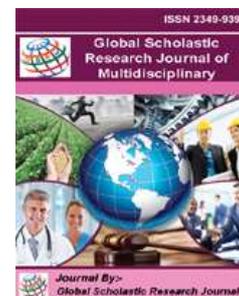




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**PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT, MOTIVATION AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON
SELECTION OF AGRICULTURE SUBJECT: A SURVEY OF FORM THREE
STUDENTS, NAKURU-NORTH KENYA**

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Abstract

Agricultural education plays a vital role in agricultural growth because it determines the quality of scientists, business professionals, teachers and civil servants in all areas of agriculture. Enrolment in agriculture subject is thought to be declining although there is no uniform trend among all African countries. Employing the ex post facto research design and utilizing a sample size of 200 students and 8 agriculture teachers from 8 day secondary schools in Nakuru North District, Nakuru County, this study investigated the influence of parents engaging their children in agricultural activities at home on the students' selection of agriculture subject at form two level and analyzed the influence of parents motivating their children in agriculture-related activities at the formative stages in school on the students' selection of agriculture subject at form two level. The study used the questionnaires to collect primary data which was analyzed with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study established that a significant positive relationship existed between parental engagements of students in agricultural activities at home, motivation of their children in agriculture related activities and students selection of agriculture subject. Thus, the government through the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders should formulate a policy aimed at bringing active involvement of parents in the practical learning of agriculture in secondary schools. Parents/guardians should be encouraged to involve their children in agricultural activities at home to provide the necessary background before they join school as well as allowing them to apply theoretical information learned in class into practical agricultural production on the farm.

Key Words: Engagement of students in agricultural activities; Parental influence; Parents' motivation of their children; Students' motivation
