

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO STUDENT'S POOR PERFORMANCE IN KENYA CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (K.C.S.E.) EXAMINATION IN KABARTONJO DIVISION, BARINGO DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT The purpose of this study was to find out the factors that contributed to low academic performance of students in KCSE examinations in public secondary schools in Kabartonjo division. The study covered the period 1998-2002. It sought to identify the effects of teaching/learning facilities on performance in KCSE examinations. To identify the effects of payments or non-payment of school fees by parents and guardians, to establish how school community relations and support affects students' performance in KCSE examinations. To identify non-activities that affect teachers' effectiveness in teaching. To establish indiscipline cases that affect students performance in KCSE. To establish how effective supervision and inspection of schools and lastly administrative and managerial factors that affect KCSE performance. The review of the literature focus on the concepts, factors that affect students performance. Thus it provided guidelines and laid the background of the study. The study was carried out in selected public secondary schools in Kabartonjo division. It consisted of 6 headteachers, 6 class teachers and 240 form four students and a district education officer. Questionnaires and interview guides were used to collect data. Data were computed using the statistical package for Social Science (SPSS) and the data was analysed and presented in frequency, percentages and bar graphs. Some of the major findings of the study was that factors contributing to students academic performance in public secondary schools in Kabartonjo division, in Baringo District. These were: .In terms of availability of learning facilities in the schools and their effects on K.C.S.E. performance. The study found that:- Most schools (83.3%) had inadequate resources like lack of enough laboratory equipment, lab-room, textbooks, charts, maps, atlas and workshops. . The effects of payments or non-payments of fees on KCSE performance. The study found that most parents (83.3%) do not discharge their socio-economic roles adequately especially in paying of school fees, purchasing learning materials like text books, pens, pencils, maps and personal needs like soaps, pocket money etcetera. . Parents' rate of school visits to check on their children's academic performance. The findings revealed that parents in Kabartonjo division rarely visit schools to check their children's academic progress, this problem can be attributed by the level of parental education which affects their (parents) attitudes towards education. In fact 56.5% of the fathers and 66.9% of the mothers had not received any secondary education, this therefore affected performance negatively because students lacked parental motivation encouragement and inspiration. .Indiscipline cases in school. The study found that majority of the schools (83.3%) ! have had indiscipline problems. Some of these indiscipline cases are solved through dialogue, others suspension and punishment. However, indiscipline causes poor performance because when unrest occurs in a school, definitely students are sent home, which means no learning takes place for their duration at home. Hence teachers may not be in a position to complete their syllabus in time and revise for the exams. It also demoralizes the teaching force. The recommendations of the study includes the following: . The school administration through Parents, Teachers Association and local meetings (barazas), should sensitize parents on the importance of education to their children. Parents should be encouraged to be monitoring their children's academic progress by visiting the school and consulting teachers on matters pertaining to academic progress. .Poor payment of school fees was found as a factor that contributes to poor performance in the area. To curb this menace, the government should increase bursaries to various secondary schools in the district so as to assist the large number of needy but bright students whose learning is disrupted while they are sent to collect school fees. .Since the government has abolished corporal punishment like caning in

schools, they should provide schools with teachers who have trained in guidance and counselling so as to mould errant students. The government should motivate teachers by meeting their needs like sending them for seminars, providing study leaves with pay etc. This will make teachers recognized appreciated which will eventually help enhance quality teaching. The recommendations for further studies are in line with the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made for future research: The current study be replicated on a larger sample either from Baringo district or any other district. . Further research is also required to study on the factors that lead to students' indiscipline cases in schools in Kabartonjo division, Baringo district.