



**ASSESSMENT OF CHALLENGES AFFECTING  
GIRL CHILD ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE ON  
KENYA CERTIFICATE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION  
AT TURKWEL ZONE, TURKANA, KENYA**

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**Abstract:**

Education for the girl child among pastoralist groups still faces a large challenge in public primary schools despite the big enrollment in public primary schools following the launch of Free Primary Education in Kenya more than a decade ago. It has been cited that the academic performance of the girl child in public primary schools in Turkana County is generally low. The study sought to evaluate challenges affecting girl child on academic performance on Kenya Certificate of Primary Education at Turkwel Zone in Turkana. The study objective was: analyzing school physical facilities that influence on girls' educational performance. The study was guided by Gender Relations Theory. Descriptive study design was used to recognize the objectives. The target population was all eighteen public primary schools inside the area, 268 magnificence eight girls, 270 Members of school BOM and eighty-two teachers. Research tools were questionnaires for head teachers, teachers and interview guides for Members of school BOM. Quantitative data were collected from the respondents had been cleaned and coded consistent with the various variables and prepared for computer evaluation the use of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). This was presented using tables and charts. Piloting was undertaken to check and enhance gadgets validity and reliability. The study established from the respondents comprising 62.3% that physical facilities stimulated the performance of the girl child to a tremendous amount. The study concluded that there

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was a tremendous relationship amongst school physical facilities and girl child academic overall performance. It was concluded that extra than 50% of girls in public primary schools at Turkwel Zone in Loima Sub-County did not have good enough sanitation centers to make certain that girls do not leave out school which in turn affects their overall performance. The study concluded that teachers' mindset closer to girls' impacts girls' educational overall performance. It was concluded that girls failed in subjects that teachers had a negative attitude towards them. It was additionally concluded that the constant provision of sanitary towels in primary schools has expanded well-known school attendance and girls' academic performance. The study recommends that similar studies be carried out with a large population than the only included on this study in other Sub-counties of Turkana.

**Keywords:** girl-child, physical facilities, challenges, educational performance

## 1. Introduction

Education has a profound effect on functionality of girls and women to benefit reputation in society which encompasses social, monetary and political representations, consequently growing pride. Female Education global, especially at primary school offers advantages to the circle of relatives and the society at huge. Research proof shows that training of girls permits them to nice manipulate their families, to apply superior dietary practices, to hold proper hygiene and too efficaciously to utilize an in-intensity type of provisions collectively with own family planning amongst others (UNESCO, 2009). According to Orodho (1997, 2000), education may be very critical to human life and normal together along collectively alongside along with his views, its miles perceived as a basis for social and financial development and its miles favored as a way of enhancing the welfare of a person.

To emphasize the significance of schooling, Okumbe (2001) elements out that Education gives the tool for conflict within the direction of poverty, lack of know-how and illnesses. However, every day with Eshiwani (1993), nowhere in the international do women take part further with men. Male enrolment in the 1/3 international outnumber the girls through the usage of way of an element of to three times. Females come across challenges as customers and agencies of schooling. They perform low informal education in phrases of their male opposite numbers. They perform poorly especially in arithmetic technological information associated topics. National Assessment of Education (1990) avers that girls' academic performance in the US has stagnated in most topics due to the truth that 1970 specially on number one literacy. Low commonplace well-known everyday normal performance in school does no longer have an impact on within the girl having low arrogance, however, moreover motives massive strain to the parents. There exists a number of factors girls' poor performance in rural schools. These embody medical traumatic situations, below common intelligence, emotional traumatic situations,

horrible socio-cultural home surroundings or possibly environmental motives amongst others (Sirin, 2005).

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Kenyan government has put serious strategies to offer education to all children. However, girls' KCPE performance is low and it is a persistent problem to the counties most affected being Arid and Semi-Arid areas (ASAL) within the country. This poses a critical implication to the achievement of vision 2030 in the country. According to Republic of Kenya (2015) the girls' academic performance in Turkana is constantly decrease than that of boys. Educating the girl child in any community is enormously appeared as it is considered to be as proper as teaching the entire network.

Despite constructing best four girls' boarding facilities in the region so as to make certain that well timed measures are put in place to make certain that girls compete fairly with their male counterparts, girls' academic performance continues to be low. A study conducted by Omondi (2013) only targeted dynamics which affect retention of girls in public primary schools in relevant Turkana. Few studies were undertaken about girls' KCPE performance in public primary schools on KCPE in different semi-arid counties but none in Turkana County. The only the study with the aid of Omondi (2013), focused on factors affecting retention of girls on public primary schools in central Turkana. Although studies undertaken on primary school found out that factors like insufficient and unsuitable textbooks, teacher qualification and the pupils' background influence on performance in examination usually, few studies have been carried out to determine challenges affecting girls' performance in KCPE. This study consequently attempted to evaluate challenges which influence girlchild academic performance in Kenya certificate of primary education at Turkwel Zone, in Turkana County.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

To examine school physical facilities which have effect on girl child academic performance in KCPE in Turkwel Zone, Loima Sub-county.

