

**EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSTITUENCY BURSARY AWARD IN ENHANCING
PARTICIPATION OF NEEDY STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF
TRANS-NZOIA COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

DR EVANS OGOTI OKENDO email eokendo@cuea.edu mobile 0723837287

HEAD OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA-GABA CAMPUS

ONSOMU NDEMO RICHARD

PHD CANDIDATE KISII UNIVERSITY ELDORET CAMPUS

The purpose of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of bursary award in enhancing participation of needy students in public secondary schools education in Kenya. The study sought to determine the influence of bursary award on access to public secondary school education by needy students, effectiveness of the criteria used in bursary award in enhancing retention of needy students in public secondary school and to find out the level of needy cases of students that require bursary for participation in public secondary education. Cross-sectional descriptive survey design was employed to conduct the study. The study was based on education production function (EPF) theory which states that education output is a function of inputs. The study targeted 20 public secondary schools in Trans Nzoia County. Stratified simple sampling was used to select the two (2) county schools and (10) sub-county public secondary schools in the County. All the principals and form three students of the ten (10) sampled schools participated in the study. Questionnaires, interview guide and document analysis guide were used to collect data. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in data analysis. Percentages, means and ratios were computed to allow for descriptive analysis. Spearman Correlation coefficient was used to establish the relationship between bursary award criteria and access of needy students to secondary education. The study established that bursary award is marred with many loopholes, the system of tracking needy cases is weak, and the amount given is very little to retain needy cases in school. Participation of needy students is wanting. Criteria used have undermined the bursary objectives of enhancing participation of needy students in secondary school education. The study recommends that there is need to revise or overhaul the whole system of bursary, redefining the awarding scheme with well set objectives and target. The study further recommends that there be an established and independent body with clear nonpartisan representation that can be entrusted with bursary award. Bursary fund kitty should also be increased.

**KEY WORDS EFFECTIVENESS, NEEDY STUDENTS, PARTICIPATION RATES AND
BURSARY AWARD ALLOCATION**