

Children from Child-headed Households: Understanding Challenges that Affect in their Academic Pursuits

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ABSTRACT The paper explored the nature and extent of challenges faced by child-headed household learners as a result of HIV/AIDS in their academic pursuits. The paper adopted a qualitative case study of a conveniently selected school and the snowball sampling technique was used to identify orphaned learners. Face-to-face, in-depth interviews, observation and document analysis were utilised to collect data. The paper established that child-headed household (CHH) learners faced a myriad of challenges both at home and at school that impacted negatively on their academic performance. The paper recommends that schools should seriously consider the impediments that are faced by CHH learners and should come up with well-articulated policies since there is now a significant increase in the number of learners coming from such families. The paper further recommends the introduction of viable projects for CHH learners at school and at home in small groups to reduce poverty.