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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

eKitabu is Kenya’s leading distributor of ebooks with over 350,000 titles from local and international publishers including KICD-approved educational content for the Kenyan 8-4-4 curriculum.

In 2015 in accord with eKitabu’s mission to achieve transformative educational outcomes through the use of digital content, eKitabu invited over 8,000 public and private schools across Kenya to submit essays online at http://essay.ekitabu.com for the 3rd annual Digital Essay Competition (DEC).

The 2015 Competition ran from April to August for two categories of students: Upper Primary (Class 5 - 8) and all Secondary School pupils. The title of the essay was: “Dear Mr. President... my life as a digital learner” or “Kwa Mpendwa Rais... maisha yangu kama mwanafunzi wa kidijitali”? DEC 2015 registered 2,120 students from 172 schools from across 45 counties of Kenya. This document summarizes DEC 2015 results, process, and lessons learned. eKitabu warmly thanks Kenya’s Ministry of Education, Science & Technology for its support in 2015, and we look forward to growing the impact of DEC together in 2016.
II. PRIMARY IMPACT OF THE DIGITAL ESSAY COMPETITION

1. Encourages students to develop and use digital technologies.
2. Enhances creativity and critical thinking amongst students.
3. Gives students an opportunity to reflect on how best they can use technology to enhance their education.

III. 2015 GOALS

In 2015 our main goal were about reach:

1. Reach the highest number of schools possible.
2. Partner with teachers and schools.
3. Reach all 47 counties of Kenya.
IV. ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

The organization of the Competition begins with seeking approval from the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, of which we are glad we had no difficulty obtaining this for the 3\textsuperscript{rd} year running. Also of significant importance to the DEC 2015 were partnerships with regional ministry offices, schools, ICT champions, teachers, and regional eKitabu DEC Ambassadors. These ambassadors we have been able to recruit over the years. The following are among the steps we undertook in 2015:

- Regional kickoff events in Nairobi, Nyeri, Nandi, and Kericho
- Systematic distribution of Digital Essay Competition posters in the schools and at school events
- Digital Essay Competition posters were widely distributed throughout the country
- School website banners were a key channel to reach participating schools and students
- Social media and SMS updates were critical throughout every stage
A. DEC PARTICIPATION 2015: A MAP REPRESENTATION

Registrations were from 45 Counties, over 1,000 from Nairobi.
B. DEC 2015 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

2015 partners again included leading Kenyan educational publishers Longhorn Publishers and Oxford University Press East Africa, Nation Media Group (Swahilihub), the Kenya Publishers Association (KPA), the Kenya Primary School Heads Association (KEPSHA), the Kenya Private School Association (KPSA), Hewlett-Packard (HP), Samsung, and Elimu Holdings. Also most important to note is the entry of new sponsors: Avanti Communications plc as a major sponsor, DataWind, and Best Buys.
The Competition was approved by:

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
Ref: QAS/VETT/621/(10)

C. DEC 2015 TEACHERS

As observed since the start of DEC in 2013, teachers in the various schools have played a key role in this program, it is true to say: without the teachers we won’t have achieved much.

The teachers we have been able to coordinate with are:

- School head teachers
- School language teachers either English or Kiswahili
- School’s ICT champions as well as the Computer Studies teacher

The eKitabu team engages with teachers through industry events and school visits among other means.
Several teachers were recognized during DEC Prize Giving for their tremendous contributions.
The diagram below illustrates the partnership:

ICT champions through their networks were able to register at least 18 counties in 2015. The team’s strategy this year was to recognize the teacher’s efforts through awards, certificates, and feedback. This extends to the regions to ensure regional balance. We were happy to note that teachers appreciated receiving feedback from the judges’ comments for their students’ essay writing. It is our intention to expand the feedback process in 2016.
D. PLANS FOR DEC 2016 TEACHERS

1. Create a “DEC Outfit” for teachers who register with us through the platform complete with digital badges.
2. We would like to engage the ICT/Computer teachers more from the start, also grow DEC further through their ideas.
3. Involve them more in planning for regional events.
4. Do more exclusive events with the computer teachers/ICT champions through their established networks and associations.
5. Expand on the teacher rewards.