## **2. Empirical Literature Review**

According to UNICEF (2004), girls' education has personal merits in terms or stages of her existence. This explains that such advantages enhance girls' own circle of relatives and the society as an entire. Societal benefits embody more suitable economic improvement, education for the following era, extra wholesome girls and households and masses lots plenty much less maternal deaths. Moulton (1997) presents that the gain of training for a girls and society may be defined with the aid of way of way of the usage of the impact that training has on empowering girls to build up and use new employees, social and monetary conduct that during turn, impact on societal alternate. However, girls' dropout fee from school is higher as compared to that of boys. Fletcher et al. (2004) define low educational achievement as no longer meeting predicted ratings. Quite a

number of things make a contribution to such low fulfillment. Tooley et al., (2006), recommended that, the form of school students is enrolled in has direct effect at the scholars' fulfillment.

According to Kuthemba (1988), incorrect curriculum, teachers' scarcity, poor educational technique, congestion in school rooms and prolonged distances from school, gender inequality and lack of sufficient training and gaining knowledge of resources have an impact on girls' academic regular conventional excellent academic not unusual general typical overall performance. Herz (1995) in addition said that during managing the problem of school setting, it has emerged as very commonplace to find out the lifestyles and situations of university services which includes washrooms. Kwesiga (2002) located out that in rural Africa, green people begin school overdue and as short as women gather puberty, they need precise centers, which lack in masses of schools. Grant (1971) stated its miles were very difficult for quite a number of girls to pay interest if bathrooms are not sufficient. Brunner and Jerome (1961) counseled that inadequate sanitation facilities that were not adequate, particularly toilets had negative effect on girls' schooling than it did for boys.

## **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

This study was guided by Pearson's Gender Theory which was postulated by Pearson (1995). This is wherein the society views all activities which may be undertaken as based on societal roles and interactions of girls and men. The society seems to have final authority at the right nature of what individual girls and men' in truth do, and their real contribution to production and replica which appears to be biased inside the course of girls (Pearson, 1995). According to Pearson, the society perspectives all activities which is probably finished to be based totally mostly on social roles and interactions of women and boys. The idea of gender roles and activities have a robust ideological content and insurance regularly shows normative or prescriptive versions of male and girl roles in location of activities honestly practiced via girls and boys.

Pearson's gender theory was suitable for this study because it emphasizes the several societal, cultural and financial norms and requirements which need to be considered for girls to take the opportunities to carry out in communal activities together with schooling. These cultural and economic norms emphasized within the precept are the factors that have an impact on girls' educational attainment in school. Girls are expected to be correct better halves and parents and women are seen as subordinates and education for them is a whole lot of tons' lots much less essential. The benefits of education for women can be defined with the aid of manner of way of the impact that education has on girls' success.

## **3. Research Methodology**

The study implemented mixed method due to the fact that both qualitative and quantitative facts was accumulated. These sets of information have been gathered at the

same time from the sector. After records collection from the field, qualitative data were analyzed using descriptive information by means of the usage of frequency counts, the mean, and standard deviation; as well as inferential data the use of correlation by way of employing SPSS version 21 and excel laptop packages.

### 3.1 Research Design

The study used descriptive survey design. Kothari (2004) notes that studies layout has to make sufficient provision for protection in the direction of bias and need to maximize reliability, with due issue for the in your fee range final touch on the studies the study. Descriptive survey format is thought to be suitable for studies which are attempting to find to explain the characteristics of sure groups estimating their proportions and making predictions (Churchil, 2001). In this study, the researcher sought to evaluate the factors affecting girls' performance in KCPE.

### 3.2 Target Population

The target population for the study included all eighteen public primary schools in the area, 268 girls, 270 BOM members and 82 teachers. The head teachers had been targeted because of the reality they had been school managers who provided strategic and non-strategic curriculum delivery materials which right now or circuitously had an effect on girls' KCPE performance. Teachers have been focused on because of the truth they were the implementers of the curriculum consequently at once contributing to the girls' academic performance.

**Table 1: Target Population**

Respondents	Target Population
Teachers	82
Class eight girls	286
BOM members	270
Schools	18
Head teachers	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>674</b>

### 3.3 Sampling Procedures and Sample Size

Participants for this study included all primary school heads in Turkwel Zone in Loima Sub County in Turkana County. Sampling was executed by chance and non-chance sampling strategies. Probability sampling strategies enabled this study to define the danger that each respondent of a defined population faced within the sample (Gay, Mills & Airasian, 2009).

