AN ANALYSIS OF FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS IN KENYA CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (KCSE) EXAMINATION IN CHEPALUNGU CONSTITUENCY

(A Case Study of Ten Selected Secondary Schools)

BY

ENG. ALEXANDER KIPRONO NG’ENO

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ABSTRACT

Whereas it is important for schools to excel in national examinations, the performance of schools in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) Examination in Chepalungu Constituency, in Bomet District, in the last five years has not been encouraging. The purpose of this study was to analyse the factors affecting performance in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) Examination in the Constituency.

Literature on the work done by other researchers on the same area of study was reviewed. Some of the factors that have been identified as affecting performance of schools in national examinations include physical facilities and learning resources, school management, staffing levels, discipline, form one intake grades and other socio-economic factors. There was therefore need to analyse these factors and establish those that actually affect schools in Chepalungu Constituency.

The study adopted a descriptive design type of methodology. Data was collected through mostly questionnaire and some limited interviews so as to help bring out the best response from the subjects. The target population was the teachers and pupils from ten selected schools in Chepalungu Constituency in Bomet District, as well as some education officials from the district. The sampling method used was stratified random and purposive sampling. A sample population of 125 was used in the study.
Once the data had been collected, it was verified, coded, and analysed using descriptive statistical methods such as percentages, mean, mode, median and standard deviation. Bar charts have also been used to show certain relationships between factors and performance in KCSE examination.

The study has yielded some insight on some of the factors affecting the performance in KCSE examination in the Chepalungu Constituency. The study has confirmed that lack of physical facilities and learning resources, inadequate staffing, incompetent school management, indiscipline, and low form one-intake grades do affect performance in KCSE examination in Chepalungu Constituency though to varying extends.

Some suggestions and recommendations, which should lead to the improved performance in KCSE examination in the Constituency in future, include provision of funds of physical facilities and learning resources, improved discipline, increased staffing, and improvement of education standards in the local primary schools. Further research can also be carried on the other areas study such as effects of HIV/AIDS on performance in KCSE in the constituency.