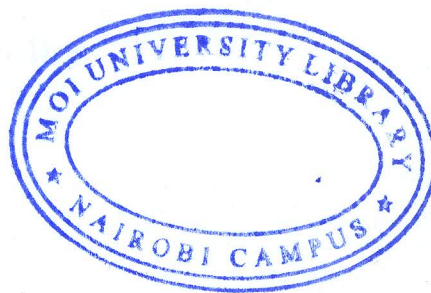


**FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS' STUDENTS  
PERFORMANCE IN KENYA CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION  
EXAMINATION (K.C.S.E): A CASE OF KAJIADO NORTH DISTRICT**

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**BY**

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**RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE IN  
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## ABSTRACT

This study investigated the factors that influence public schools students' performance in Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E) Examination in Kajiado North District. The study population involved 4127 students, 23 career teachers, 23 head teachers, 1 DQASO and 1 D.E.O. There were 351 students, 19 career teachers, 19 head teachers, one Quality Assurance and Standard Officer (D.Q.A.S.O) and one District Education Officer (D.E.O) who constituted the sample for the study. The sample was calculated using the table designed by Krejcie and Morgan.

The objectives of the study were as follows: To establish the effect of socio-cultural factors on K.C.S.E performance in Kajiado North District, to find out whether socio-economic factors influence K.C.S.E in Kajiado North District, to investigate school related factors that influence K.C.S.E performance and to suggest solutions to the perennial poor performance at K.C.S.E in Kajiado North District. The sample constituted 19 Public Secondary Schools out of the total 23 Schools. Simple random sampling method was used to select the sample for the study. The instruments for data collection were the questionnaires for students, head teachers and career teachers, interview schedule for DEO and DQASO and an observation guide. The design for the study was descriptive survey method. The instruments were pre-tested in a pilot study to establish their reliability and validity. Data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively using descriptive statistics techniques. The findings of the study were as follows; the negative cultural practices affected performance. These were early marriages and moranism. There were inadequate teacher's houses on the school compounds which reduced their contact time with students.

The study also revealed that parents did not pay fees well due to poverty which led to high rate of absenteeism by students in school. Many schools did not have libraries and those that had been stocked with outdated materials. However, the study revealed that schools had adequate text books and teachers who were well trained. On professionalism, the study revealed that the teachers did not give enough assignment and individual differences were not addressed as seen by the neglect of the weak students. The following recommendations were made: there is need to construct teachers houses, parents to be sensitized on importance of their role in school and advantages of paying fees on time, some cultural practices such as early marriages and moranism should be discarded and those found carrying them out to be arrested and charged, libraries to be constructed and be equipped with relevant materials. The DQASO needs to organize for assessments to remind the teachers of their obligation. This is because the schools have adequate teachers and books hence the results are expected to be good. The principals need to embrace modern leadership skills that include the followers in school administration. There was need to carry out further research on the factors influencing performance in private secondary schools in national examinations in Kajiado North District for they form a large portion of Secondary Schools in the District. Further to this it's important to study the effectiveness of department of DQASO in school performance.