EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE BY PARENTS ON SCHOOL PARTICIPATION BY PRIMARY PUPILS IN ABOTHUGUCHI DIVISION, MERU COUNTY, KENYA

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI.

## DECLARATION

## Declaration by Student

I declare that this Research project is my original work and has not been presented to any other academic institution for award of a degree or any other award.

## JANE MUTABI NGUTHARI

E56/66189/2010
$\qquad$

## Declaration by Supervisor

This project has been submitted with my approval as University supervisor.

Professor Lucy W. Kibera PHD<br>School of Education University of Nairobi

Signature $\qquad$ Date

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## DEDICATION

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#### Abstract

Drug abuse is a major challenge to societies and authorities in the world. A considerable amount of research has examined the impact of parental alcohol misuse on children's development. The research reveals that children can and do suffer from a range of maladaptive outcomes spanning all areas of development, including the cognitive, behavioural, psychological, emotional and social domains. The purpose of the study was to determine the effect of drug and substance abuse among parents on pupil's school participation. This study focused on participation of primary pupils in curriculum and co-curriculum activities in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya. Specifically, it examined the influence of parents who abuse drug and substances, learner characteristics (age, gender and peer influence) on school participation and influence of school factors on primary pupils' school participation in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya. The study utilized a descriptive research design which entails the collection of quantifiable information from the selected respondents. This design is especially important given that there is large number of schools in Abothuguchi division.

The research targeted pupils in standard seven, school teachers, parents and school committee members in Abothuguchi division, so as to capture as much information as possible on the subject of investigation. The sample comprised Standard seven pupils, Teachers and Head teachers and school committee members. Structured selfadministered questionnaires were used. The completed responses were then coded and entered into a spreadsheet and analyzed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer soft ware.


The findings established that Sexual harassment is common among school pupils and majority Pupils having low self esteem. The study also found out that only few of the pupils had strong self esteem. Bullying is rampant in school due to indiscipline among learners; majority of pupils are bullied. Most of the pupils interviewed had witnessed wife beating. Truancy was also found out to affect performance of majority of respondents. Pupils' influenced one another negatively. The study has concluded that majority of learners took up the responsibilities of the drunken parents at a very tender since their parents suffered from hangovers due to drug and substance abuse. The pupils were overworked in the evenings and were tired, fatigued from work assigned by their drug and substance abusing parents.

The study established that teachers did not give pupils homework and co-curricular activities. They viewed them as having little importance to education. On the influence of drug and substances abusing parents on their children's school participation, it is important that guidance and counseling should be made compulsory and supported so as to give the children from the home with drug abusing parents hope and reason to work even harder in school. There is also need to establish rescue centres for those pupils who may be in dire circumstances.

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## CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Drug abuse is a major challenge to societies and authorities in the world. The menace of drugs has strangled the youthful population reducing them to dummies, zombies and drooling figures. Consequently they waste out the prime of their lives when they are most needed to invest their energy in worthy nation building ventures. Over the past two decades, the use of illegal drugs and misuse of therapeutic drugs have spread at an unprecedented rate and have penetrated every part of the globe. No nation has been spared from the devastating problem caused by drug abuse.

A considerable amount of research has examined the impact of parental alcohol misuse on children's development. The research reveals that children can and do suffer from a range of maladaptive outcomes spanning all areas of development, including the cognitive, behavioural, psychological, emotional and social domains. Eccles, et al. (2003). Children themselves report feeling socially excluded, frequently being left alone, having a sense of not being loved, and having feelings of low selfworth. They may also take on responsibility for caring for their parents. School-going children take the responsibilities of their parents who spend most of their time taking the local brew. Young children in STD 7 and 8 own property such as rabbits, chicken, cattle, sheep and goats. They are engaged in casual labor by the well-off members of the community and then some of the money they get buy such property. Drug and
substance misused by parent include miraa, alcohol (spirits), tobacco, glue, bhang, alcohol (local brew) cigarettes. (DEO Meru District Annual Report 2011).

Pockets of poverty in the Abothuguchi division are found in slums areas, especially in Kiagu and Mwangathia area. Families with small uneconomic parcels of land especially in Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL) areas are also poor. The number of those living in absolute poverty (rural \& urban) is 41 per cent. Its contribution to national poverty is 1.32 per cent (Ministry of Finance (K), 2004). In Abothuguchi division about $50 \%$ of the population is considered to be poor while more than $45 \%$ in all other divisions are regarded as being poor. This situation is common in household with 6 or more members. The most vulnerable groups affected by poverty are women, youth, and the aged and small scale farmers.

According to the Welfare Monitoring Survey III (1997) Abothuguchi division had $41 \%$ of the population who were food poor. This is an indicator that the district is poverty striken. The main causes of poverty in the district include low working capacity for this reason there is high rates of school drop out. There is inability of parent to provide basic necessities such as clothes, food, among others, due to high consumption of illegal brews and drug taking by parents.

Drug and substance abuse has been rampant in Abothuguchi division and this has risen concern both by division educationalists and administration officers. Many children have dropped out of school even before completion of primary education. Some school children are used by their parent to sell drugs and substance at home.

Statistics on primary school enrolment in the Abothuguchi division lower primary classes STD 1-3 reveal that there are more pupils than in upper classes STD 6-7 (District-Ministry of education, 2013). Some of the reasons that may explain decline in enrolment in upper primary may be that girls lack guidance from parents because they often ensures involvement in drug and substance abuse and therefore not in touch with what is happening to their children. Children who are not guided in life skills are likely to engage in sex. As a result girls in particular leave school due to pregnancy. The children lack school uniform, school levies required by the school. Children from families where parents abuse drugs and substances are likely to go to school having incomplete homework, and without school book, (GoK, 2005).

While drug and substance abusing parents contribute to pupil's failure to participate in school activities fully, schools too are likely not to promote pupils academic and cocurricular activities. This happens when teachers do not prepare adequately to teach. In some cases, teachers substitute co-curricular activities time with academic subjects under the pretext that co-curricular activities are waste of classroom instructional time. Teachers have been advised to involve pupils in co-curriculum activities from 3.10 p.m. to 4.10 p.m D.E.O's speech at Meru Central District Bench-marking exercise at Makueni County in the year 2012. DEO, Meru District Annual Report (2012) co-curricular activities include:- music, athletics, ball games, scouts and girl guides club, young farmers club, Christian union club, drama club. Physical activity as a co curricular activity is very important for health and in building skills that support active lifestyles.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

There is evidence of a direct link between socio-economic status, parental drug and substance abuse and school participation (Eccles, et al., 1999). In families where parents misuse alcohol, children may not have their basic needs met because of severe or continuous drinking problems, this is generally associated with missed days of work, job loss, alcohol related medical costs, inability to pay bills and funds to purchase accessories for curriculum and co-curriculum activities and as a consequence, lower participation in academic performance and low participation in co-curricular activities has been observed among pupils (Troutman KP, Dufur MJ 2007). There are also studies which have investigated out of school factors and environmental impacts on academic performance and co-curricular activities with similar results (Robert Wood Johnston Foundation 2007). The current study intends to investigate the extent to which drug abuse and substance abuse by parents in Abothuguchi Division in Meru County, Kenya affect pupils' participation in curriculum and co-curriculum activities.

### 1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to determine the effect of drug and substance abuse among parents on pupil's school participation. This study focused on participation in curriculum and co-curriculum activities in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya. Curriculum activities include: attending school regularly, reading and writing, doing homework excursions and others.

### 1.4 Research Objectives

The specific objectives of the study were to:
i). Examine the influence of parents who abuse drug and substances on their children's school participation in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya
ii). Establish the influence of learner characteristics (age, gender and peer influence) on school participation at primary level in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya
iii). Assess the influence of school factors on primary pupils' school participation in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya

### 1.5 Research Questions

i). What was the influence of parents with drug and substance abuse problem on their children's school participation, in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya?
ii). How do learner's characteristics affect primary pupils' school participation, in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya?
iii). How do school factors affect pupils' school participation, in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya?

### 1.6 Significance of the Study

The information gained will help the Government of Kenya to formulate policies that will deal with drug and substance abuse among parents. These policies will in turn help parents send their children to school and encourage them to remain in school. The teachers will benefit in that study findings may enable them to diversify their class management methods in the management of the pupils affected.

Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), is likely to benefit from the findings useful for curriculum and policy development and in the review of teaching methods, in the teaching learning process. The study findings can help the Ministry of Education in the formulation of sound education policies and strategies, in training and development of personnel (teachers), in guidance and counseling at the primary school level. The study results can also help in the Ministry of Education in managing primary curriculum and co-curricular in its implementation. In the long run this would help the Ministry of Education in its mission to establish, maintain and improve educational standards.

### 1.7 Limitations of the Study

Honesty of pupils, teachers and parents when answering questions on sensitive topics on drug and substance abuse cannot be guaranteed. Pupils did not feel free to give information about their parents who abuse drug and other drug related substances.

### 1.8 Scope of the Study

This study investigated pupils in standard seven classes, teachers and selected parents in primary schools in Abothuguchi Division. The study also investigated parents' drug and substances abuse, learner characteristics and school factors that affect pupils school participation in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya for the last three years.

### 1.9 Assumptions of the Study

In order to carry out the study as anticipated the following assumptions were made;
i. The teachers were free to respond to all the questions during the interviews.
ii. The teachers appreciated the importance of the study and cooperated accordingly.
iii. The pupils provided relevant information about themselves and their parents
iv. Class teachers of std 7 responded positively to the study
v. Spouses of drug and substances abusers readily answered questions so as to attract help.

### 1.0 Definition of Significant Terms

Curriculum: In formal education, a curriculum is the set of courses, and their content, offered at a school, tertiary colleges or university.

Co-curricular activities: refers to: activities such as drama, debating, games and sports by school children organized by school after school times.

Drug Abuse: This is the practice of using and being addicted to the use of drugs conventional and other substances that have been outlawed by the government or health authorities, such illegal traditional brews as being harmful or un-social.

Syllabus: A syllabus is an outline and summary of topics to be covered in an education or training course. It is descriptive and is often either set out by an exam board.

## CHAPTER TWO

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents on the effects of drugs and substance abuse of parents on their children in terms of curriculum and co-curricular activities. The chapter has also presented the conceptual framework showing the independent and dependent variables of the study.

Across the world, schools are usually expected to offer learners a core academic curriculum together with other co-curricular activities, where the former is the core reason whose survival is partly influenced by the latter. In this study, school cocurricular activities refer to other school activities that are offered together with the academic curriculum, particularly sport. Some refer to such activities as extracurricular activities, suggesting that they are added on to the main or core curriculum. By suggesting that they are co-curricular, the aim is to elevate them to almost an equal status to academic work for curriculum has to be looked at holistically (Miller 2007). Curriculum is defined as all that is planned to help student acquire and develop desired knowledge, skills and attitude. It is divided into three dimensions namely formal, non-formal and informal (Oluoch, 2002). The process of education is not something static or one time measure rather, continuous and life long endeavor that can be divided in recognized as a source of enrichment and vitalization of the school curriculum, mainly through the cultivation of hobbies, interests, etc. These activities are no longer looked upon as extras but as an integral part of the school program. The
distinction between curricular and extra curricular is gradually disappearing in modern educational practice and the co-ordination and integration of all the experiences of the pupils' intellectual, social, moral, emotional and physical abilities has become the object of the persistent efforts of the school.

While it is mandatory for schools to afford learners access to this balanced education, it is natural that there is wide spatial and temporal variation in terms of the delivery of co-curricular activities in schools worldwide. In most cases, co-curricular activities are sacrificed for particularly classroom time in efforts to improve academic success. This is largely because the foci of the school curricula and after-school programs are on achievement in academics (Castelli et al. 2007). However, this is against the background that participation in co-curricular activities provides an important socialization experience for many youths (Hoffman 2006).

In their study, Grobler et al. (2012) established that school leaders who base a vision of excellence on an ethical foundation of improving learner achievements will need to effectively communicate such a vision to all concerned. Research on participation in academic activities shows that participation is associated with more positive attitudes towards school (Mahoney 2000).

Co-curricular activities, as the name implies, are those, not directly related with the prescribed curriculum and include; sports, athletics, scouting, cubing, various hobbies, excursions literary societies, dramatics, debates etc. to bring social and physical
adjustments in the child. The basic idea behind such activities in educational institutions is the building up of the student character and personality as well as training of their mind that may help/facilitate academic achievements of the child. However, over the years it was noticed that most of the private schools were paying over emphasis to academic activities for the sake of achieving better percentage of the passed candidates and winning award and ranks than in organizing suitable activities to improve the personality and the talents of the students. (Gitonga E.R (1998).

Co-curricular activities are integral part of students' holistic, well-rounded education. They help nurture in student's qualities such as resilience, tenacity, confidence and perseverance which prepare them to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world (Mwathi \& Kamenju 2002). The objectives of these activities at secondary school level revolves around cognitive effective and psycho-motor domains as well as the development of social relationships, moral values and education for leisure, physical fitness and general health. Hartmann. D, Massogliam (2007) states that physical education is the only area of the school curriculum that promotes the development of motor skills and fitness. The emphasis of physical education as a subject in the curriculum and subsequent emphasis on co-curricular activities in the school programmes contributes to the development in the psychomotor domain of learners. The purposes of co-curricular activities can be summarized as to: Inculcate leadership, sportsmanship, responsibility and commitment. Promote a sporting excellence culture that helps strengthen school pride. Enhance pupils' aesthetic development and personal growth.

However, Troutman and Dufur (2007) established that females who engage in interscholastic high school sports have higher odds of completing college than their non-athletic counterparts. Although most research focuses its attention on the outcomes and concerns regarding children's participation in co-curricular activities (Kremer-Sadlik et al. 2010), few studies have contextually explored some of the concerns of the critical stakeholders' accounts about views and reasons for which they engage themselves and/or their children in a multitude of activities and meanings that they attach to such activities.

As Mahoney JL (2006) in analyzing home and school perceptions of the role cocurricular activities play in children's lives, there is hope to further understand the relations between these activities and other developmental contexts within which children are raised and prepared for life after school. Moreso, the majority of these research studies have been carried out in Anglo-Saxon countries where co-curricular activities are socially valued (at least by academic population). This study analyzed the perceived effects of participating in co-curricular activities in a school system where such activities exist but without being specially valued.

Everything in the universe has been recognized by its worth and value. The same must be accorded to co-curricular activities in a normal school setting. Toriola et al.'s (2000) findings indicated that in both Botswana and Nigeria, youth sport programmes were mainly targeted at schools. In this regard it becomes more of a case of schoolleader competency and effectiveness in ensuring that staff works towards
implementing all activities that aim to improve learners' attainment, including partaking in co-curricular activities. In their study, Grobler et al. (2012) established that school leaders who base a vision of excellence on an ethical foundation of improving learner achievements will need to effectively communicate such a vision to all concerned.

Despite public concern for health issues among youth, physical activity opportunities are currently being reduced and childhood obesity rates are on the rise (McKenzie and Kahan 2004; Pellegrini and Bohn 2005). In schools across the United States of America, physical education has been substantially reduced-and in some cases completely eliminated- in response to budget concerns and pressures to improve academic test scores (Robert 2007). However, several studies found that children who are physically active and fit tend to perform better in the classroom, and that daily physical education does not adversely affect academic performance (Sailes et al. 1999). Children's co-curricular activities have been linked to academic achievement and social adjustment (Eccles et al. 2003; Mahoney et al 2005).

Guicciardi et al. (2006) cited in Kremer- Sadlik et al. (2010) asserted that Italian studies have shown positive relations between children's participation in sports and a general perception of physical and psychological good health, as well as between adolescents' engagement in sports and higher levels of self-efficacy and motivational orientation. According to studies conducted, male and female students who participate in co-curricular activities, including athletics, derive a host of benefits such as better
grades, a higher likelihood of college attendance, a lower likelihood of dropout, higher educational aspirations, more satisfaction with schools and teachers, higher life satisfaction, broader conventional peer networks, less involvement in delinquent behaviour, and less drug and alcohol use (Crosnoe 2002; Eccles et al. 2003). A considerable amount of research has examined the impact of parental alcohol and substance abuse misuse on children's development and wellbeing. This section of the review draws on research findings to discuss the effects of parental alcohol and substance abuse misuse on child development and examines the association between parental alcohol and substance abuse use and adverse child outcomes. In general, research suggests there is sufficient evidence to support a direct causal link between parental alcohol and substance abuse and adverse child outcomes (Loy.W, Z,J et.al (1981).

