

**Title:** The development of Western Education in Kericho District, Kenya: a case of Government African School, Kabianga, 1925-1978

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**Abstract:** This study focused on the development of Western education in Kericho District. It adopted a case study approach using GAS Kabianga, from 1925-1978, to highlight the dynamics that contributed to the establishment, growth and consolidation of Western education in Kericho District. Whereas studies on the development of Western education in Kenya have been conducted in other districts, minimal attention has been given to Kericho District, the study's target district. GAS Kabianga is an appropriate case study since it acted as a springboard for the growth of other primary, secondary and tertiary institutions that emerged in Kericho District in the colonial, independence and post-independence period. The study purposed to bring out the roles of missionaries, Africans and the colonial government as active participants in the rise and growth of Western education in Kericho District. Kabianga School was established by the colonial government, the missionaries provided teachers while the Africans provided land, labour and the learners. This study is historical in nature and has employed the historical research design. It made use of both primary and secondary sources of data. It clearly commences by discussing the early missionary activities, both evangelical and educational in Kericho District. Among these missions were the Lumbwa Industrial Mission, African Inland Mission, Roman Catholic Mission and National Holiness Mission. It is, therefore, evident that missionaries indeed were a powerful factor in the whole process of African civilization. They emphasized the need to give Africans a techno-religious kind of education. Various agitations by Africans and subsequent formation of political associations triggered the formation of LNC schools. Following demands from Africans in Kericho, Kabianga School, thus, came to birth. Second, the study has articulated the historical development of Kabianga School from 1925 to 1978. In addition, the study shows that Kabianga School has impacted positively, politically, socio- economically and educationally on the people of Kericho. Through its alumni, it has also enhanced national development. Lastly, the study has given recommendations and areas that need further research.