standards will be very low and thefore to prevent these real causes of poor performance were sought by the researcher and addressed to. The study covered five schools out of ten schools in Mtito-Andei division. The students were issued with questionnaires that aimed at getting the causes of this poor performance. One teacher of English from each school also shed some light on the poor performance and a principal of each school participated in answering his/her own questionnaire that gave the causes that led to the poor performance.

It was clear that some of the causes were common from the three categories especially inadequate learning resources, inadequate monitoring by headteachers, understaffing, inadequate prior preparation, lack of motivation for teachers, large work load, absenteeism by both teachers and pupils, lack of support from parents amongst others.

The researcher compiled the findings and felt that a solution should be sought for example ensuring English language is the media of instruction in schools and any student violating this should be punished.