The consensus in the literature is that parental alcohol and substance abuse misuse brings disruption to family functioning. In general, where there is parental alcohol and substance abuse misuse, families are more troubled and dysfunctional, perceive their environment to be less cohesive, lack ritual and routines, have lower levels of physical and verbal expression of positive feelings, warmth and caring, and have higher levels of unresolved conflict, fighting, blaming and arguing (Hussong \& et al, 2005), for example, showed that parental alcohol and substance abuse misuse was associated with poorer intellectual stimulation, a family environment with less cohesion and organisation, and greater domestic violence.

### 2.2 Summary of Literature Review

A large body of literature indicates links between family stress, conflict and child externalizing and internalizing behaviours (Stormshak, Speltz, DeKlyen \& Greenberg, 1997; Cummings \& Davies, 1994; Cummings, Davies \& Campbell, 2000). There is also evidence that the children who have the most difficulties are those with two parents who misuse alcohol and substance abuse (Hussong et al., 2005). However, the conclusions in this context are that these behaviours have potentially negative consequences for educational achievement and that young pupils appear to be somewhat more likely to engage in them (Crosnoe 2002). Nevertheless, little is done on the effect of parental drug and substance abuse and pupil's participation in school activities in Kenya and no study has been done in Abothuguchi division of Meru County, Kenya where drug and substance abuse is prevalent.

### 2.3 Conceptual Framework

The study assumes that there is a relationship between abuse of drug and substance by parents, learners characteristics, school factors and school participation by pupils from primary schools in Abothuguchi division, Meru County, Kenya.. The interaction by these factors on participation of primary pupils in co-curricular activities are presented in Figure 2.1

Figure: 2.1 Conceptual Frame work on effects of drug and substance by parents, pupil characteristics and school factors on primary pupils' school participation

## Parents drug and substance abuse

- Violent behaviour
- Withdrawal of pupils from school
- Overworking pupils
- No interest in pupils education
- Decrease of financial resources

Pupils characteristics

- Peer influence
- Motivation in school
- Age
- Gender


## School factors

- Teachers qualification
- Gender
- Teachers attitudes
- Age
- Curriculum and co-curricular activities
- Teaching experience


## Independent variables

### 2.3.1 Parent's social economic status

The economic status and economic activities of parents who abuse drug and substance are very influencing to the pupils' school participation. The study assumed parents who abuse drug and other drug related substances were unable to send their children
to school and support them with basic needs and also emotional support. Consequently their children were not able to participate fully in academic and cocurricular activities. In addition, the study assumed that the attitudes of parents who abused drug and substance were negative on the pupils' school participation. They viewed them as a problem because they demanded resources to keep them in school, which they don't have.

### 2.3.2 School factors

Teachers' attitudes influence pupils' academic performance. The study further holds that where teachers are active and motivating pupils to participate in curriculum and co-curriculum activities at school as well as national levels.

## CHAPTER THREE

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the research methodology that would be employed in the study including the research design to be used, the target population, sampling procedures, data collection procedures and the methods of data analysis.

### 3.2 Research Design

The study utilized a descriptive research design which entails the collection of quantifiable information from the selected respondents. This design is especially important given that there is large number of schools in Abothuguchi division. According to Mugenda AG (2003), descriptive study is an excellent vehicle for the measurement of characteristics of a specific population. Gay (1981) too, notes that a descriptive study is an attempt to collect data from an individuals or a specific population in order to determine the current status of that population with respect to one or more variables.

### 3.3 Target Population

Target population refers to the entire group of individuals or objects to which researchers are interested in generalizing the conclusions i.e. on basis of the surveyed population. The research focused on pupils in standard seven, school teachers, parents and school committee members in Abothuguchi division, so as to capture as much information as possible on the subject of investigation. The standard seven (7)
formed the sample of pupils. This is because Standard Eights (8) pupils form an examination class and would not be available for the study, while the lower classes would not be able to read or understand the questions being asked about themselves, their teachers and parents. The standard seven were more mature, can read and understand the language and questionnaire items better.

### 3.4 Sampling Procedure

In selecting the subjects or cases to be included in the sample, the researcher used existing lists of pupils in standard seven (7), teachers, School Committee members and of Abothuguchi division of the selected schools. According to Krejcie et al (1970) sample size can be got from a population size, with a confidence of $95 \%$. Using Krejcie et al (1970) sampling formula on targeted population indicated in table 3.1 the following sample sizes also captured in the same table were generated.

Table 3.1: Sampling Frame and Sample Size

|  | Population | Sample |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Standard seven | 1800 | 317 |
| Teachers and Head teachers | 210 | 132 |
| School committee members | 120 | 92 |
| Total | 2130 | 322 |

Source: DEO Abothuguchi Division, (2012)

### 3.5 Data Collection Instruments

Due to the large number of pupils selected for the study, teachers and parents questionnaires was used to collect data. Structured self-administered questionnaires
were used in order to enhance data analysis and at the same time permit greater response from the respondents.

### 3.6 Reliability and Validity of Data

Reliability is a measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results after repeated trials while validity is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of the data actually represent the phenomenon under study (Mugenda 2003). Subsequently, to ensure reliability and validity in the data collected, the questionnaires were pre- tested on a selected sample of 30 pupils; fifteen (15) males, 15 females from Standards seven (7) class. Six parents, (3) male and (3) female, (10) teachers (5) male and (5) female formed part of the study. These respondents used during the pilot study did not participate in the actual study. Procedures used in the pre-test were however identical to those used during the actual data collection. It is envisaged that by pre-testing the questionnaires, deficiencies would be revealed and corrected thus improving the reliability and validity of the data collected in the actual study. Furthermore, by analyzing the pre-tested questionnaires, the researcher was in a position to determine if the proposed methods of data analysis were appropriate.

### 3.7 Methods of Data Analysis and Presentation

After collection of all the data the research instruments was analyzed using the information given by the Std 7 pupils, parents, teacher. The data collected was screened for completeness and accuracy. The consistency in responding to the various questions was examined. The completed responses were then coded and
entered into a spreadsheet and analyzed using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer soft ware in terms of frequencies and percentages. The analysis is presented by the use of charts, graphs and frequency tables.

### 3.8 Study Ethical Considerations

First, authority to carry out this study was sought from National Council of Research and Technology. Secondly, permission was sought from the Deputy County Commissioner and District Education Officer, Imenti Central District. Thirdly permission to collect data from pupils was sought from their parents or guardians since they are below the age of eighteen years. Finally, any information given by the respondents is confidential and also anonymous.

## CHAPTER FOUR

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter has presented the analysis of data collected from the field through questionnaires on the factors of study. The findings were analyzed and presented in the form of frequency tables, graphs, pie charts, numerical values and percentages. The data presented are followed by interpretation and discussion.

### 4.2 Demographic data of the Respondents

The section presents the teachers' and pupils' age bracket, their gender, highest education level for teachers and the number of years at a school as a teacher or committee member.

### 4.3 Age of Teachers

Their ages are contained in Table 4.1 and figure 4.1
Table 4.1 Age of Teachers

| Age | Below 25 years |  | 26-30 years |  | $46-60$ years |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | F | $\%$ | F | \% | F | $\boldsymbol{\%}$ | F | $\%$ |
|  | 23 | 31 | 9 | 13 | 41 | 56 | 73 | 100 |

Majority of the teachers were above 45 yrs of age (56\%) which makes then well experienced pertaining to the society.

## Figure: 4.1. Age of Teachers



## $\square$ Below 31yrs

$\square 26-30 \mathrm{yrs}$
$\square 45-60 \mathrm{yrs}$

Majority ( $56 \%$ ) of the teachers were between the ages of $45-60$ years, while those who were between the age bracket of 26-30 years and below 31 years have $13 \%, 31 \%$ respectively.

### 4.4 Age of pupils

Learners can join any primary school at any age according to the government of Kenya education policy. The age of pupils is summarized in Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2.

Table 4.2 Age of pupils

| Age | 13 years |  |  | 14 years |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
|  | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% |  |
|  | 206 | 73 | 77 | 27 | 283 | 100 |  |

Most of the learners in STD 7 were thirteen years and above, free primary education for all (FPA) does not discriminate any age 73\% are thirteen years while $27 \%$ are $14 y r s$.

Figure 4.2 Age of pupils


The information in Figure 4.2 shows that 206 ( $72.8 \%$ ) of Class Seven pupils were of aged 13 years while 77 ( $27.2 \%$ ) of the class seven pupils were at age 14 years.

