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THEME: RE-ENGINEERING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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- Enhancing quality in education
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- Research, innovation and knowledge transfer in education
- Application of ICT in education
- Resource mobilization and utilization in education
The Development of Talent Academies in Kenya Educational System

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Abstract

Talent is considered to be an exceptional natural ability to attain goals. Talent academies challenge young people who have been identified as having particular talents to develop the talents through innovative approaches. Based on a literature review, this paper focuses on the development of talent academies in Kenya where the idea is being implemented on a pilot basis. The paper provides an overview of the methods used to identify gifted students, the competence of teachers, the programs offered and the challenges faced by the talent academies. Among the review findings are that classroom teachers are called upon to nominate students for gifted and talented programmes, headteachers have been trained in workshops, conferences on how to manage the talented youth, the curriculum offered is on sports’ careers with peace education and life skills. The challenges identified include lack of proper structures to identify and nurture talent both in and out of school and lack of proper performing arts equipment to host meaningful competitions as well as to train talent.

Key words: Talent academies, talent development, piloted academies, giftedness.