

Influence of School Category on Students' Choice of Agriculture Subject in Secondary Schools in Nakuru County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

Subject choice leading to post-secondary school career choice for school leavers in Kenya has become more challenging in the light of competition for admissions to relevant University, tertiary institutions' courses and access to job opportunities. Many students miss relevant placement for agricultural courses and employment opportunities due to wrong subject combinations in secondary school. This study investigated the influence of school-related factors such as; performance of agriculture subject in the previous KSCE results, availability of teaching and learning resources and the category of the school on the students' choice of agriculture subject in secondary schools in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study used the *ex-post facto* research design. Stratified sampling was used to ensure that all the school categories; National, County and Sub County schools were initially included in the study. A sample of 18 schools was employed using purposive and simple random sampling technique. The sample size of 367 students was derived using a table of random numbers to determine a finite population out of an accessible population of 7955. The questionnaires had both closed and open ended items and comprised likert scale rating items. The questionnaires were completed by 367. Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Pearson Moments Correlations (r) test was used to examine and analyze relationships among study factors. Hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha levels. The study recommended that policy on the choice of Agriculture subject should enhance subject choice regardless of school category. The findings of the study may be

useful to curriculum developers and policy planners, Kenya