

**INFLUENCE OF PARENTS' SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS  
ON ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION OF CHILDREN IN  
ECDE CENTERS IN LAMBWE DIVISION,  
MBITA DISTRICT**

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**E55/OL/21614/2010**

**DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR  
THE REQUIREMENTS OF AN AWARD OF A DEGREE OF MASTER OF  
EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OF  
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY, KENYA.**

**JANUARY 2014**



## DECLARATION

### Student's Declaration

I declare that this proposal is my original work and has not been presented in any other university/institution for consideration. This research proposal has been complemented by referenced sources duly acknowledged. Where text, data (including spoken words), graphics, pictures or tables have been borrowed from other sources, including the internet, these are specifically accredited and references cited in accordance and in line with anti-plagiarism regulations.

Signature ..... 

Date..... 5/3/2014.....

**Okumu Kennedy Oluoch**

**E55/01/21614/2010**

### Supervisors' Declaration

This research proposal has been submitted for our approval as the university supervisors to the candidate.

Signature ..... 

Date..... 6/3/2014.....

**Dr. Juliet Mugo**

**Lecturer,**

**Department of Early Childhood Studies.**

Signature..... 

Date..... 6/3/14.....

**Dr. Mary Ndani**

**Lecturer,**

**Department of Early Childhood Studies**

## ABSTRACT

According to UNESCO (2008) pre-primary learners who have been enrolled in pre primary schools tend to perform better in school than those who have not. Preschool is important because it helps to build a strong foundation for lifelong learning and to ensure equitable access to later learning opportunities. Statistics show low preschool enrollment in Kenya and particularly in Lambwe division where only 1928 children (50.14%) of the children aged 3-6 years are attending pre-school. It is because of this that the study will be undertaken to find out the possible causes of low enrollment and retention of early childhood education learners in Lambwe division Mbita District, Kenya. Specific Objectives of the study are to: determine the influence of parental economic status on enrollment and retention of children in ECDE centres, find out the extent to which parent's level of education influence enrollment and retention of children in ECDE centres, establish how parents occupation influence enrollment and retention of children in ECDE centres and describe the influence of parents income on enrolment and retention of children in ECDE centres in Lambwe division, Mbita district, Kenya. The study will adopt the human ecology theory by Bronfenbrenner, (1979). His ecological systems theory holds that development reflects the influence of several environmental systems, and it identifies five environmental systems that an individual interacts with. That is the Microsystem, Mesosystem, Exosystem, Macrosystem and Chronosystem. The instruments that will be used for data collection are questionnaires for 196 parents. On the other hand interviews schedules will be used for data collection from quality assurance officers. The study will employ correlation research design. Data presentation will involve use of tables, frequency counts and charts. Data will be analyzed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistical tool with the aim of establishing the relationship between the variables. This will form the basis of the detailed analysis. Descriptive statistic will be used to summarize the data and meaningfully describe the distribution of scores. Statistical analysis will be done using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 11.0. Results and discussion on specific objectives, summary, conclusion and recommendation will be made.