### 4.5 Gender of Teachers and Pupils

Females were more common in teaching profession. Gender of teachers and pupils is summarized in Table 4.3

## Table 4.3 Gender of Teachers and Pupils

| Gender | Male |  | Female |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Teachers | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% |
|  | 34 | 47 | 39 | 53 | 73 | 100 |

There were more female teachers than male teachers, $69 \%$ were females while $31 \%$ were male. Female pupils were more than male pupils, $72 \%$ were female while $28 \%$ were male. Nature plays its part in different environments. Female teachers like teaching profession because they were more comfortable dealing with young children than men. Teaching is more of female profession than male. More females were in the school management committees than males. About 53\% were female while 47\% were males. Females were more committed to education of their children than males who were mostly engaged in drug and substances abuse. The results have also shown that the female pupils outnumbered male pupils. Nature has played its part since all growing children in the community attend school following the government directive to parents to take all their children to school.

### 4.6 Highest Education Level

The level of education in any community reflects the development and progress of the society. The level of education of teachers, committee members, parents and guardians are represented in Table 4.4

Table 4.4 Level of education of Teachers, Committee Members and Parents/Guardians

| Level of education | Primary |  | Secondary |  | P 2 |  | P1 |  | Diploma |  | University |  | Others |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% |
| Teachers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 13 | 23 | 31 | 13 | 19 | 4 | 6 | 23 | 31 | 73 | 100 |
| Committee members | 0 | 0 | 57 | 78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 100 |
| Parents/gua rdians | 79 | 28 | 198 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $\begin{aligned} & 28 \\ & 3 \end{aligned}$ | 100 |

Most parents erected as school management committee members had secondary education (78\%). A few had diploma education about $22 \%$. Secondary education is a requirement from the ministry of education for any parent erected as a 5 mc member also this is towards achievement of vision 2030 of achieving literacy. Most of the teachers $31 \%$ were those with P1 education. University education were $6 \%$ depicting the poor performance in national examinations in Abothunguchi Division. Majority of the pwerents had secondary education $70 \%$ and about $22 \%$ had attained higher education $8 \%$ were of primary level showing that most parents were literate. Minority of the parents had primary education $28 \%$, secondary education $70 \%, 2 \%$ had had diploma education. Economic challenges made many parents stop education at
primary or secondary level. Many parents hail from humble family backgrounds as indicated by their level of education.

### 4.7 Years at a School as a teacher

The years the teachers had taught in the current station are indicated in Table 4.5

Table 4.5 Years at school as a teacher

| Years | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Below 5 yrs | 7 | 44 |
| $11-15$ yrs | 4 | 25 |
| above 16 yrs | 5 | 31 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 6}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |

Over $50 \%$ of all the teachers interviewed had been in one work station for over eleven (11) yrs. This means that teachers were well versed with the all the activities of people neighboring the school.

### 4.8 Years as a School Committee Member

The information on duration of time the school committee had served the targeted school is presented in Table 4.6

Table 4.6 Years as a School Committee Member

| Years | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| below 2yrs | 34 | 47 |
| $3-4$ yrs | 39 | 53 |
| Total | 73 | 100 |

Most parents $53 \%$ have been in the school management for over three year's other $47 \%$ only shortly. There was no wide selection of leadership in the community due to poor academic background. This percentage was involved in school management and development and also encourages their children on education. These families were exemplary in the society. Being a school committee member for 3-4 yrs shows commitment.
4.9 Influence of Drug and Substances among Abusing Parents on their Children's School Participation

This section has presented the responses on parents with regard to the work they gave their children after school because they did not work due to drunkenness. As a result their children were always tired and fatigued from work at home

### 4.10 Parents Take Drugs and Substances

Majority of parents abuse drug leading to negative consequences on their children's education. This has been analyzed in Figure 4.3 and Table 4.7

Figure: 4.3 Drugs and Substances Abusing Parents on School Participation.


Some $70 \%$ of learners agreed that their parents abuse drugs and substances, $28 \%$ abuse drugs and substances occasionally while $2 \%$ have parents did not abuse drug and substances.

Table 4.7 Drug and Substances Abusing Parents and their effects on their
Children

| Influences | Most likely |  | Likely |  | Not likely |  | Never |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% |
| Given a lot of work by parents | 201 | 71 | 76 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Always tired, have hangovers | 22 | 8 | 175 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 84 | 30 | 283 | 100 |
| Fatigue from work at home | 99 | 35 | 79 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 105 | 37 | 283 | 100 |

The results have shown that $71 \%$ of learners took up the responsibilities of the drunken parents at a very tender age. However such family deprive these learners their time for study $2 \%$ bean freely having the support of their parents. Majority of pupils interviewed did not have hangovers and were not tired in the morning (68\%) meaning they did not abuse substances that caused hangovers and tiredness. However small proportions of them were tired and had hangovers (8\%) due to drug \& substance abuse. Of all the pupils interviewed $63 \%$ were overworked in the evenings and were tired and fatigued in the morning. Some $30 \%$ them were not given any work at home by their parents. Learners agreed that their parents abused drug and substances and only $2 \%$ of parents did not abuse drug and substances.

### 4.11 School Participation by Pupils

This section has presented the number of times pupils skipped school per week, their siblings, who takes care of them at home, their parents salaried employment, what affects pupils participation in school, charcoal selling, working in the farm and cooking. This is contained in table 4.8

### 4.12 Learner Characteristics on School Participation

Learners were supposed to attend school five times a week though this was not possible as indicated in Table 4.8

Table 4.8 Learner Characteristics and School Participation

|  | None |  | One |  | Two |  | Three |  | Four |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| school | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% |
| Times per week | 0 | 0 | 62 | 22 | 215 | 76 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Number of other children | 24 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 182 | 64 | 49 | 17 | 28 | 10 | 283 | 100 |

On the Times pupils skipped school per week, there were $76 \%$ of respondents who said they skipped school more than once per week with $22 \%$ skipping between once and twice per week. These shows there were very few absentees in the school participation. Majority of the parents had only three children $64 \%$. Those with one or more than three make up $36 \%$. High cost of living makes parents limit the number of children to bring up. $63 \%$ of the children were under the care of their parents while $37 \%$ are taken care of by grandparents or guardians. HIV AIDS factor has left many children orphaned and under the care of the old folks or well wishers. .Self employment has been adopted as a means of catering for the families' basic needs
$72 \%$ of parents are self employed others $28 \%$ work on their families as peasant farmers.

### 4.13 Pupils Home Activities and School Participation

Home activities interrupt pupils' school participation. These results are indicated in
Table 4.9
Table 4.9 Pupils' Home Activities and School Participation

| Factors | Strongly <br> agree |  | Agree |  | Strongly <br> disagree |  | Degree |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% |
| Charcoal selling | 60 | 21 | 50 | 18 | 116 | 44 | 47 | 17 | 283 | 100 |
| Working on the farm | 6 | 2 | 196 | 69 | 63 | 22 | 18 | 7 | 283 | 100 |
| Cooking animals | 165 | 56 | 80 | 28 | 34 | 10 | 18 | 6 | 283 | 100 |
| Feeding animals | 90 | 32 | 82 | 29 | 112 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Baby sitting | 198 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 79 | 28 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Running errands | 201 | 71 | 76 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Cleaning clothes | 22 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 175 | 62 | 84 | 30 | 283 | 100 |
| Lack of uniform | 26 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 189 | 67 | 59 | 21 | 283 | 100 |

Charcoal business was not prevalent in Abothunguchi division (60\% pupils were not involved in charcoal business $38 \%$ they help their parent sell charcoal. Work after school affect school children psychologically and physically $77 \%$ agreed to this. However $23 \%$ could cope with school work even after helping at home. After school pupils were involved in preparing family meals $82 \%$ agree, $18 \%$ had responsible parents who cook for them. Over working school children makes them performance poorly in KCPE, only a few managed to join national secondary schools.

Pupils helped in taking care of animals about $61 \% .40 \%$ had responsible parents who do not involve the pupils. All pupils involved in taking care of animals had little time for school participation $99 \%$ agreed on this. Std 7 pupils had young parents with young families and pupils were involved in looking after younger siblings $88 \%$. About $12 \%$ had probably older parents or they may be last born in their families. All ( $98 \%$ ) but a mere $3 \%$ the pupils run errands. Families were not able to keep big stock; they live each day at a time. Purchases were done daily and children were sent at shops, other homesteads to get groceries, vegetables, milk and the like. According to Meru traditions children were not suppose to clean their parents or their sibling's clothes but one can wash his/her own. $92 \%$ agree on this $8 \%$ had western culture influence, and were perhaps involved in cleaning clothes for the rest of the family members. School uniform was a requirement by the school administration for identification and belonging to a particular school. All learners had entered school the first day in school uniform as a formality, so $80 \%$ of learners were always in school inform only $20 \%$ from vulnerable families lack school uniform.

