

# **The Role of the Church in the Provision of Early Childhood Education in Nairobi Province, Kenya.**

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## **Abstract**

Christian churches have played a pivotal role in the provision of primary, secondary and higher education in Kenya. However, the participation of the church in early childhood education appears minimal. This study was, therefore, interested in establishing the role of Christian churches in the provision of early childhood education in Nairobi Province, that is, as an alternative source to supplement the efforts of parents and local communities. The results of the study indicated that the average school size increased from 31 in 2004 to 72 in 2007. This general low enrolment was due to poverty levels among parents and communities in the province especially among slum dwellers. The preschools received funds from fees paid by parents, contributions from churches in terms of provision of food, uniforms and free tuition to the needy children and other donors. The curriculum taught was Christian-based to enable the pupils to harmonize Christian faith with the three R's: writing, reading and arithmetic. English and Kiswahili were the major media of communication; few schools used vernacular to a very small extent. The main challenge in the provision of early childhood education was inadequate finance. This has resulted in lack of provisions in the schools which was manifested in low payment for teachers, lack of adequate textbooks, permanent classrooms, transport, recreational facilities, clean sanitation and sports activities. Hence examining the role played by the churches in rural areas in the provision of early childhood education and establishing appropriate alternative methods of raising finance are potent areas for further research.

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