STRATEGIES USED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF KENYAN SIGN LANGUAGE BY TEACHERS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR LEARNERS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS, IN WESTERN REGION, KENYA

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is my own original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

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This proposal has been submitted for review with our approval as university supervisors.

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The purpose of this study was to find out strategies in terms of resources (material and human), teaching methods, teachers' use of Kenyan Sign Language (KSL), teachers' preparedness and opinions towards the use of KSL in schools for learners with HI. Study findings revealed that teachers preferred the use of discussion, demonstration, question and answer methods in teaching, leaving out dramatization and field trips which were important in the learning process of learners with hearing impairments. Results of the study revealed that there were some strategies put in place to facilitate the implementation of KSL such as the use of KSL dictionaries, charts, TVs, computers and resource rooms but they were inadequate. It was also found that human resources, who included teachers with HI, were insufficient. The study further revealed that teachers had positive opinion towards KSL use. The study recommended that teachers should consider the use of field trips, project, storytelling and dramatization to enhance understanding. The study also recommended that the syllabi and books for all subjects be adapted by KIE to suit the use of Kenyan Sign Language. The researcher also suggested that Kenya Institute of Education should develop instructional materials including; charts, Video tapes and maps with KSL illustrations for aiding teachers in teaching using KSL, training of teachers in the use of KSL and employment of more staff with hearing impairments should be considered by the school Board of Governors and Teachers’ Service Commission, in order for learners with HI to grow up in an environment rich in Kenyan Sign Language. Further research is suggested on KSL signs relevant for concepts in Science, Social Studies, Mathematics and emerging issues.