

**IMPACT OF DUTCH FRIENDS EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP**

**PROGRAM**

**IN AHERO AND AWASI PARISH**

**NYANDO AND MUHORONI SUB-COUNTY,**

**NYANZA PROVINCE, KENYA.**

**STUDY CONDUCTED AND PRESENTED BY**

**NORAH ANYANGO OSORO**

**HEAD COORDINATOR AHERO AWASI CATHOLIC WIDOWS**

**PROJECT.**

**JUNE, 2020**

**Declaration**

This project report submitted to Dutch Ahero Awasi Education Board in partial fulfillment for achievements experienced with education scholarship, is original work explaining the impact of the project as felt by direct and indirect beneficiaries.

**Name****Norah Anyango Osoro**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Title .....</b>	<b>(i)</b>
<b>Declaration .....</b>	<b>(ii)</b>
<b>Table of content .....</b>	<b>(iii)</b>
<b>Acknowledgement .....</b>	<b>(v)</b>
<b>Abstract .....</b>	<b>(vi)</b>
<b>Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 Background of the study .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 Statement of the problem .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.3 Purpose and Objectives .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.4 Significance of the study .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.5 Limitation and Delimitation .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Operational and Definitions .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2: Literature Review .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.2 Scholarship program .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.3 Other programs .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.4 Role of mothers .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2.5 Beneficiary enrolment .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.6 Impact and measurement .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.6.1 Meaning of Impact .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.6.2 Formation of Impact .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.6.3 Measurements of Impact .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3: Research Methodology .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>3.2 Research design .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.3 Area of study .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.4 Population of study .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.5 Sample and Sampling procedures .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3.6 Research instruments .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3.7 Administration of research instruments .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3.8 Methods of Data Presentation, Analysis and Presentation .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4: Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>4.2 Percentage of students per gender .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4.3 Percentage of beneficiaries and employment .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4.4 Community attitudes .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5.1 Introduction .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5.2 Summary .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5.3 Conclusion .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5.4 Recommendations .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## **Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge the cooperation and the participation of all involved participants who contributed during the time of study and data collection, presentation, analysis and discussion. Also Ahero/Awasi coordinators, Agnes Omollo and Ludphine Ngeso for helping in the study with detailed information and Florence Ochome for briefings on the progress of the project programs.

God bless you all.

## **ABSTRACT**

This research project was conducted to find out the impact of scholarship program offered by Netherlands Friends (Ria Bekkers) initiative starting from primary school grade 8, Secondary school year 1 to year 4, tertiary and University colleges from the year 1999 to 2020. Areas served were within Ahero Awasi Catholic Widows Project of the greater Nyando District now Nyando and Muhoroni sub-county of Kisumu County, Nyanza Province, Kenya.

Great improvement was cited with the empowerment ability realized in the group members' households. Role of group leaders in coordination with members in ensuring that the scholarship support only targeted beneficiary who are registered widows, children, brought up positive influence in villages where the beneficiary resides from and so created respect and sense of belonging since they were recognized and regarded important residence of their respective villages.

Oral questionnaire method of interview help to get information from the sampled beneficiaries which was later analyzed to get the final needed information. The findings shows that even though not all beneficiaries were able to get employment in the Government or private offices, the knowledge they acquired enabled them to initiate and do various kind of jobs which sustains them and their families. Literacy standard witnessed in the families was impressive for I discovered that even though mothers are not learned their life style improved and they have confidence and self-esteem.

I discovered that a lot has been done to educate the less fortunate children, however successful; there is still need to uplift the young widows and their children.

## **CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the study**

In Luo community, culture and belief did not favor widows and orphans, after the husband and father's death; they were being considered community properties that could be used as desired, deprived of their rights and to some extent considered not worthy to be involved in serious issues of the community hence denied opportunity to access basic information and knowledge of their existence.

All these resulted to widows contacting HIV/AIDs and other sexually transmitted infections, for they were being forced to indulge in remarriage known to the natives as widow inheritance, without their consent. The men forced on them were not helpful; they drain belongings left by their late husband and leave them with no hope hence value less. It also resulted to school dropouts due to lack of school fee, early marriages and devastating lifestyle.

