

**PARENTAL OCCUPATION AS A PREDICTOR OF STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, IN KENYA CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC MIXED DAY SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NYAMIRA NORTH SUB-COUNTY, KENYA.**

BY

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# Introduction

- A myriad of variables exhibit a direct or indirect bearing on academic achievement particularly at the secondary level of education in Kenya.
- Among these variables is parental occupation.
- It's against this backdrop that a study was designed to investigate the influence of parental occupation on academic performance in Kenya certificate of secondary education (KCSE) in Nyamira North sub county, Kenya.

# Background of the problem

- According to the Government of Kenya education sector report 2013/14-2015/16 the education sector has a wide range of stakeholders with varied interests in the learning process and outcomes (R.o.K 2012).
- Vision 2030 second medium term plan 2013 -2017, emphasizes on the link between education and training (E&T) and a strong public and private partnerships ( R.o.K 2013).
- However the education sector faces emerging issues and challenges among them being; limited community participation, high dropout rates, poor planning of human resources and geographical disparities in quality, equity access to education and affordability ( R.o.K 2013).

# Background of the problem cont...

- Available literature indicate that in the former Nyamira District from where Nyamira North District was carved in 2008, poverty rate in 2005-2006 stood at 46.6% with the number of the poor totaling to 262,688 (Kenya open data 2011 ).
- The 1999 national census put dependency ratio as 100:95 which was manifested in low savings and investments in the district leading to slow economic growth and a high incident of poverty (Institute of economic affairs, 2002).
- According to Nyamira District strategic plan 2005-2010 (where Nyamira North sub county was inclusive) the District had: high rates of school drop outs, high rates of H.I.V AIDS prevalence, low levels of education,(The District had 64% of its population with primary education, while only 17.7% of its population attained secondary education), child labour, child negligence, drug abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM), and gender violence, increased number of single parenthood, low transition rates, and poor continuing learning environment at home (R.o.K 2005).

# Background of the problem cont...

- The consortium for research on educational access, transition and equity (CREATE 2011) report recommended strengthening quality of education received by pupils who enter district schools in Kenya (Lewin, Wasanga, Wanderi & Somerset 2011).
- The relevance of this study stemmed from empirical review which showed that parents use materials and non-material resources to create a home environment that fosters academic skills (Xia, 2010). Parental occupation is one of the non material resources, which as well is among indicators of social economic status.
- The study was keen at establishing whether parental occupation could influence academic performance in Nyamira North Sub County. This was against a backdrop of the fact that the researcher did not come across a similar study done in the sub county, which evidently was a gap to be filled.

# Statement of the problem

- Performance in the Kenya certificate of secondary education (KCSE) in Nyamira North sub county has been dismal for some time now.
- the government and other pertinent stakeholders have invested heavily by providing prerequisite resources, yet academic results have not been commensurate.
- So far there is lack of knowledge on whether parental occupation has a bearing on academic performance in public mixed day secondary schools.

# Objective of the study

- To establish how parental occupation influences students' academic performance in selected public mixed day secondary schools in Nyamira North Sub County.

# Research question

- How does parents' occupation influence students' academic performance in selected public mixed day secondary schools in Nyamira North District?



# Theoretical framework.

- The study was informed by Epstein (2001) theory of parental involvement.
- Parental involvement is depended on a number of contextual variables, however there are many advantages attributed to parental involvement.
- Parental involvement programme focuses on six areas which are: parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community.
- Epstein emphasizes the need for grassroots planning involving all stakeholders. In her conceptualization, parents, teachers, and community members are coined “spheres of influence”; all stakeholders are considered equal partners in student learning.

# Research Methodology

- The study adopted *ex post facto* research design.
- Since the study examined the influence of parental occupation on student performance, this research design was perceived to be appropriate since the influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable had already occurred overtime.
- The study used a formula which was first developed Krejcie and Morgan (1970) to determine the sample size. The following formula used is given as:

$$S = \frac{X^2 NP (1-P)}{d^2 (N-1) + X^2 P (1-P)}$$

S = required sample size

$X^2$  = the table value of chi-square for one degree of freedom at the desired confidence level

N = the population size

P = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size)

d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05)

Based on this formula table, a sample size of 265 parents was obtained; all the 22 head teachers were selected through the census sampling technique.

# Research Methodology cont...

- Data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. ( qualitatively the data were coded, to identify themes which were categorized, finally an interpretation of the findings was done). The Scientific Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 was used to analyze quantitative data. The study also used chi square tests in computing the relationship between the parental occupation and students' performance in KCSE.

# Instrumentation

- The study used questionnaires and interview schedules as research instruments. Questionnaires for head teachers sought to collect precise information on; students' *biodata*, On the other hand interviewing the parents was done to obtain information on their various occupations.

# Validity of Instruments

- Face validity of the research instruments was established during piloting. This ensured that the required information was gathered. Further insight was sought from supervisors and other experts.

# Reliability of Instruments

- To test on reliability of research instruments, the researcher administered a test-retest reliability analysis. In this case, research instruments were administered to the same respondents after duration of two weeks.
- Further establishment of reliability, was attained through calculation of Cronbach alpha coefficient of reliability.(with a score of 0.753 for the parents' interview schedule and 0.812 for the head teachers' questionnaire ).

# Results and discussions

- From the findings : 35.6% of the candidates scored between 11 and 20 points in KCSE, 31.8% scored between 21 and 30 points, 23.7% scored between 31 and 40, 1.7% between 41 and 50 points, 3.4% between 51 and 60 points, while 3.7% scored above 61 points. This implied that students' performance in KCSE was poor in most schools. The implication and interpretation of these results is that performance at KCSE level of education has a high wastage rate; with very few students scoring quality grades which can enable them join University.

## **Results and discussions cont...**

### **Relationship between Parents' current occupation and performance in KCSE examination**

- From a chi square test performed it was found that candidates' parents' occupation did not affect Performance in KCSE examination in KCSE 2010, (the effect was insignificant). The performance there could be attributed to other factors besides parents' occupation



# Summary and Conclusions

- Student performance in most public mixed day secondary schools in Nyamira North sub county was low.
- Performance in secondary schools had a high wastage rate with few students scoring quality grades.
- Most parents in Nyamira North sub county were involved in manual work which ordinarily attracted little pay thus denying the children access to resources which are readily available to children from higher SES.
- In Nyamira North sub county parental occupation did not affect performance in KCSE examination in 2010.
- Regarding parents' occupation 69.1% of the parents were farmers, 14.8 were manual workers and 7.6% were businesspersons

# Recommendations

- The Government of Kenya to consider coming up with policies that lead to the uplifting of the living standards of the parents; for instance creation of job opportunity, capacity building and developing and executing programmes aimed at raising the living standards of the local community
- The school management boards should be cognizant of the need for guiding parents on the importance of their involvement in school activities. The management boards should make deliberate efforts to initiate and execute programmes for professional development of teachers, particularly those in top management positions and those involved in guidance and counseling, to empower them to enhance meaningful relationships and partnerships between the school, parents and the community.

# Recommendations

cont...

- It is strongly recommended that at all levels of the school management, parents should be involved in decision making in issues affecting their children. By doing so the school shall get technical and financial inputs from a wide spectrum of the parent's community given that they have unique talents, skills, and experiences.

# The end..

- Thank you and God bless you.