

THE INFLUENCE OF CAREGIVERS ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF DEAF CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY OF AGA KHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, DEAF UNIT, NAIROBI, KENYA

by

Stellah Moraa Osoro

A thesis presented to the School of Human and Social Sciences

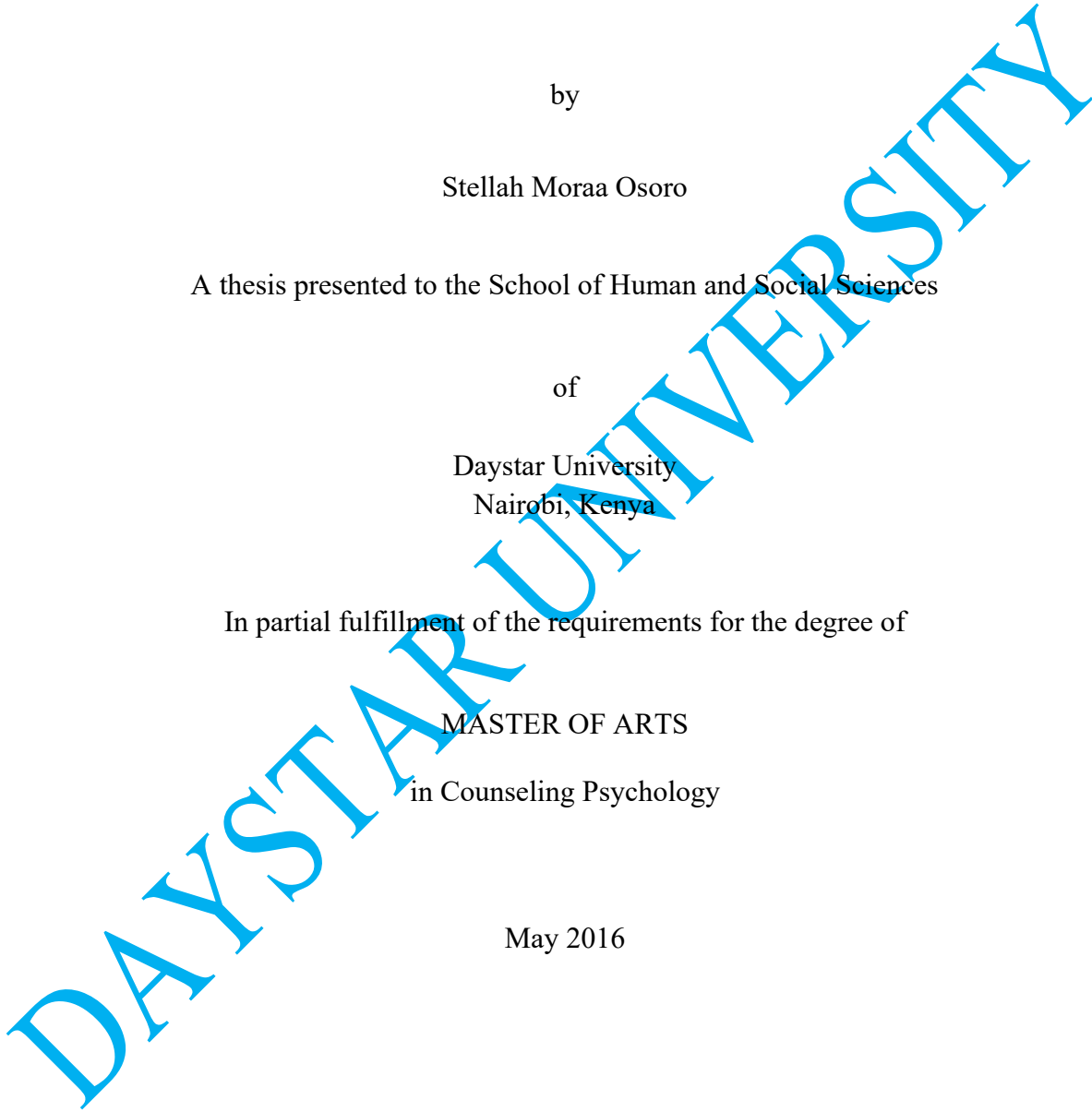
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APPROVAL

THE INFLUENCE OF CAREGIVERS ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF DEAF CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY OF AGA KHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, DEAF UNIT, NAIROBI, KENYA.

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In accordance with Daystar University policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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DECLARATION

THE INFLUENCE OF CAREGIVERS ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF DEAF CHILDREN: A CASE STUDY OF AGA KHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, DEAF UNIT, NAIROBI, KENYA.

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EARS	Educational Assessment and Resource Services
HI	Hearing Impairment
HoH	Hard of Hearing
KNAD	Kenya National Association of the Deaf
KNAP	Kenya National Association of Parents
KSDC	Kenya Society of the Deaf Children
KSL	Kenya Sign Language
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
WFD	World Federation of the Deaf
PSS	Perception of Social Support
PWDS	Persons with Disabilities
SES	Socio Economic Status
TPB	Theory of Planned Behavior

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ABSTRACT

Deafness in children is a serious concern because it interferes with the development of language which sets humans apart from other living things. It is important to understand how the deaf child interacts with their caregiver and the wider community, and how, if need be, this interaction can be enhanced to ensure appropriate social development. The purpose of this study was therefore to determine the influence of caregivers on academic performance of deaf children. The study adopted a case study design and was conducted at Aga Khan Primary School Deaf Unit in Westlands Sub County in Nairobi County, Kenya. Permission from the head of the school was granted to carry out the research. The researcher assured the respondents of confidentiality. A total sample of 24 respondents participated and questionnaires were used to collect data. Data processing and analysis was done using Statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20. Results were presented in pie charts and tables. The study, among other findings revealed that caregivers influenced respondents in doing their homework and having extra time for interaction. Findings also showed that caregiver influence in the academic performance of deaf children was faced by challenges such as financial constraints, the use of Kenya Sign Language (KSL) to communicate and stigmatization. Study recommendations include that the government establishes more schools for persons with hearing impairments and that more KSL courses be offered frequently and decentralized within regular schools. There is also need for the current curriculum to be reviewed in order to accommodate views of persons with hearing disabilities. Caregivers also need to be trained in assessment, observation and reflective skills in order to start early learning provisions for the child with hearing impairments before they join school.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to significant people in my life who include: My beloved late father whose foresight in education and constant encouragement in my study has kept me strong all through. You and Mum laid a solid foundation for me spiritually and morally. This thesis is a manifestation of your hard work and values that you instilled in me. Daddy, you may be no more, but I know you are very proud of my progress. To my beloved husband Thomas Maisiba you spur me to greater heights with your support and sacrifice. My two families who have continuously given me moral support and patience when I needed it most during my study, and finally, to our children Britney, Brian, Mercy and Bradley whose love keeps me going. May the Almighty God keep you strong and favoured.

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