

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON PERFORMANCE OF  
GIRLS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN KIAMBU COUNTY**

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## **Abstract**

Domestic violence is a paradox because it occurs in the family, a place where people are expected to maintain intimacy and experience greater emotional support in their relationships. It is ironical therefore, that this very supportive social unit is also the arena where violence is experienced especially in urban slums with untold suffering to the partners involved and also on their children.

Children who witness violence between their parents face increased risk for such emotional and behavioral problems as anxiety, depression, poor academic performance, low self-esteem, disobedience, nightmares and physical health complaints all of which may be associated with academic performance and school participation. This research aimed at analyzing domestic violence and its influence on girls' academic performance and participation in schools in Kiambu County. The study used cross-sectional survey on the targeted population, which was made of public primary schools in the County. It explored cases and types of domestic violence and how they relate to academic performance of girls in school.

The target population comprised of about ten schools out of which 100 girls were sampled using simple random sampling technique. The study used surveys and questionnaires as tools for data collection. The study found out that indeed there is a connection between domestic violence and academic performance among girls in public primary schools in the County. This study recommends that different education sector stakeholders should address domestic violence as a social vice in order to improve academic performance and school participation of girls in public primary schools in Kiambu County. Education policy makers, school administrators, teachers, local administrators, social workers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should formulate strategies for addressing the ills of domestic violence and encourage socially inclusive intervention mechanisms within the County. The legislative framework should incorporate protective laws against domestic violence and school participation, basic education rights and regulations. This study also recommends that similar research be carried out in public primary schools in other Counties to establish the effects of domestic violence on the academic performance of girls.