The hardship and harsh living condition of widows and their children touched the heart of catholic priest, Father Fons Geerts and Father Fredrick Heptonstall of Mill Hill Fathers who by then were stationed at Ahero Parish, later Father Fred relocated to Awasi Parish. The needy widows and their children were his frequent visitors asking for support majorly on housing, school fee and food. Because of the overwhelming need and demand for school fee, Father Fred as known by Ahero and Awasi parishioners, started sourcing for funds to help the less fortunate get secondary education. In the process of laying foundation for widows and their children, he introduced Rentia Krigjen who came as blessing to Ahero Awasi widows. She then introduced Ria Bekkers who sourced fund with the help of board members and friends.

With the efforts, widows and their children were empowered, recognized and respected in the society. This gave value as they were able to work independently and sustain their families without fear of humiliation and frustration when need school fee.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

It was discovered that widows empowered can greatly change a society and community at large for their focus is mainly on the family development and empowerment of disadvantaged persons for they empathize due to life experience.

### **1.3 Purpose and Objectives**

Purpose of the study was to investigate and find out the impact of the scholarship program in Ahero and Awasi Parishes respectively.

#### **Specific objectives**

- a) To find out the effects of scholarship program in Ahero and Awasi parish.
- b) To find out the number of beneficiaries.
- c) To find out those in government employed and self-employed.

### **1.4. Significance of the study**

The intention of the study was to find out changes and development brought about by the scholarship program. The main aim was to enable the project realize achievements attained and areas which still need critical action.

### **1.5. Limitation and Delimitation**

#### **Limitations**

The following factors limited the research study

- i) It was not easy to meet all sampled beneficiaries to interview.
- ii) Weather condition limited movements to selected destine.

#### **Delimitation**

Even though there were some limitations during research study, there were positive factors which promoted the process.

- i) Being a widow and a member, it was easy to interact with fellow members who were the respondents to the designed oral questions.
- ii) The coordinators concerned have records to help in tracing the beneficiaries.
- iii) There was no language barrier since all interviewed were of Luo speaking community.



## **1.6. Operational and Definitions**

**AACAWIP** – Ahero Awasi Catholic Widows Project

**Attitude** – are beliefs upon which a person acts by reference

**Data** – information to be examined or considered and used to help in decision making

**Development** – positive growth or changes experienced

**Achievement** –successful outcome of a proposed project

**Target** – the main aim of the set objectives

**Beneficiary** – a person that received support direct or indirect to accomplish his or her education

**Household** – group of people in a family living together in a house.

**Impact** – a marked effect or influence

**Value** – regard of something held to deserve

**Belief** – a state of believing that certain things are true or real.

**Culture** – ideas, customs and social behavior of people or society.

**Luo** – A Nilotic tribe of Nyanza Province, Kenya.

## **CHAPTER 2.0 LITRATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This section deals with literature review related to scholarship program, role of the widows, number of beneficiaries attitude formation and impact.

### **2.2 Scholarship program**

The Netherlands friends, well-wishers and donors under the directive of Ria Bekkers started the scholarship funding in the year 1999. The guideline was that a beneficiary must be a child whose mother is a registered member of AACAWIP and adhere to rules and regulations of the group. The project seek to give orphans basic education, skills and knowledge in agriculture, waste management, plastic recycling and other technical trainings for future independence.

The program was to promote a positive change in the lives of the affected and the whole society.

### **2.3 Other Programs offered**

#### **School uniforms**

This was done to encourage children to attend school regularly without fear of worn out attires. The result was very impressive for regular school attendance was recorded among the beneficiaries and improved performance. It also promoted self-esteem which enabled beneficiaries to identify their potential and value.

### **2.4 Role of Mothers**

As defined in the group rules and regulations, for a child to benefit from the scholarship program, the mother or guardian must be a widow and a registered member of AACAWIP, adhere to all conditions explained in the group by-laws. She must attend and participate in group activities. She must produce the husband's death and the child birth certificates, must also avail the child academic progress report demonstrating school attendance and performance, child name as in the birth certificate, account name and number. This applies to those benefiting from school uniform.

Mothers were also expected to be role models to their children and involve them in productive activities. They were expected to demonstrate the say "women are the pillars of positive development in a successful family".

