

# The Impact of the Constituency development Fund Programme on Public Primary Schools: A Case of Mogotio Constituency.

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## **Abstract:**

The study assessed the impact of Constituency Development Fund (COF) on educational development in public primary schools in Mogotio Constituency of Rift Valley since 2003. Between 2003 and 2009, a total of Kenya shillings 222,995,600 has been disbursed to Mogotio Constituency. So far, out of the 171 projects undertaken, 108, (representing 63.1 %) are in the education sector. Of the 108 projects, 90 are in public primary schools and the remaining 18 in secondary. CDF has been characterized by mismanagement, embezzlement, political interference, incomplete projects and shoddy jobs (Evusa, 2008). Mogotio Constituency may not be immune to these. Eighty schools in Mogotio constituency have received funding-others several times- while 8 have not received a cent since the inception of the programme in 2003. The main objective of the study was to investigate the impact of CDF on educational development of public primary schools since it takes the lion's share of the CDF funds. Specific objectives include: to find out the extent to which CDF has contributed to the provision of physical facilities, to determine how CDF has affected enrolment, performance in national exams and to establish the challenges faced in the implementation of the CDF programme in public primary schools.

Literature review focused on the overview of the CDF programme in Kenya and the related concepts of decentralization and devolution. Others include: Challenges facing CDF implementation and CDF and Strategic Management. The Descriptive Survey Method using the Purposive Sampling technique was used. Fifty percent of the 80 public primary schools were targeted for survey. The 42 schools were carefully selected to capture all the varieties of schools in Mogotio in all the 4 divisions: boarding, day, rural, urban, over-enrolled and under-enrolled. A census of the 8 schools not funded was done. The questionnaire targeting the Headteachers was the primary tool for data collection. Pre-testing was done on a few selected respondents in the public primary schools in the neighbouring Eldama-Ravine Constituency.

Once the data was collected, it was edited, coded, and being a descriptive study, measures of central tendency and dispersion was used. Forty two questionnaires, representing a response rate of 84% were received back. The study found out that the enrolment has not changed much with the introduction of COF. Furthermore, the Pearson correlation index between KCPE mean score and CDF is insignificant ( $p=+0.122$ ). However, CDF seems to have had a major impact in Mogotio Constituency. The correlation index between the CDF and classrooms is quite significant ( $p=+0.508$ ). The Major complaint with CDF is the inadequate amount disbursed leading to substandard works and stalled projects. There should be capacity building of the Headteachers of the funded schools to equip them with the necessary technical and supervisory skills before projects begin.