

**INFLUENCE OF SEXUAL ABUSE ON THE SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE OF GIRLS AGED 6-8 YEARS IN MOMBASA
COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

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E55/CE/21609/2010

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE
AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF
EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION,
KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

DECEMBER, 2016



DECLARATION

I declare this research project is my original work and has not been presented in any other University/institution for considerations. This research project has been complemented by referenced sources duly acknowledged. Where text, data (including spoken words) graphics, pictures or tables have been borrowed from other works- including internet, the sources are specifically accredited through referencing in accordance with anti-plagiarism regulations.

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We confirm that the work reported in this project was carried out by the candidate under our supervision as University Supervisors.

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ABSTRACT

Sexual abuse is a serious world-wide public health concern particularly when it involves children hence its combustion requires not only individual efforts but also collective proactive measures in order to ensure them their right with regard to protection. Specifically, they face many forms of maltreatment including physical, psychological, emotional, sexual abuse, child labor and neglect which has negative influence on their learning performance. Of concern in this study was the number of children being sexually abused in Changamwe Sub-County and despite measures put in place by the government to prevent it, the problem was alarming high. Further, many of the incidences went unnoticed, unreported to authorities, or were ignored. This kind of molestation of small children by adults was thus a major worry and hence, the study sought to investigate the influence of sexual abuse on the academic performance of girls in their early childhood years within lower primary schools in Changamwe Sub-County and to provide possible solutions. The Cognitive Theory by Piaget (1983) was employed in the descriptive survey study. Out of the 20 targeted public lower primary schools, 10 (50%) of them that were 3-streamed and with a preprimary/ pre-unit section attached to them were purposively selected. The study further sampled 10 head-teachers and 100 teachers. Data was collected using questionnaires for teachers and interview schedules for head teachers. A pilot study was conducted in five of the schools to ensure validity and reliability. Validity of the instruments was further enhanced by ensuring that the study content strictly conformed to the study objectives. Reliability of the instruments on the other hand was tested through the Split half method. Pearson's product moment correlation was then used to correlate results of the two split halves at 0.7 coefficient. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis were used to analyze data collected. The results show that sexual abuse was rampant in the study locale and in turn it has resulted to low academic performance among affected children. There was therefore need for adequate as well as proficient strategies to be put in place to combat the problem by involving the entire community within and around the school. Ultimately, it is anticipated that the efforts will help the affected children to perform well in school activities.