## **2.5 Beneficiary Enrolment**

AACAWIP brief information on the number of beneficiaries enrolled as from the year 2001 to 2020 is explained in the literacy ability experienced in the members' households. Increase in performance and regular school attendance was evidenced in the sponsored children school progress record. Reduced workload on widows also encouraged by involvement in income generating activities which help in paying fees for other children.

## **2.6 Impact and measurement**

Looking at the impact, we address ourselves to the following issues; the nature of impact, formation of impact, measurement of impact and component of impact. Impacts directly relay the effect of objectives set for a project at the evaluation period.

### **2.6.1 Meaning of Impact**

Impact can be described as a powerful or strong influence or effect felt after evaluating an activity or a project.

### **Impact, Values and Opinions**

Impact can be described as either positive or negative outcome of a set activity or project upon evaluation and preference.

Values are seen to be central to human aspiration. A value is an enduring belief that a specific mode of conduct or end state of existence is personally or socially preferable to another. Values therefore guide our conduct, they help us to evaluate and judge ourselves and others. For instance we strive to be honest this shows a value judgment. Values are like norms and have interpersonal validity.

Opinion can somehow be similar to belief. Opinion can be described as view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on facts or knowledge. Opinions are overt expression of impacts and deal with matters of fact which are potentially verifiable, may not be consciously formulated. Impact can also be defined as the final outcome or result of planned objectives and measureable influence. Impact can be considered as state of readiness to respond and sustain achievements through experience and practical to exert a directive influence on project

Impact can also be perceived as positive or negative result achieved after duration of a given period of an activity or a project. An impact encompasses or is closely related to an opinion and belief and is based on experiences.

### **2.6.2 Formation of Impact**

Impact formation occurs through direct or persuasion of others, like personality characteristics, they are specific to certain situation. An individual's state of impact depends on life experiences. Impact content can be determined by previous social, emotional and economic factors.

### **2.6.3 Measurement of Impact**

Impact is complex and to measure the effect there was need to look on the problems encountered.

#### **i) Direct observation**

Since the impact of scholarship is something within the members' households, the question of how it can be measured or identified became important.

In principle such measurements can be made through observation on what people say or do. What a person says is not in accordance with what he/she does. Educated and learned person' reasoning and approach to things make it easy to observe the influence of the project in their lives.

#### **ii) Interviewing**

Widows and beneficiaries were selected to be interviewed with the hope of finding out the depth of benefits enjoyed from scholarship program. How far this applies depend on how well the interview was conducted. The need to conduct the interview properly was applied to get valid and complete information on the level and employment status.

Nevertheless, it is possible to obtain valid measure of specific improvements by asking specific question.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter focused on the area of study, population, sample and sampling procedures, research instruments, administration of research instruments data analysis and presentation.

### **3.2 Research Design**

The research design used was survey kind of design. It was more appropriate in collecting information systematically about the impact felt and attitude of the society towards the program and the current status of the direct and indirect beneficiaries. The collected data was analyzed and conclusion drawn from it.

### **3.3 Area of Study**

The study was conducted in both Ahero and Awasi parishes, partly located in both Nyando and Muhoroni sub-county, Kisumu County of Nyanza Province, Kenya. The parishes had 20 sub-groups with an over 800 members of whom some have died. The economic activities are farming and business.

However the residents of these areas succumb to heavy flooding during rainy season which make them vulnerable to waterborne and parasitic diseases like malaria, typhoid, cholera, bilharzia etc.

### **3.4 Study Population**

The study population comprised of 800 widows and over 4000 students benefited from the project school fee funding.

### **3.5 Sample and Sampling procedures**

To get the most appropriate and manageable number of participants for the study, techniques were applied in sampling.

#### **a) Sampling Techniques/Procedures**

The entire population consists of 20 sub-groups of over 800 members; sampling of manageable subjects was applied. Cluster and random sampling techniques was employed and came up with 80 widows and 400 beneficiaries. Target population was clustered in two parishes, then into sub-parishes including non-Catholics

### **3.6 Research Instrument**

#### **a) Questionnaires**

Questionnaires were administered to population sampled for answers because it is quick, respondents have freedom in relaying their views and many respondents can be reached.

