

Moderating the Challenges Faced in The Provision of Laboratory Resources for Science Subjects: A Spot Light Public Secondary Schools in Machakos Sub-County, Kenya

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish the challenges faced in the provision of laboratory resources for science subjects in public secondary schools in Machakos Sub-County, Kenya. Specifically, the study was set to establish the availability of laboratory facilities and equipment in public secondary schools and to find out the challenges faced by school principals in provision of laboratory resources. The study used descriptive survey design. Convenient, stratified and simple random sampling techniques were used in the study. The sampling matrix comprised of 479 respondents; 23 principals, 105 teachers and 351 students. The study used two research instruments; a questionnaire and an interview. The data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences tool kit. The results were presented using percentages, frequency tables and bar graphs. The findings of the study revealed that 68 % schools did not have adequate laboratory resources. In addition, over enrolment of students and delay in release of government grants posed the greatest challenges in provision of science laboratory resources and equipment in public secondary schools. The study recommends that principals should work for alternative ways of acquiring laboratory resources and equipment; donations from science organizations, charitable organizations and other stakeholders in the field of education. The government of Kenya should put in place mechanism that will promote effective and efficiency disbursement of school grants within the set timelines in order to support the provision of science laboratory resources and equipment.

Key words: challenges, laboratory facilities, science subjects and resources

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