### 4.14 Attitude of Pupils to Parenting by mother

Mothers had taken up the responsibilities of taking care of their families as indicated in Figure 4.4

Figure: 4. 4 Attitude of Pupils to Parenting by mother


The analysis in figure 4.4 has revealed that some $64 \%$ complained that their mothers did not love them; mothers were bread winners in most families and failed to nurture their children. However $34 \%$ of them showed that they spent time with their mothers.

### 4.15 Attitude of pupils towards their fathers

Parents are mentors, caretakers and role models of their children. The pupils' responses about their fathers are summarized in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10 Attitude of Pupils to towards their fathers

| Attitude | Strongly <br> agree |  | Agree |  | Strongly <br> disagree |  | Degree |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | F | $\mathbf{\%}$ | F | \% | F | \% | F | $\mathbf{\%}$ | F | \% |
| Unloved by father | 0 | 0 | 208 | 74 | 75 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Left alone at home | 198 | 70 | 79 | 28 | 20 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Lack of supper | 23 | 8 | 1 | 0.4 | 179 | 63 | 53 | 19 | 256 | 90 |
| Lack of breakfast | 98 | 35 | 77 | 27 | 102 | 36 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Lack of lunch | 0 | 0 | 202 | 71 | 81 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |

The results had revealed that pupils missed the father figure in their families and felt neglected. $74 \%$ complained their fathers did not love them. $26 \%$ had their father's attachment. $98 \%$ of the pupils were often left alone at home to do house chores. Fathers neglected their responsibilities due to drug and substance abuse. Respondents about $19,92 \%$ agree that feeding was not a problem since there was plenty of food due to the availability of rainfall and fertility of the soil, thus most parents were farmers. Only $10 \%$ lived in arid areas of the division. All meals were taken in a day. As few as $33 \%$ of pupils interviewed skipped meals making them weak to fully participate in physical activities. But majority of the pupils $67 \%$ had regular meals and could effectively participate in physical activities

### 4.16 Conduciveness of School Environment and Participation in Schooling

Lack of sex education and guidance and counseling of school children makes them vulnerable to harassment. This is indicated in Table 4.11; Figure 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7.

Table: 4.11 Conducivenesses of School Environment and Participation in Schooling

| Factors | Strongly <br> agree |  | Agree |  | Strongly <br> disagree |  | Disagree |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | $\%$ |
| Sexually harassed | 198 | 70 | 85 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Having a feeling of <br> low esteem | 23 | 8 | 65 | 23 | 158 | 56 | 37 | 13 | 283 | 100 |
| Being buried <br> classmates | 98 | 37 | 83 | 29 | 102 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Sleeping late | 205 | 72 | 78 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Disturbed at night by <br> drunk parents | 35 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 186 | 66 | 54 | 19 | 283 | 100 |
| My father beats my <br> mother | 97 | 34 | 78 | 28 | 108 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| My mother beats my <br> father | 0 | 0 | 206 | 73 | 77 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |

Sexual harassment was common among school pupils according to $70 \%$ agreement and this was due to the tender age of pupils in primary schools. Pupils having low self esteem were only $8 \%$ meaning $92 \%$ of the pupils had strong characters. Bullying was rampant in school due to indiscipline among learners $66 \%$ of pupils were bullied by their classmates $36 \%$ were bullied. Learners lack guidance and counseling right from home because of poor parenting. Teachers also had left the responsibility to parents
after the banning of canning in schools and parents were not available for the learners so disciplines continue to decline in schools.

About $72 \%$ of pupils strongly agreed they slept late and another $28 \%$ agreed they slept early. Majority of the learners therefore slept in class and ended up performing poorly. Parents came home drank at night and disrupted their families. Learners were not able to do homework due to disturbances caused by their parents who came home drunk and these memories disturbed them ever when in school hence performing poorly in school. Some $62 \%$ of learners witnessed their mothers being beaten and they may have developed trauma, fear, and low self esteem or hated marriage after all and $38 \%$ had stable parents. Fathers were less responsible while mothers being family bread winners did not tolerate this irresponsible behavior. Some $73 \%$ of pupils witnessed their fathers being beaten while $27 \%$ had stable families.

### 4.17 Sexual harassment

It is not easy for learners to make informed decisions at primary level of education because they are still growing intellectually and socially. Therefore many of them are enticed and introduced into sex at tender ages as indicated in Figure 4.5.

Figure 4.5 Sexual harassment


Some $70 \%$ of pupils strongly agreed that they are sexually harassed while $30 \%$ just agreed that they are sexually harassed.

### 4.18 Being bullied by my classmates

Indiscipline leads to misbehavior in schools. Bullying is rampant in most of the schools as shown in figure 4.7

Figure 4.6 Being bullied by my classmates


98 (37\%) pupils strongly agreed of bullied by classmates, 83 ( $29 \%$ ) pupils agreed that they are bullied by classmates while $102(36 \%)$ of pupils strongly disagreed that they were not bullied by their classmates. This analysis is indicated in Figure 4.5 and 4.6.

### 4.19 School Factors on Pupil's School Participation in Curriculum and Co-

## Curriculum Participation

This section has presented the School Factors on Pupil's School Participation in Curriculum and Co-Curriculum Participation and specifically; causes of poor performance truancy, causes of poor performance, peer influence, causes of poor performance lack of interest in academic and co-curricular activities, causes of poor performance lack of interest in academic and co-curricular activities and causes of poor performance absenteeism.

### 4.20 Causes of Poor Performance

Pupils who participated in school activities like co-curricular and other school activities had improved performance, less cases of truancy since they are not idle to deviate into negative influencing activities as shown in Table 4.12

Table 4.12 Causes of Poor Performance

| Factors | Strongly <br> agree |  | Agree |  | disagree |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | F | \% | F | $\%$ | F | $\%$ | F | $\%$ |
| Truancy | 0 | 75 | 18 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 100 |
| Peer influence | 0 | 55 | 75 | 18 | 25 | 73 | 100 |  |
| Lack of interest in academic <br> activities | 16 | 22 | 23 | 32 | 23 | 45 | 73 | 100 |
| Lack of interest in co- <br> curricular activities | 57 | 78 | 16 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 100 |
| Absenteeism | 57 | 78 | 16 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 73 | 100 |
| Drug and substances abuse | 18 | 25 | 39 | 53 | 16 | 22 | 73 | 100 |
| Indiscipline | 16 | 22 | 41 | 56 | 16 | 22 | 73 | 100 |
| No homework | 16 | 22 | 39 | 53 | 18 | 25 | 73 | 100 |

Truancy was perceived to affect performance, some $79 \%$ respondents agreed that truancy contributed to poor performance many pupils lack school levies and were often sent home to collect them. As regards peer influence, pupils influenced one another as they interacted. School pupils emulated others positively and negatively. Overwhelmingly $95 \%$ said they were influenced negatively. Only $25 \%$ disagreed that peer influence caused poor performance. According to $78 \%$ agreement and poor performance as lack of interest in academic and co-curricular activities, $22 \%$ other factors may be the cause such as in covered syllabuses. Pupil's influence one another
as majority are in their adolescence stage. Some $78 \%$ of them said that poor performance was due to lack of interest in academic and co-curricular activities, $22 \%$ attributed poor performance to such as failure to cover syllabuses. Over 70\% also attributed poor performance to absenteeism. Lack of discipline at home and in school made learners not perform well in school. Prevalence of drug and substance abuse among parents and pupils affected performance both academic and in co-curricular activities as $79 \%$ of parents were for this opinion $22 \%$ said others factors caused poor performance. Almost 78\% cases were for the opinion that their learners were involved in indiscipline cases in school making them deteriorate in school work. About $22 \%$ were affected by other reasons like parents negligence which too may be a course of indiscipline, pupils lacking guidance from their parents and pupils having no homework to do after school. Teachers could keep learners busy at home if they gave them homework but $75 \%$ noted that this was not adhered to. Pupils therefore were idle so they indulged in other activities that affected school performance $22 \%$ disagreed with this opinion and think that there were other factors like laxity of teachers.