E. DEC 2015: WHAT WORKED, WHAT DID NOT WORK, AND BEST PRACTICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT WORKED</th>
<th>WHAT DID NOT WORK</th>
<th>BEST PRACTICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Targeting teachers and schools.</td>
<td>Focus on maximizing the number of schools to maximize county reach and student participation.</td>
<td>Make provisions for regional awards to motivate students who think DEC is a Nairobi affair.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional awards.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The DEC is a cycle that spans the whole year hence good planning guarantees success.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proper planning for the DEC program throughout the year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The use agents to reach remote areas such as Kilifi, Lamu, Kwale, Mandera, Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewarding teachers with certificates, and tokens of appreciation. Rewards to Schools as well.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A good reward scheme is important.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securing the prizes on time is very important.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We worked with schools’ ICT champions and computer teachers to support the program in their schools as well as provide us with very important insights.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For program to be a success it is good to establish valuable partnerships.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure the independence of the 2nd judging by concealing the 1st judges’ marks.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Finalists for the 2nd judging is a good number.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be prepared for submission of essays in various formats including paper.</td>
<td>There was a significant drop in the schools’ return rate.</td>
<td>The team thinks we should come up with the best reward scheme for all in the process, most importantly feedback for teachers and students. Upon observing a drop in return schools in August we implemented a feedback process immediately to ensure all DEC 2015 teachers receive written qualitative &amp; quantitative feedback.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**V. PROCESS & ANALYSIS**

The eKitabu team and other stakeholders collaborated closely throughout to develop and deliver a program that had integrity. The 2015 Competition process flow was sound, well-planned in advance and in general well executed. Changes along the way were mainly changes in dates, for example, we extended the closing deadline by three weeks to allow more submissions.
The sections below describe in detail the stages of the 2015 Competition process.

I. DISCOVERY
- School Websites
- Banners
- Posters
- Media Launch
- Regional Kick-Offs
- Bulk SMS
- Social Media

II. PARTICIPATION
- Registration
- Essay Writing
- Essay Submission

III. JUDGING
- Judging Criteria
- Judges Selection
- Round 1
- Round 2
- Reporting

IV. AWARDS
- Finalists
- Top 5 Primary English
- Top 5 Secondary English
- Top 3 Primary Kiswahili
- Top 3 Secondary Kiswahili
- Schools
- Teachers

STAGE I. DISCOVERY/AWARENESS
eKitabu created awareness of the Competition through:

a. School Website Banners
Three hundred and fifteen schools got banners on their websites with information about the Competition:
- 133 Primary schools
- 182 Secondary schools

b. Bulk SMS To Schools
eKitabu’s presence at national events, conferences and expositions such as KSSHA, KEPSHA and Book Fairs has helped to grow its list of school contacts, especially with school head teachers and teachers who visited our stands.
They provided us with school phone numbers or phone numbers for the head teachers. We also contacted the 2013/2014 DEC schools through the contact information we had.

With these contacts we reached schools with information about the Competition using bulk SMS delivered by Elimu. The information we delivered was, in chronological order:

- Launch of the Competition
- Registration instructions
- Sponsors
- Number of days to go
- Deadlines for essay submission
- Essay prizes
- Prize giving
- Final results

c. Posters To Schools
Since the 2013 Digital Essay Competition, we have tried as much as possible to ensure the program has a national scope. We used a more targeted approach in 2015, sending posters to areas we have not reached before through local agents active in those areas. We also sent posters to 1,200 Nairobi schools through the City Education Director’s office.

d. Calls to County Education Headquarters
We made calls to the County Education Directors’ offices requesting them to pass information about DEC to the schools in their counties. These offices were also helpful in enabling us to contact the award winning schools and students at later stages of the Competition.
e. Emails and Calls to Schools and Schools’ ICT Champions.
With the support of the Ministry we worked with the network of schools’ ICT champions who helped push DEC in their schools and regions. The campaign to reach the ICT Champions was done through both calls and emails. We also sent emails to 2013 2014 DEC schools to make sure they participated in 2015.

f. Social Media
Throughout 2015 the eKitabu team ensured the main social media platforms was up to date with DEC activities. They kept as constant reminder and as well as call to action to the growing number of followers.

g. The Media
The team was able to develop a good working relationship with the various media houses this year. They were able to create awareness for the project since the start – The official launch at Nairobi Primary. They have been good partners who have been able to build students’ and teachers’ enthusiasm towards the project from the start.