### **3.7 Administration of Research instruments**

Head coordinators of the respective parishes were involved in the planned evaluation; the sampled interviewees were also notified with the help of group leaders with dates of visit.

### **3.8 Methods of Data Presentation, Analysis and Presentation**

The data/information collected was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. Data or information given was a result study based on impact/achievement/development felt both direct and indirect in member' household and community they reside from. Challenges encountered and solutions were presented by the use of tables and figures. Information however was analyzed with interpretation of tables using percentages.

Recommendations on the study and conclusion are presented as stated for further action.

## **CHAPTER 4.0 DATA PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Introduction**

Education is important to all as it enables self to grow and develop holistically. This requires provision of a favorable environment and a positive attitude since it involves money; one must be in a position to provide the required amount for regular basic education. This was voluntarily done by Dutch Board and friends. The measures of the impact created were signified by the reasoning, reception and the realistic changes evidenced in the affected' or beneficiaries' lives.

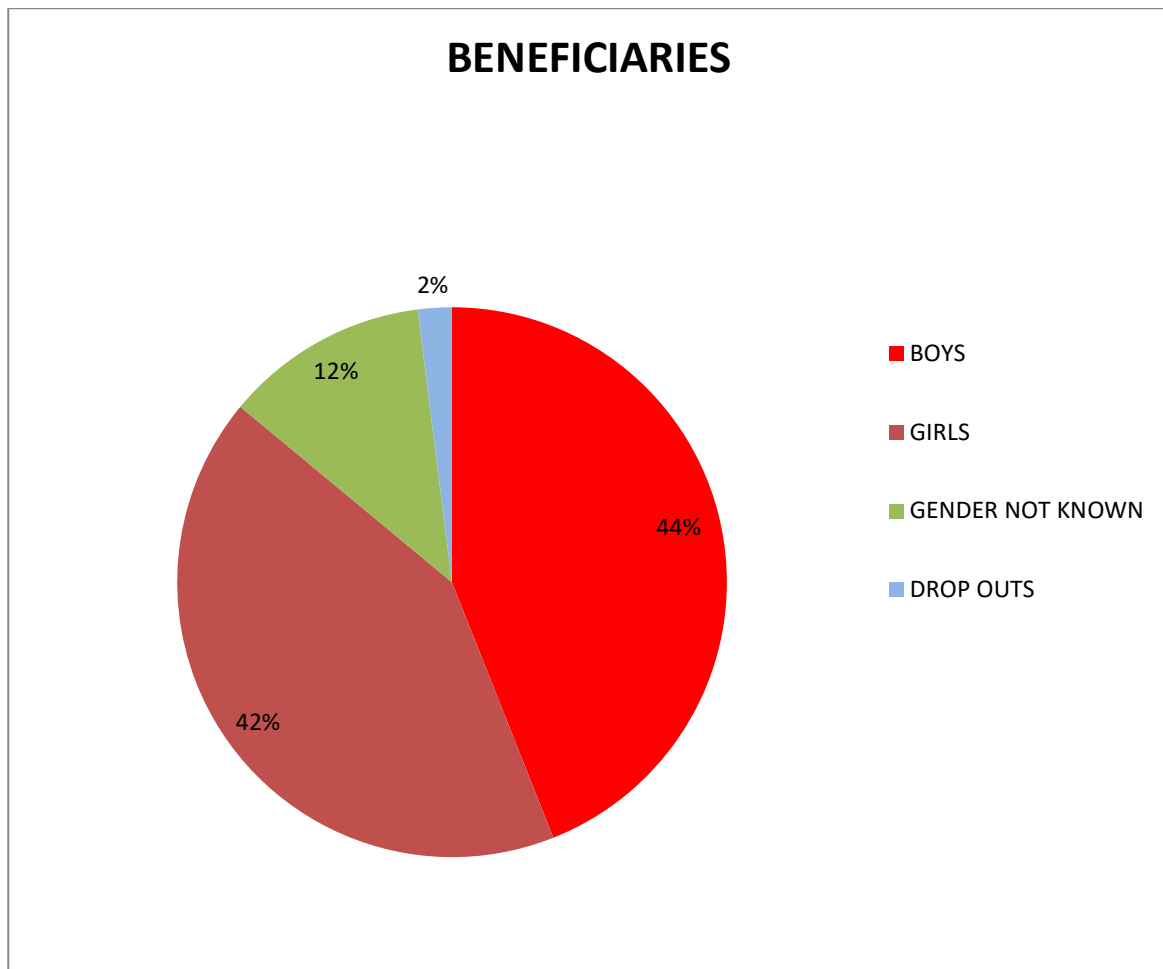
The community judgment on the scholarship program have been taken into account, their interest estimated, the harmony prevailing, respect, social and emotional security accorded widows' families were observable. According to the background of the study working jointly is needed to build widows self-esteem and realize their value and ability in the society. Above all the impact created can be looked positively as the investment produced valuable result. The improvements qualify long term beneficial outcomes of social, educational and personal nature both for the mother and the children.

