ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to examine extent of poverty on academic performance of high school students in Imenti North District. This study used descriptive research to establish a causal relationship between the two variables by means of descriptive analysis. A total of 200 Students and 10 headteachers was used. The findings revealed that there is a positive relationship between parents income and academic performance of students ($r = 0.155 \text{ sig.} = 0.000 <0.05$). Thus, parent’s poverty greatly contributes to academic performance of the students significantly correlated, at 0.05 level of significance. The findings indicated that there is a positive relationship between parents employment and academic performance of students ($r = 0.212 \text{ sig.} = 0.000 <0.05$). Thus, parent’s unemployment greatly contributes to academic performance of the students significantly correlated, at 0.05 level of significance. The findings also revealed that there is a positive relationship between parents educational level and academic performance of students ($r = 0.31. \text{ sig.} = 0.000 <0.05$). Thus, parent’s educational level greatly contributes to academic performance of the students significantly correlated, at 0.05 level of significance. The study recommended that the Ministry of Education through the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) should find ways and means in which they can lower the registration fee as well as the pass mark for the poor in marginalized areas so that the poor can also be able to register. Individual agencies and donors that give out bursaries and scholarships and other forms of assistance should focus their help on poor areas and poor students. There is need to provide support to students and their families and to involve mostly their parents as early intervention is critical.