### 4.21 Teachers Attitudes towards Participation in Co-curricular Activities

The information on teachers' attitudes on co-curricular activities are summarized in
Table 4.13

Table 4.13 Teachers Attitudes towards Participation in Co-curricular Activities

| Attitude | Most <br> likely |  | Likely |  | Not likely |  | Never |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | \% | F | $\%$ |
| Not active | 22 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 175 | 62 | 84 | 30 | 283 | 100 |
| Physical weakness | 10 | 4 | 83 | 29 | 164 | 8 | 26 | 9 | 283 | 100 |
| Co-curricular is a waste <br> of time | 90 | 32 | 81 | 28 | 112 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Teachers teach other <br> subjects during club time | 0 | 0 | 198 | 70 | 79 | 28 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Teacher teach others <br> subjects during games <br> time | 90 | 32 | 81 | 28 | 112 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |

Teachers interviewed lacked interest in co-curricular activities. That may explain why $80 \%$ agreed that co-curricular activities were a lesser school activity, only $20 \%$ of them considered co-curricular activities as beneficial to a learner. .Parents involved learners in their activities that were supposed to perform thus denying pupils time to concentrate on school work. A lot of time was wasted on drug and substances abuse.

Teachers had neglected clubs because they felt that they were not part of the examinable. About $33 \%$ of pupils interviewed skipped meals making them weak to fully participate in physical activities. But majority of the pupils $67 \%$ said they had regular meals and could effectively participate in physical activities. Some $61 \%$ of the pupils confirmed that parents thought that co-curricular activities were not useful. Parents did not see any direct benefit in their children's participation in co-curricular activities though $39 \%$ valued co-curricular activities

### 4.22 Participation in Clubs and Societies by Pupils

Clubs and societies are viewed as lesser school activities since they are not emphasized at the end of the primary course like the examinable subjects as summarized in Table 4.14

Table 4.14 Participation in Clubs and Societies

| Clubs and societies | Very <br> often |  | Often |  | Rarely |  | Never |  | Total |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | F | \% | F | \% | F | $\%$ | F | $\%$ | F | $\%$ |
| Music | 196 | 69 | 81 | 29 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Athletics | 22 | 8 | 1 | 0.4 | 184 | 68 | 59 | 24 | 283 | 100 |
| Ball games | 207 | 73 | 76 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |
| Scouts and girl guides | 0 | 0 | 198 | 70 | 79 | 28 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Young farmers | 201 | 71 | 76 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Debating | 22 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 175 | 62 | 84 | 30 | 283 | 100 |
| Christian union | 99 | 35 | 76 | 27 | 102 | 36 | 6 | 2 | 283 | 100 |
| Drama | 90 | 32 | 181 | 28 | 42 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 283 | 100 |

Most of the schools had schools shamba and learners participate in farm activities though young farmers clubs were not functional. $71 \%$ participate while $2 \%$ did not. Debating clubs had been neglected by teachers since most learners could not express themselves fluently in English language. Few schools especially boarding schools had these club functional, $7 \% 62 \%$ rarely participate. School assemblies were done every morning depicting Christian Union so $63 \%$ liked Christian Religious Education. All pupils joined the morning worship which they may have termed as a club when asked about Christian Union. Only $2 \%$ belong to other religions.

Drama clubs were functional and learners participated. $40 \%$ of learners were rarely involved and may be engaged in other school activities. .Teachers were likely to use games time to teach other lessons as opposed to taking pupils for games. About 40\% of teachers used games time rightly .It was evidence that in Abothunguchi division clubs in schools had been neglected as witnessed by $98 \%$ of the respondents. Only a a few number of school who probably had operationally clubs, reason being that school activities that are not examined at the end of the primary course were neglected. Teachers had neglected clubs because they are not part, of the examinable subject (63\%). $37 \%$ showed interest in clubs.

### 4.23 Attitudes of Pupils towards various School Subjects

Social studies are interesting and they were liked by most pupils $62 \%$ pupils had developed a negative attitudes towards Kiswahili ( $0.7 \%$ ) as shown by respondents. Pupils had also developed negative attitude towards mathematics $35 \%$ did not like it.
$2 \%$ disliked religion despite religion being taught even outside school, in church at home and many other places. Children did not realize the usefulness of co-curricular activities according to $54 \%$ respondents, though there were $41 \%$ who did. This is indicated in Table 4.14, 4.15 and 4.16 respectively.

Learners had preference in subjects they learn in school as indicated in table 4.13

Table 4.14 Attitudes of Pupils to Schooling

| Subject You Like Most In School | Frequency | Percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Mathematics | 22 | 8 |
| Social Studies | 175 | 61 |
| Religion | 84 | 30 |
| Kiswahili | 2 | 1 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 8 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |

Most learners (62\%) prefer Social Studies than Kiswahili (1\%) despite Kiswahili being a language of communication and a compulsory subject. Pupils' attitudes towards the subjects they were studying is indicated in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15 Subject not preferred by pupils

| Subject You Do Not Like Most In School |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Mathematics | 99 | 35 |
| Science | 82 | 29 |
| Social Studies | 96 | 34 |
| Religion | 6 | 2 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 8 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |

The analysis has shown that most pupils had a negative attitude (2\%) towards Religious Studies. This may be explained by the fact that their parents did not attend church services due to drugs and substance abuse and as a result, they had no firm background of religious studies.

Pupils were taught other subjects during co-curricular period. Therefore there is no motivation from parents or teachers to make learners like these activities as indicated in Table 4.16

Table 4.16 Learners responses on value of Co-Curricular Activities to School Work

| Co-Curricular Activities Helps Children |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Yes | 116 | 41 |
| No | 155 | 55 |
| Not Sure | 12 | 4 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 8 3}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ |

Over $50 \%$ of the learners stated that co-curricular was a waste of their precious time which they would have used to concentrate more on the examinable subjects.

## CHAPTER FIVE

## SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Summary

This chapter has presented the summary of the research findings, interpretations and conclusions. It also presented the findings on the variables of investigation. The chapter has also given recommendations and suggestions for further research. The study investigated the effect of drug and substance abuse among parents on primary school pupils on participation in education in Abothuguchi division. The objectives that guided this study included; determine the extent to which drug and substance abusing parents economic status, drug and substance abusing parents attitudes, drug and substance abusing parents level of education and extent drug and substance abusing parents economic activities influence pupils participation on co-curriculum activities and academic performance in Abothuguchi division in Meru County. This study reviewed investigated the effects of drug abusing parents on their children's school participation. Among the learners interviewed, (70\%) of learners agreed that their parents abuse drug and substances.

There were $(71 \%)$ of learners who takes up the responsibilities of the drunken parents at a very tender age. Majority of pupils interviewed had no hangovers and are not tired in the morning ( $68 \%$ ) meaning they do not abuse substances that cause hangovers and tiredness. However small fractions are tired and had hangovers (8\%) due to drug \& substance abuse. Of all the pupils interviewed there is evidence (63\%) to show that majority are overworked in the evenings and are tired and had fatigue in
the morning. On the Times pupils skip school per week, there were (71\%) of respondents who said they skip school less than once per week. Majority of the parents had only three children (64\%). While (63\%) of the children are under the care of their parents; Self employment has been adopted as a means of catering for the families' basic needs ( $72 \%$ ) of parents are self employed.

There were $60 \%$ of pupils who were not involved in charcoal business (38\%) they help their parent sell charcoal. Work after school affect children school participates on either psychologically or physically ( $77 \%$ ) agreed to this (23\%) can cope with school work even after helping at home. Pupils helped in taking care of animals about (60\%). Std 7 pupils had young parents with young families and pupils are involved in looking after younger siblings ( $88 \%$ ). Last born in their families (98\%) run errands while, (80\%) of learners are always in school uniform. There were, (64\%) Pupils express the feeling of neglects by their mothers; Pupils missed the father figure in their families and felt neglected (74\%), while (92\%) agree that feeding is not a problem. About (33\%) of pupils skipped meals making them weak to fully participate in physical activities.

