

## **Investigation of Factors for Failure of Pupils to Attend School during Funerals among Luo Community**

By

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### **Abstract**

*Every culture has a way of assisting its bereaved members to deal with grief. This study investigated the factors for failure of pupils to attend school during funerals among the Luo community in Asego Division, Homa-Bay Sub County. The objectives of this study were to find out why pupils fail to attend school during funerals and the number of days each pupil failed to attend school during the funeral of a nuclear family member, friend, and neighbor. Eight primary schools in Asego Division were sampled for this study. Two hundred and forty Luo pupils in classes four to eight in the sampled schools were purposively sampled as participants and descriptive survey research design was used. Questionnaires were administered to the sampled pupils. Focus group discussions for teachers were held in the sampled schools. They were chaired by the researcher with the assistance of two enumerators. Pilot study was conducted to check on validity and reliability of the instruments. Data analysis employed descriptive statistics such as means, frequency distributions, percentages and standard deviations. The findings of this study were presented in tables and in prose. The findings showed that respondents who had lost fathers absented from school because of the Luo bereavement customs of "padho", suspension of regular activities 0.8%, "iko", burial, 7.9%, "tero buru", a ritual demonstration of accompanying the spirit of the deceased to former battleground, 1.3%, "liedo", shaving, 0.8%, "tedo", serving a meal to the deceased's family by married daughters, 0.4%, while 88.6% were not affected by loss of fathers during school going days. Pupils absented from school for 8 days for mothers, 5 days for fathers, 4 days for siblings, and 2 days for friends and neighbours' funerals. The study concluded that Luo bereavement customs affected school attendance of bereaved pupils. Further research was recommended to investigate how the Luo bereavement customs affected academic performance of bereaved pupils. A similar study can be replicated in other parts of Nyanza region, Kenya.*

**Keywords:** *funeral, bereavement, community, absenteeism and school attendance*