**Table 2: Sampling Grid**

	Target Population	Sample Population	%	Sampling Technique
Head teachers	18.5	56	30	Random
Class 8 girls	268	80	30	Random
Teachers	82	25	30	Random
BOM Members	270	81	30	Stratified random

### 3.4 Data Collection Instruments

Essentially the researcher needs to make certain that the device decided on is legitimate and reliable. The validity and reliability of any studies task is primarily based upon to a large quantity on the appropriateness of the tools (Educadium, 2017). A researcher wants to boom units with which to collect critiques. Orodho (2008) states that in studies instrumentation refers back to the units used to collect information from the sampled respondents. The study used a questionnaire to gather records from respondents.

### 3.5 Data Analysis Procedures

Data accrued have been analyzed the usage of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) model 21.0. Data have been modified into coded in the software program and then edited for inconsistency in advance than learning. Qualitative statistics from responses in semi-dependent gadgets within the questionnaire and interview guide for BOM had been subjected to content material analysis in which subject matters had been recognized based totally on studies questions analyzed and presented in education and issues based totally on research objectives. Both descriptive statistics have been used to investigate quantitative statistics.

## 4. Research Findings

### 4.1 Physical Facilities Affecting Girls' Academic Performance

The first study objective intended to establish how school physical facilities affect academic girls' academic performance. All the respondents had been asked whether or not the indexed facilities were sufficient. The following were the findings as recorded in Table 6 below.

**Table 3: Physical Facilities Affecting Girls' Academic Performance**

School physical facilities	Yes	%	%
Teaching and learning materials	37.7	119	62.5
Playing fields	98.95	2	1.05
Inadequate classes and desks	45.03	105	54.97
Sanitary facilities for girls	5.75	180	94.24
Bathing water and libraries	31.94	130	68.06

Findings in Table 3 above shows that 62.3% of the respondents said that the coaching and learning materials have been not enough while 37.7% stated that there had been sufficient teaching and getting to know materials, 45.03% said that there had been good enough

instructions and desks while 54.97% expressed contrary opinion, 5.75% indicated that there have been sufficient sanitary facilities for girls but the majority ninety four.24% indicated that there had been now not sufficient sanitary facilities for women, 31.94% said that there had been enough bathing water and libraries whilst sixty eight.06% did now not agree that there were sufficient bathing water and libraries. Lack of these facilities makes it hard for women to concentrate hence contributing to their low performance.

#### 4.2 Extent to which Availability of Sanitary Facilities Affect Girls' Academic Performance

The study sought to find out to which extent the availability of sanitary facilities affects the girls' academic performance in Turkwel Zone. Table 7 shows the responses of head teachers and teachers.

**Table 4:** Extent to which Available Sanitary Facilities Affect Girls' Performance

Extent	f	%
Very great extent	4	13.3
Great extent	22	73.3
Moderate extent	2	6.7
Little extent	1	3.3
No extent	1	3.3
<b>Total</b>	30	100

The findings in Table 4 indicate that 73.3% of the respondents indicated that availability of sanitary facilities in public primary schools at Turkwel Zone in Loima Sub-County might assist to enhance the overall girls' performance in KCPE to a large extent. This means that relaxed and easy sanitation facilities are essential make certain that girls do not pass over school which would possibly influence on their performance negatively.

#### 4.5 Board of Management Responses whether Physical Facilities Affect Girls' Academic Performance

The study sought to find out whether physical facilities affect the girls' academic performance. From the findings, 85.2% of the respondents agreed that inadequate bodily facilities had a negative implication on the girls' academic performance. 14.8% disagreed that insufficient physical facilities affect the girls' academic performance.

### 5. Conclusions

The study assessed factors affecting girls' KCPE performance. Thus, there's a positive courting between school physical facilities and woman child academic performance. Lack of good enough bodily facilities makes it tough for girls no longer to be comfortable in school, negative pay attention and will increase absenteeism among female learners for that reason contributing to their low academic performance. It was concluded that the general public of public primary schools at Turkwel Zone in Loima Sub-County did not

have good enough secure and smooth sanitation facilities to make certain that women do not pass over school which impacts their performance.

### **5.1 Recommendations**

The study has proposed the following recommendations to the government, beneficiaries and other stakeholders for implementation. The study established that lack of good enough sanitary facilities in schools affect the girls' academic performance negatively in their national tests. Therefore, the recommends that there needs to be concerted efforts by school management forums to discourage girls from going to the bushes to answer to the calls of nature and to provide precedence to the provision of sanitary facilities to schools. The study further recommends that the county government of Turkana to develop measures to discourage teenage pregnancies by prepared aggressive co-curriculum activities and ensure that public primary schools have sufficient sanitary facilities and bathing water as this could minimize absenteeism hence enhance the academic girls' academic performance.

### **Acknowledgements**

In this study, Marakwet County secondary schools provided a research instrument, we sincerely thank all the respondents which made this study a success.

### **Conflict of interest statement**

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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