

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE IMPACT OF CHILD LABOUR ON  
PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN IN RUNGIRI, MUGUGA LOCATION, KIKUYU  
DIVISION, KIAMBU DISTRICT.**

**BY**

**NG'ANG'A MERCY WAMBUI**

**A research project submitted in partial fulfillment for  
the Award of Degree in Bachelor of Education (ECE)  
to the Department of Educational Communication  
and Technology, Faculty of Education.**

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
2007**

## DECLARATION

This is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

Signature: Mercy

Date 6/08/07

Mercy Wambui Ng'ang'a

REG No. E45/10022/03

This work has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor of the Candidate.

Signature: Boniface

Date 06/08/07

Dr. Boniface Ngaruiya

Lecturer

Department of Educational Communication and Technology.

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of child labour on pre-school children at Rungiri Primary School in Kikuyu division. The study ought to find out the types of work done by children in Rungiri, their parents occupation, earnings and education. The study further sought to find out the gender and birth order involved in child labour and also the relationship between child labour and learning activities in the pre-school. The study intended to provide useful information and recommendation of curbing child labour in pre schools.

In this study a questionnaire and interviews schedule and documentary analysis were the research analysis instruments. The questionnaire targeted pre-school teachers. The interview schedule targeted parents and pre-school pupils. Pupils' performance was analysed from the progress records and their attendance was analysed using the class registers.

In the study the expost-facto designs were used. The population target consisted of 3 pre-school teachers, 60 pre-school children and 50 parents. The sample and sampling procedures applied in research study was random sampling. The main study was drawn from 35 pupils (58%) 2 teachers (66%) and 30 parents (60%). The findings of this study was that child labour was caused by poverty, family break-up, single parenthood, death due to HIV/ Aids, rigid culture, social roles and public opinion that down plays the risk of early work for children.

Children engage mostly in domestic work in their homes in the evenings after school, during the weekends and during the holidays. Children lacked time to rest or even time to play with their peers. At this age of 3-6yrs play is very important for children's growth and development. According to the UN convention, **Article 31** "states parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts". Most of the pre-school children parents are educated up to primary level. This reflects their occupation as well as their economic status, which force children to work.