
**Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on The Academic Perception of
Class 8 and Form 4 Students Towards Their National Exams: A Case Study of Narok County,**

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Abstract

National exams in Kenya have been seen as the bridge to better livelihoods. Passing the translates to more chances of selection to quality schools and professional courses. On failing these exams is perceived to render the candidate 'a community failure', with little chance of making it in life. The exams, therefore, carry a lot of weight in the minds of candidate students. The covid-19 pandemic resulted in the indefinite closure of learning institutions. This closure and many dynamics responsible for candidates' performance in their national exams. A study was hereby conducted aiming to assess how the pandemic had affected candidates' (class 8 and form 4) perception of national exams in Narok county, Kenya. The research used a mixed design involving a case study and a cross-sectional design study. Questionnaire guides were used. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the findings. The findings indicated that the candidates' perception of passing in essential subjects was completely altered. The pandemic also made the learners switch their dream professions. The study found out that there was little online learning with numerous excuses for the same. Most of the learners indicated that their perception of resumption was largely dependent on how the government would contain the pandemic. In conclusion, the pandemic had significantly ruined how the learners perceived national exams. The authors recommend all education stakeholders move with speed in ensuring the candidates are engaged with learning activities either online or through community-based learning platforms.

Keywords: Class 8 and Form 4 candidates, covid-19 pandemic, perception towards national exams