Widows should be committed and dedicated individuals ready to work together with their children for the sake of project legacy.

In relation to this information, the research study was conducted at Ahero and Awasi Parish on the depth of impact felt with the scholarship program offered by Dutch Board (Ria Bekkers). The specific objectives were; to find out effects of scholarship program in Ahero/ Awasi parish, number of beneficiaries and those in employment. Instruments applied were interview and questionnaire methods. Data collected was analyzed in relation to the research objects by using percentages. The data has been summarized and presented by using tables.

#### 4.2 Percentage of students benefited as per gender

**Figure 1** Gender of beneficiaries both Ahero/Awasi

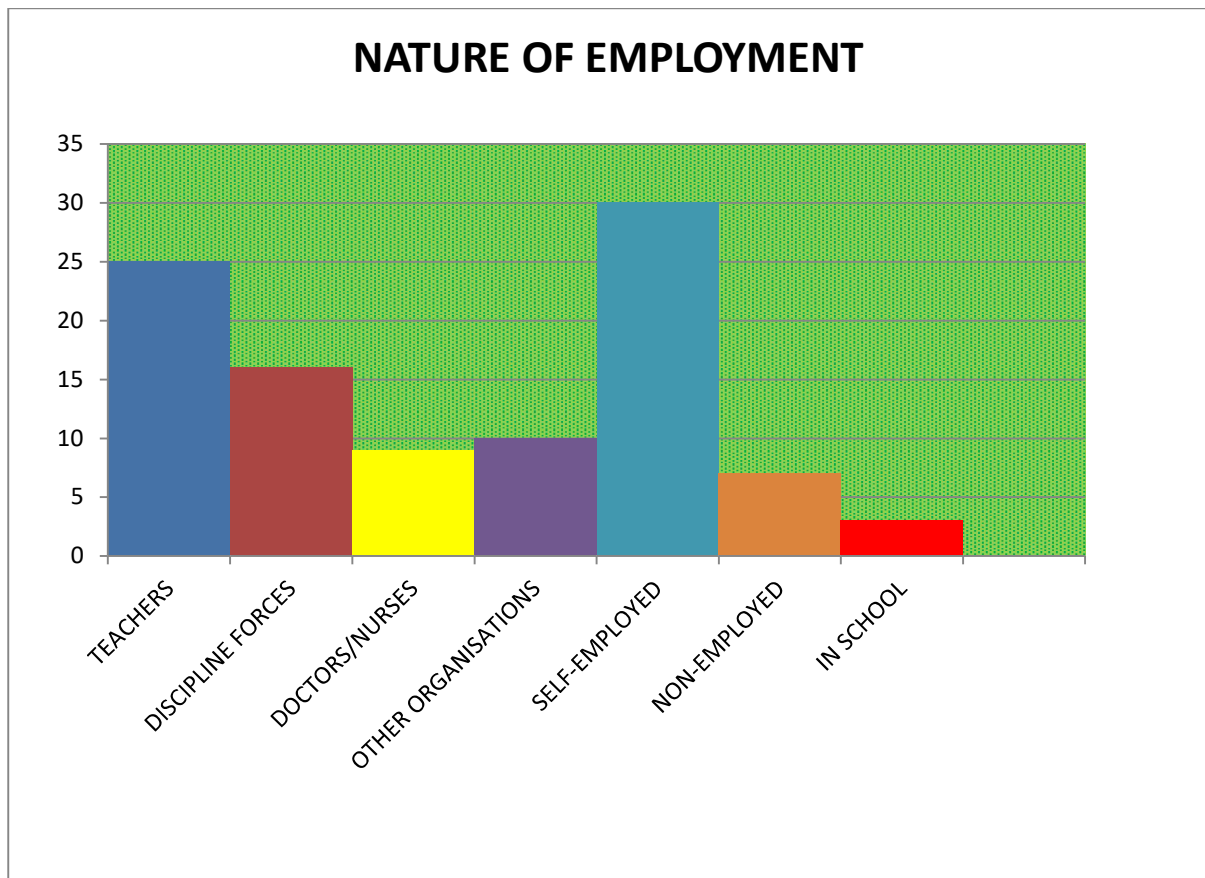


The questionnaires were given to the sampled widows and fee beneficiaries. It was discovered that the percentage of boys benefited were slightly higher than girls, this could have been influenced by teen pregnancies and early marriages. Percentage of some beneficiaries' gender could not be verified and a small percentage of learners drop out of school due to involvement in manual jobs to provide for their ailing mothers and siblings.



### 4.3 Percentage of beneficiaries and employment

**Figure 2** Beneficiaries status



Teaching profession – 25%

Discipline forces – 16%

Medical profession – 9%

Other organization – 10%

Self-employed – 30%

Non-employed – 7%

In school – 3%

According to the filled and remitted questionnaires, most beneficiaries are self-employed and this resulted from the fact that they attended technical training and youth programs sponsored by project, there are also government employed with the highest in teaching profession followed by armed forces, and others as demonstrated in the chart above. The demonstration in the chart was done in percentages to explain variation as discovered during the study and the extent of which the project uplifted and changed the life of orphans and families involved. 3% of the beneficiaries are doing their last year in secondary schools, colleges and university. The non-employed include those graduated last year 2019 and form four leavers.

#### **4.4 Community attitudes towards widows and orphans**

**Figure 3** How society regards widows and orphans

The table below has evidenced information on society attitudes.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Participation</b>	<b>Effectiveness</b>
Development	Involved	Very effective
Education	Involved	Very effective

