

CHALLENGES FACING ORPHANED STUDENTS AND THE EFFECTS ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN O – LEVEL COMMERCE AT SAMARINGA CLUSTER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

The main focus of the study was to examine the effects of the challenges faced by orphaned students in academic performance in secondary schools at O-Level. The research design used in this study is a mixed methods research design incorporated both the quantitative and qualitative approaches. The population consisted of forty five orphaned students, 30 non-orphaned students, fifteen teachers and three heads of school making a total of ninety one respondents that were used for this study. The research instruments were questionnaire, interview, observations and class test. The findings were that the orphaned students' performance is poor resulting from the challenges they face in their lives. It was also found that the support from the Government and other stakeholders to deal with the challenges facing orphaned students in academic performance is very minimal in relation to the existing number of orphaned students. This can be taken into account that the academic performance of orphaned students does not rely on the provision of school fees only but also depend much on the availability of basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, and psychological help relating to alleviation of traumas of their parental death.

Keywords: Orphan, Academic performance, Orphaned student, Challenges.