ABSTRACT
Child labour is a problem faced globally for there is no region in the world which is completely free of the problem. This was the perspective at which this study is based. The general objective of this study was to investigate the influence of child labour on pupil’s performance at the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education in Tiriki division, Hamisi district, Kenya. The specific objectives were to establish the influence of domestic child labour on pupil’s performance at the KCPE, to determine whether absenteeism could influence pupil’s performance at the KCPE in relation to child labour, to examine the influence of commercial child labour on pupil’s performance at the KCPE, to examine how household poverty influences pupil’s performance at the KCPE in relation to child labour and to establish the influence of social roles in child labour on pupil’s performance at the KCPE in Tiriki Division. This study adopted a descriptive research design. The theoretical framework was based on Karl Marx theory of historical materialism. The sample sizes of this study were 10 schools, 10 headteachers, 45 teachers, 112 learners and 112 parents. This study utilized questionnaires and interview schedule for the parents to collect data. Reliability of the instrument was done by performing a Pearson’s product correlation. The validity was done by conducting a pilot study on four schools that were not included in the actual study. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques were used to analyze data. The Statistical Packages for Social Scientists (SPSS) software package were utilized in analyzing the data. There were 148 filled questionnaires and 112 interview schedule for the study. The data was presented in frequency tables, pie charts and bar graphs. The study was intended to benefit the policy makers in the Ministry of Education, other Ministries, academic scholars, researchers and pupils. The findings showed that the pupils are involved in domestic chores, commercial child labour and household poverty affect their academic performance. The parents do not adequate provide for their pupils’ schools needs. A majority of the teachers do not enhance their pupils’ socialization to facilitate their performance in the school. It can be concluded that in the examining of the influence of commercial child labour in pupil’s performance at the KCPE in Tiriki Division, many pupils participate in commercial agriculture. This affects their academic performance since they do not attend the school. A majority of the pupils involved in the commercial child labour, affect their academic performance. The findings indicated that work and education play a key role in socialization. This means that according to the teachers, work and education play a key role in socialization and therefore should be encouraged in schools. Teachers indicated that their pupils get to socialize through playing. The schools should therefore be encouraged to allow the pupils to play for socialization. The researcher recommends that parents be sensitized by the teachers on the importance of their pupil’s academics so as to understand their role and involvement in their children’s academic performance. There should be enforcement of laws by the Ministry of Education and other educational stakeholders to guide the children against child labour that affect their academic performance.