



**PERCEPTIONS OF PRESCHOOL TEACHERS ON THE USE OF MOTHER TONGUE AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MUMBUNI ZONE, MACHAKOS COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

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**Abstract**

The use of mother tongue is supposed to be applied in Early Childhood programs, pre-schools and the lower primary classes. Despite the curial role played by the mother tongue in childhood learning, the significant of mother tongue as a subject and medium of instruction in childhood is often given low preference. The important decision regarding language of instruction is taken in Machakos County. This study sought to establish pre-school teachers' perception on use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction in preschools in Mumbuni Zone, Machakos County Kenya. This study adopted descriptive research design. The target population for this study was 45 schools. It constituted 21 primary schools and 24 pre-schools in Mumbuni Zone. The study adopted a sample size of 113. The study used charts and frequency tables to present the results. Quantitative data collected using interview guide was presented in prose form in various sub themes of the study and analyzed throughout content analysis. Quantitative data was coded in SPSS 24 and analyzed using descriptive analysis techniques that included frequencies, percentage, mean and standard deviation. Inferential analysis technique ,correlation analysis was used to determine whether perception of pre-school teachers have a significant influence on use of mother tongue as a medium of instruction in Early Childhood Education in Mumbuni Zone. The study found that utilization of mother tongue as a language of instruction in early childhood learning has a significant contribution to promotion of effective communication for learners both at home and school, promote teachers pupil interactions and promotes learning in schools and enhance learning in schools. The study concluded that preschool teachers had a negative perception on utilization of mother tongue as a language of instructions preschools.

Key words: *Pre-school teachers' Perception, Mother Tongue, Language of Instruction*