Findings from the collected data revealed that society recognized widows' efforts and effectiveness in community development and their role in education as in parting knowledge, skills and good morals. This can show the recognition given to them as a result of the value initiated by Dutch Board through involvement in education and capacity building, it also promoted their self-esteem.

## **CHAPTER 5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

## **5.1 Introduction**

This section provide summary of findings, resulting conclusion and recommendations to the School fee board and other stakeholders on how to improve widows and other vulnerable persons self-esteem and sense of belonging in the society.

## **5.2 Summary**

The study was designed to find out the impact created by school fee program in Ahero and Awasi parish.

- a) To find out the value imparted by the program
- b) To establish the outcome benefits.

The study was conducted in sub-parishes of Ahero and Awasi in Nyando and Muhoroni Sub-counties of Kisumu County, Nyanza province, Kenya. The widows' population is very high as compared to those still with their husbands but only a few joined and registered with the widow's program.

Survey design was applied to get information; questionnaire was also used to collect data analysis both qualitative and quantitative as presented in the figures using percentages and rate.

The findings of the study covered

- a) The impact created
- b) Value impacted

## **5.3 Conclusions**

The study was meant to establish the depth of impact brought about by school fee program. The society never recognized the widows and orphans hence reduced them to believe they were valueless. During the study, it was discovered that the program not only enable orphans to attain their secondary and college studies, it promoted their sense of belonging, self-esteem and moral values. Widows could also be involved in community decision making.

It was of more importance to study impact of the program to reveal the outcome so to improve the understanding of the society on the importance of giving chance to all regardless of their status.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on these study findings, some recommendations were made; now that the school fee is facing out, widows interviewed felt that the board should consider a program that will involve and help the community both indirect and directly, such like sponsoring health and sanitation in schools by building pit latrines to selected schools to further instill the program in people' mind.

This will bring more understanding and the attitude that the program was for education promotion. It will also make the community realize that through widows program, children's health is a priority.

## **REFERENCES**

Widows' membership records

Sponsored students list records

School fee payment receipts

Students' Progress reports