

*Full Length Research Paper*

# Orphan enrolment in primary schools and its challenges on the head teachers administrative tasks: a case study of Nandi hills division in Nandi south district, Kenya

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The study investigated the effect of rising enrolment of orphans in Nandi hills division on the head teachers' administrative tasks. The study was motivated by the fact that the division registered the highest increment of orphans than other divisions in Nandi south district. The sampled respondents for this study were 18 public primary schools and included 18 head teachers, 18 guidance and counselling teachers, 72 class teachers, 72 orphaned pupils and 72 guardians. Data was generated by means of interviews, questionnaires and documentary analysis. The findings revealed that enrolment of orphaned pupils in primary schools pose many challenges to head teachers' administrative tasks that is, administratively, financially, materially and others. The study provides useful information to education administrators, policy makers and planners particularly on orphaned pupils' enrolment rules vis-à-vis resources available.

**Keywords:** Orphan enrolment, challenges, administrative tasks, Nandi hills

## INTRODUCTION

According to NACC (2003), orphan-hood is a state of parentless and is the concern of many countries and worldwide organizations. It is a contemporary phenomenon that has globally traumatized many countries. The orphan state is caused by abandonment by parents, natural calamities, accidents and diseases, HIV/AIDS being the most prevalent.

Kenya's Free Primary Education (FPE) policy, implemented in January 2003, opened up opportunities for children who had never enrolled in school or dropped out of school because they could not afford the costs. Free Primary Education saw an additional enrolment of 1.3 million children who had been previously excluded from the system (inter-press – December 17, 2003).

A report by UNESCO (2005) reveals that FPE created a large pool of orphans who are not able to attend school consistently as they lack basic needs like food and clothing. Such children do not concentrate on their studies and others have dropped out of school. Pupils view on the stakeholders suggested that the government should give assistance to orphans to ensure that they attend and stay in school and provide uniforms to children who cannot afford. The assessment report recommends that teachers be taken through in-service programmes to train them on new techniques and ways of instilling discipline.

## Objective of the Study

The study attempted to establish primary school Head teachers' preparedness on how to handle the emerging issues that relate to the orphan unique needs in relation to learning. It poses the critical question; what special

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