Findings on learner characteristics and school participation established that sexual harassment was common among school pupils (\%) Pupils having low self esteem are only ( $8 \%$ ) meaning ( $92 \%$ ) of the pupils had strong characters. Bullying was rampant in school due to indiscipline among learners (64\%) of pupils are bullied. Learners (62\%) witness their wife butteries and may develop trauma while (73\%) of pupils
witness fathers being beaten. Truancy affected performance of (79\%) respondents. Pupils influenced one another as they interacted in school and (95\%) influence is reflected as having great negative impact and school performance

The results on school factors and school participation indicate that (78\%) of pupils were in agreement that pupils lacked interest in academic and co-curricular activities Almost (78\%) of cases showed that learners were involved in indiscipline cases in school making them deteriorate in school work. Teachers did not give then homework (75\%) agreed that teachers took co-curricular activities as a lesser school activity while ( $63 \%$ ) had neglected clubs because they were not part of the examinable subjects. There were (60\%) of teachers who were likely to use games time to teach other subjects as opposed to taking pupils for games.

### 5.2 Conclusions

The study has concluded that majority of learners took up the responsibilities of the drunken parents at a very tender age, pupils are tired and have hangovers due to drug and substance abuse. The pupils are overworked in the evenings and were tired and fatigued in the morning. Sexual harassment was common among school pupils however majority of Pupils had strong character. Due to indiscipline among learners majority of pupils reported that they were bullied. The pupils witnessed wife beating and this may have developed traumatic feeling. The results though indicated that more men compared to women were beaten by their wives. There was poor academic performance due to lack of interest in academic and co-curricular activities. The study
has also concluded that Teachers did not give pupils homework and viewed cocurricular activities to be of lesser importance and therefore co-curricular activities were neglected in favour of subjects that were being examined at the end of primary cycle of education. Teachers used games time to teach other lessons as opposed to taking pupils for games and guiding them in various club activities. The study also found that pupils had developed negative attitudes towards Kiswahili, this was surprising because it is a communication language and also a compulsory subject.

### 5.3 Recommendations

Since the influence of drug and substances abusing parents on their children's school participation is negative, it is important that guidance and counseling is made compulsory and supported so as to give the children from the home with drug abusing parents hope and reason to work even harder. There is also need to establish rescue school facilities for those pupils who may be in dire circumstances. The negative influence of learner characteristics on school participation in terms of age, gender, and peer can be reduced through guidance and counseling and where possible pastoral meetings. The school administration should ensure that appropriate measures to check on sexual harassment and bulling are set up.

The influence of school factors on pupil's school participation in curriculum and cocurriculum participation can be improved if the curriculum can be enforced as officially intended. It is also not right that time for co- curriculum to be used for other subjects. This denies children an opportunity to benefit from holistic education.

### 5.4 Suggestions for Further Study

Since the study was restricted to investigation on the effect of drug and substance abuse among parents on primary school pupils on participation in education in Abothuguchi division, there is need to investigate why this phenomenon is common in the area of investigation. A further study may need to be undertaken to determine why Kiswahili which as a compulsory and examinable subject is not liked by most pupils. Finally, the reason as to why teachers do not take co-curriculum as an important part of curriculum despite their professional orientation.

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## APPENDIX I

## INTRODUCTION LETTER

Dear Respondent,

I am Nguthari Mutabi Jane, a student of the University of Nairobi undertaking a Master of Education degree. As a requirement in partial fulfillment, I am undertaking a research on the "Effect of drug and substance abuse among parents on primary school pupils' on school participation in Abothuguchi division: Meru county Kenya".

Kindly, assist me by filling the attached questionnaire as honestly as possible. Any information provided will be used purely for academic purposes and will be kept confidential.

Yours faithfully

Nguthari Mutabi Jane

## APPENDIX II QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PUPILS

## Instructions

You are kindly requested to answer the questions below in the spaces or from the choices given as honestly as possible. You are also requested not to write your name anywhere in this questionnaire so that your responses remain anonymous and confidential.

## SECTION A: Background Information

1. What is your age?

Below 12 yrs [ ] 13 yrs [ ] 14 yrs [ ] 15 yrs [ ] 16 yrs [ ] over 17 yrs [ ]
2). Gender: female
 male

3. How many other children are you in your family?

None [ ] one [ ] two [ ] three [ ] four [ ] over five [ ]
4. Who takes care of you at home?
My Father [ ]

My mother [ ]
My grand mother [ ]
My aunt [ ]
My sister [ ]
A foster mother [ ]
5. What is the occupation of the person who takes care of you? Kindly tick appropriately

| Occupation | Your <br> Father | Your <br> Mother | Your <br> grand <br> mother | Your <br> grand <br> father | Your <br> Uncle | Your <br> Auntie |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Salaried <br> employment |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Self-employment |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Peasant farmers |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Petty trade |  |  |  |  |  |  |

6. Indicate the level of education of the person you stay with. Tick appropriately

| Level of Education | Your <br> Father | Your <br> Mother | Your <br> grand <br> mother | Your <br> grand <br> father | Your <br> Uncle | Your <br> Auntie |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| No formal education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Primary level of education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Secondary level education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College (Diploma) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| University |  |  |  |  |  |  |

7. The following are drugs and substances likely to be used by your parent or guardians. Indicate using a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ how often these drugs are taken.

| Name of drugs and <br> substances | Very often | often | Rarely | Never |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Alcohol (Local brew) |  |  |  |  |
| Bhang |  |  |  |  |
| Tobacco |  |  |  |  |
| Miraa |  |  |  |  |
| Alcohol (spirits) |  |  |  |  |
| Glue |  |  |  |  |
| Cigarettes |  |  |  |  |
| Others (Specify) |  |  |  |  |

8. Among these drugs and substances indicate the ones that are commonly consumed by pupils.

| Name of drugs and <br> substances | Very <br> common | Common | Not very <br> common | Rare | Never |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Alcohol (Local brew) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bhang |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tobacco |  |  |  |  |  |
| Glue |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gum |  |  |  |  |  |
| Alcohol (spirits) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Miraa |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cigarettes |  |  |  |  |  |
| Others (specify) |  |  |  |  |  |

9. Children from families where parents abuse alcohol are likely to display the following behaviour. Indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ your opinion or agreement with the statement.

| Statement | Strongly <br> agree | Agree | Strongly <br> disagree | Disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Lack of school uniform |  |  |  |  |
| Feeling unloved by my mother |  |  |  |  |
| Feeling unloved by my father |  |  |  |  |
| Frequently left alone at home to <br> do the house chores |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of supper at night |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of breakfast in the morning |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of lunch during the day |  |  |  |  |
| Sexually harassed |  |  |  |  |
| Having a feeling of low esteem |  |  |  |  |
| Being bullied by my classmates |  |  |  |  |
| Going to school late |  |  |  |  |
| Sleeping late |  |  |  |  |
| Being disturbed at night by my <br> drunk parents |  |  |  |  |
| My father beats my mother |  |  |  |  |
| My mother beats my father |  |  |  |  |
| Others (specify) |  |  |  |  |

10. Below are co-curriculum activities. Indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ how often you participate in the following co-curriculum activities.

| Name of co-curriculum activities | Very often | Often | Rarely | Never |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Music |  |  |  |  |
| Athletics |  |  |  |  |
| Ball games |  |  |  |  |
| Scouts and girl guides club |  |  |  |  |
| Young farmers club |  |  |  |  |
| Debating club |  |  |  |  |
| Christian union club |  |  |  |  |
| Drama club |  |  |  |  |
| Others (specify) |  |  |  |  |

11. Among the factors listed below indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ the extent to which each factor is likely to affect your participation in co-curriculum activities.

| Types of factors | Most likely | Likely | Not likely | Never |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| My parents take drugs and substances |  |  |  |  |
| My parents give me a lot of work to <br> do after school |  |  |  |  |
| Always tired, have hangover |  |  |  |  |
| Because of fatigue from work at <br> home |  |  |  |  |
| Teachers teach other subjects during <br> co-curricular activities |  |  |  |  |
| Lack of games uniform |  |  |  |  |
| Teachers for games are not active |  |  |  |  |
| Physical weaknesses because there is <br> no enough food to eat |  |  |  |  |
| Parent views co-curricular activities <br> as a waste of time |  |  |  |  |
| Others (specify) |  |  |  |  |

12. Using a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ indicate the level of education you would like to have.

| Level of education |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Primary |  |
| Secondary |  |
| College |  |
| University |  |

13. How many times do you go to school per week? Tick. ( $\downarrow$ )

| Times |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| One |  |
| Two |  |
| Three |  |
| Four |  |
| Five |  |

14. (a) Have you ever missed school? Yes No
(b) If "Yes" give reasons why you do not go to school sometimes
15. In what ways do you think pupils participation in co-curriculum activities can be improved in your school
16. (a) Please indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ the subject you like MOST in school. Tick one subject only.

