

ABSTRACT

School feeding programme is an initiative that has been taken by school management authorities both in public and private institutions, to be of great significance in the growth and development of the child as far as their development and learning is concerned. In spite of the role of feeding programme which is meant to boost the enrollment of the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children, there is still a steady increase in their number not enrolled in school. The purpose of this study was to establish the effects of Feeding Programmes to the orphaned and vulnerable children in Madiany Division Siaya County, Kenya. The objectives of the study are; to establish the extent to which feeding programmes influence enrolment of pre-school learners in Public Schools; to determine how feeding Programmes affects the attendance of orphaned and vulnerable pre-school learners in public schools; to determine the strategies used by pre-school institutions in implementing the school feeding programme; and to examine the challenges of enhancing school feeding programmes in Public pre-school institutions. Abraham Maslow's theory of Hierarchy of Needs was adopted. The research used the descriptive survey design which accommodates both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The target population comprised of 240 ECDE teachers in 60 schools from where 18 schools were selected using the random sampling method. The sample population comprised of 72 teachers who were sampled purposively from the 18 schools. Questionnaires, interview schedules and document analysis guides were used for data collection. Validity and reliability of the instruments were ensured by the expert judgment of the university lecturers while the reliability was ascertained by the internal consistency of 0.6. Quantitative data was analyzed descriptively by use of percentages, frequency counts, and means so that they can be easily understood. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis procedures that involve analyzing themes within the data. The study established that school feeding programmes increased the enrolment of orphaned and vulnerable ECDE children into public school. The study recommended that the Ministry of Education should come up with clear policies that will streamline school feeding programme in all public ECDE schools so as to maintain consistency and ensure retention in order to realize Education for all. Moreover, Head teachers might use the findings to improve the enrolment and retention of orphaned and vulnerable children in the Early Childhood centres whose enrolments are always fluctuating. It is anticipated that the findings from the research findings will add knowledge to influence ideas and practice on school feeding programmes.