



**INFLUENCE OF RESOURCES AND ECDE OFFICERS' KNOWLEDGE ON DELIVERY OF
QUALITY SERVICES BY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION OFFICERS IN KWALE
COUNTY, KENYA**

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Abstract

The quality of Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) services given to children in their early years is essential for proper growth and development. The study sought to determine whether availability of resources influence delivery of quality ECDE services and establish whether ECDE officers' knowledge influence delivery of quality ECDE services. Descriptive Survey Design was adopted targeting parents from ECDE centres and ECDE officers in Kwale County. The study population comprised of twelve (12) ECDE officers in the county. A census study was used whereby all twelve (12) ECDE officers were selected. Questionnaires were used to collect data from the ECDE officers. A pilot study was conducted in Mombasa County for the ECDE officers. The test retest method was used to test the validity and reliability of the instruments. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze quantitative data. The quantitative data was presented in percentages, tables and graphs while qualitative data was categorized in themes then reported in prose form alongside the quantitative data. The study established that resources for ECDE officers were inadequate. For the few who had offices, they were not adequately equipped and therefore delivery of quality services was hampered. The findings show that the ECDE officers lacked means of transport and this had an impact on delivery of quality ECDE services. It was also found out that majority of the officers lacked ECDE knowledge even though they had all acquired degrees in education. The ECDE officers encountered a number of challenges which include; ignorance and negative attitudes to the ECDE programme by the communities, lack of resources for effective implementation of the programme, lack of transport and support from the county government. The study concluded that lack of adequate resources hampered delivery of quality ECDE services in Kwale County. Provision of quality ECDE services is dependent on resources available to the ECDE officers. The study concludes that the ECDE officers' knowledge did not benefit the parents and therefore did influence delivery of quality services. Knowledge in ECDE greatly influences delivery of quality ECDE services. The study recommends the County and National government should channel more funds to facilitate ECDE officers to effectively deliver ECDE services. The funds would also help to organize for meetings and workshops to empower parents and other stakeholders on matters of ECDE in the area. The county government should motivate the ECDE officers by providing them with well-equipped permanent offices, provide them with adequate funds and means of transport to facilitate their movement in their area of jurisdictions to enhance their delivery of services.

Key Words: *Resources, ECDE Officers knowledge, Early childhood education, Delivery of quality services, Early childhood*



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