Mathematics
Science

| Social studies | $\square$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Religion | $\square$ |

Kiswahili


English

(b) Explain why you like the subject you have indicated
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
17. (a) Please indicate the subject you do not like most in school. Tick $(\sqrt{ })$ one subject you do not like most

Mathematics
Science
Social studies
$\square$

| Religion | $\square$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Kiswahili | $\square$ |
| English | $\square$ |

(b) Explain why you do not like the subject you have indicated.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
18. Do you think that co-curricular activities (games, school clubs, athletics, musical festivals etc) helps children to do better in school work?

(b) If Yes to question 18, explain the answer
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
(c). If No! to question 18 , give reasons for your answer.
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
19. Indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ the extent to which the activities listed here below affect pupils participation in school

| Activities | Strongly <br> agree | Agree | Strongly <br> disagree | Disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Fetching water |  |  |  |  |
| Herding animals |  |  |  |  |
| Charcoal selling |  |  |  |  |
| Working on the farm |  |  |  |  |
| Cooking |  |  |  |  |
| Feeding animals |  |  |  |  |
| Baby sitting |  |  |  |  |
| Running errands |  |  |  |  |
| Cleaning clothes |  |  |  |  |

Thanks for Co-Operation

## APPENDIX III

## INTRODUCTION LETTER

$26^{\text {th }}$ March 2013

Dear Respondent,

I am Nguthari Mutabi Jane, a student of the University of Nairobi undertaking a Master of Education degree. As a requirement in partial fulfillment, I am undertaking a research on the "Effect of drug and substance abuse among parents on primary school pupils' on school participation in Abothuguchi division: Meru county Kenya".

Kindly, assist me by filling the attached questionnaire as honestly as possible. Any information provided will be used purely for academic purposes and will be kept confidential.

Yours faithfully

Nguthari Mutabi Jane

## APPENDIX IV

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TEACHERS

## Instructions

You are kindly requested to answer the questions below in the spaces provided or from the choices given as honestly as possible. You are also requested not to write your name anywhere in this questionnaire so that your responses remain anonymous and confidential.

## SECTION A: Background Information

1). Years worked in this school

3). Rank: $\square$ Teacher $\square$
4). Age Bracket in Years

Below 25 yrs $\square 25-30 \mathrm{yrs} \square 31-35 \mathrm{yrs} \square 36-40 \mathrm{yrs} \square 41-45 \mathrm{yrs} \square$
45-60 years $\square$
5). Gender: female $\quad \square \quad$ male $\square$
6) Marital status: Single $\square$ Married $\square$ Widow $\square$ Widower $\square$ Divorced $\square$
7). what subjects do you teach? $\qquad$
8). what is your highest level of professional qualification as a teacher? Please indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ your highest qualification.

| Highest Professional qualification | Response |
| :--- | :--- |
| P2 |  |
| P1 |  |
| Diploma/SI |  |
| University degree |  |
| Other qualification (specify) |  |

9. Indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ the extent to which activities listed here below affect school participation in your school.

| Activities | Strongly <br> agree | Agree | Strongly <br> disagree | Disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Fetching water |  |  |  |  |
| Fetching firewood |  |  |  |  |
| Herding animals |  |  |  |  |
| Child prostitution |  |  |  |  |
| Mother's negative attitude |  |  |  |  |
| Fathers negative attitude |  |  |  |  |
| Charcoal selling |  |  |  |  |
| Early marriages of boys |  |  |  |  |
| Early marriages of girls |  |  |  |  |
| Involvement of boys in armed conflict |  |  |  |  |
| Schooling is a waste of time |  |  |  |  |
| Circumcision rites of girls |  |  |  |  |
| Circumcision rites of boys |  |  |  |  |
| Prevalence of drugs and substances <br> abuse by parents |  |  |  |  |
| Prevalence of drugs and substance <br> abuse by pupils |  |  |  |  |
| Others (specify) |  |  |  |  |

10. The following behaviours are likely to be found among children from backgrounds where parent/guardians abuse drugs and other substances. Indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ the frequency of these behaviours.

| Behaviours | Very <br> frequently | Frequently | Rarely | Never |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Children absent from school |  |  |  |  |
| Children do not participate in co-curriculum activities |  |  |  |  |
| Children wear games uniform |  |  |  |  |
| Teachers take children out for games |  |  |  |  |
| Children are rewarded after participating in co- <br> curriculum activities |  |  |  |  |
| Teachers involved in co-curriculum activities are <br> motivated |  |  |  |  |
| Children who participate in co-curriculum activities <br> reach national level |  |  |  |  |
| Parents join pupils in co-curriculum activities venues <br> to cheer them up as a sign of motivation. |  |  |  |  |

11. Kindly list down four (4) main challenges which children from homes where parents/guardians abuse drugs and substances face.
(i $\qquad$
(ii) $\qquad$
(iii) $\qquad$
(iv) $\qquad$
12. a) In your opinion do think co-curricular activities can improve pupils academic performance?
Yes


No $\square$
b) Please explain your answer
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
Thanks for Co-Operation

## APPENDIX V

## INTRODUCTION LETTER

Dear Respondent,

I am Nguthari Mutabi Jane, a student of the University of Nairobi undertaking a Master of Education degree. As a requirement in partial fulfillment, I am undertaking a research on the "Effect of drug and substance abuse among parents on primary school pupils' on school participation in Abothuguchi division: Meru county Kenya".

Kindly, assist me by filling the attached questionnaire as honestly as possible. Any information provided will be used purely for academic purposes and will be kept confidential.

Yours faithfully

Nguthari Mutabi Jane

## APPENDIX VI

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER

## Instructions

You are kindly requested to answer the questions below in the spaces or from the choices given as honestly as possible. You are also requested not to write your name anywhere in this questionnaire so that your responses remain anonymous and confidential.

## SECTION A: Background Information

1. Years as a School Committee Member

2. Gender male $\square$ female $\square$
3. How many children do you have in primary school?

$\square$ over 4 $\square$
4. What is your highest level of education? Please indicate with a tick $(\sqrt{ })$ your highest qualification.

| Highest level of education | Response |
| :--- | :--- |
| Primary |  |
| Secondary |  |
| Diploma |  |
| University degree |  |
| Other qualification (specify) |  |

5. Do you agree that the following reasons are the causes of poor performance by your child in academic and co-curricular activities? Tick $(\sqrt{ })$ appropriately.

| Reasons | Strongly agree | Agree | Disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Truancy |  |  |  |
| Peer influence |  |  |  |
| Lack of interest in <br> academic |  |  |  |
| Lack of interest in co- <br> curricular activities |  |  |  |
| Absenteeism |  |  |  |
| Drug and substance <br> abuse |  |  |  |
| Indiscipline |  |  |  |
| No homework given <br> by teachers |  |  |  |
| Lack of interest of <br> teachers in co- <br> curricular activities |  |  |  |
| Teachers must work <br> given to learners by <br> parents. |  |  |  |

6. (a) Name three factors that may prevent your child from performing well in academic activities?
i. $\qquad$
ii. $\qquad$
iii. $\qquad$
b. Name three factors that may prevent your child from participating in co-curricular activities?
i.
ii.
iii.
7. Suggest ways you feel that the community can use to deal with parents who abuse drugs and other drug related substances?
i. $\qquad$
ii. $\qquad$
iii. $\qquad$

## APPENDIX VII: RESEARCH PERMIT



## APPENDIX VIII: LETTER AUTHORIZATION

## REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Telephone: 254-020-2213471, 2241349, 254-020-2673550
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When replying please qu
secretary@ncst.go.ke
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Jane Mutabi Nguthari
University of Nairobi
P.O Box 30197-00100

Nairobi.

## RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application dated $10^{\text {th }}$ May, 2013 for authority to carry out research on "Effect of drug abuse among parents on primary pupils" participation in co-curricular activities in Abothuguchi Division: Meru County, Kenya." I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in Imenti Central District for a period ending 31 ${ }^{\text {st }}$ July, 2013.

You are advised to report to the District Commissioner and District Education Officer, Imenti Central District before embarking on the research project.

On completion of the research, you are expected to submit two hard copies and one soft copy in pdf of the research report/thesis to our office.


DR. M. K. RUGUTF, PhD, HSC.
DEPUTY COUNCIL SECRETARY
Copy to:
The District Commissioner
The District Education Officer
Imenti Central District