STAGE II. PARTICIPATION
Entrants were encouraged to use the online essay submission platform at http://essay.ekitabu.com. We kept the online registration and submission process simple to minimize barriers to online submission.

a. Registration
Students registered to participate in the Competition by creating an account with their personal and school details. The system issued unique user IDs to all users on completion of the registration process.
b. Essay Submission

On completion of the online registration entrants could type in or paste in their essays. The platform allowed entrants to update or make changes on their essays at any time until they were satisfied with the final version, so long as they made changes prior to the final essay submission deadline.

The platform also allowed students to upload word documents, scanned copies of handwritten essays, or art. This was new functionality we introduced in 2014.

Some schools called to request other means by which their students could submit essays as they faced ICT equipment constraints. Not all schools had access to Internet nor enough computers for students type their entries. In light of these facts we accepted all submissions whether electronic or on paper.

STAGE III. JUDGING

Two rounds of judging were necessary:

a) First Round Judging

Before the essay submission deadline eKitabu recruited a panel of teachers recommended by The Nation newspaper. These were teachers with high levels of experience in essay marking, most of them national examiners in primary school or secondary school categories. In advance of the Competition, the judges sat together as a team to define marking criteria (see below).

The first round judging grouped the essays into two categories: Upper Primary (Class 5 - 8) and Secondary (Form 1 - 4). The essays were then read and marked. The essays that received the highest marks, at least ten from each category (Finalist Essays), were selected to proceed to the second round judging.
b) **Second Round Judging**

The judges in this stage were a group of eminent persons: CEOs of Kenyan publishing firms; School Directors/Heads; and University Professors. The second round judging took place at the University of Nairobi. Judges read the Finalist essays and scored them to select the Winners in each of the categories.

**FIRST ROUND JUDGES’ PROFILE**

**Judging Coordinators**

1. Hezekiel Gikambi Peter
2. Stephen Mwangi Macharia

**Hezekiel Gikambi** holds a Bachelor of Education (Arts) Honours degree (Kiswahili & History and Government) holder from the University Of Nairobi and a Post Graduate International Diploma in Sales Management and Marketing from Cambridge International College (UK), a professional development course in Research Methods & Project Cycle Management with Eastern Institute for Research and Training, a Certificate in Digital Media Management from Rhodes University in South Africa, a Post graduate Diploma course in Journalism and Mass Communication at Kenyatta University. He is currently pursuing a MA-Swahili Studies course at the University of Nairobi. He is the Project Manager of Swahilihub, a digital project of Taifa Leo and Mwananchi publications (Tanzania) of Nation Media Group, which produces a world class daily news Swahili site. He has been the Education Features Editor and former pioneer columnist and editor of the weekly Mbwembwe-Jarida kabambe la wasomi chipukizi, a two page student/school buzz magazine on Taifa Leo every Wednesday. He has taught Kiswahili and History and Government at high school level and in colleges for over 15 years most of which he examined.
Stephen Macharia holds a Master of Arts degree in Linguistics and a Bachelor of Education in Linguistics and Literature from the University of Nairobi. He has taught and examined students at high school level for 5 years. He currently teaches Communication Skills at Strathmore University as well as consulting at the Strathmore Writing Centre.

High School Examiners

Henry Ngure holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Moi University. He is currently a teacher of Kiswahili and Geography at Kenton High School in Nyandarua County. He is also a marker of national examinations.

Geoffrey Tinega graduated in 2009 with a B.Ed (Arts), 1st class honours from the University of Nairobi. He is currently pursuing an MA in (Communication Studies) from the University of Nairobi where he assists lecturers from the Linguistics and Communication departments in marking students' examinations. His subjects are English/Literature he currently teaches at Rasul Al Akram Academy in Karen, Nairobi.

Primary School Examiners

Violet Nkatha is a teacher at Milimani Primary School. She has been teaching for the last fifteen years. She graduated from Kamwenja Teachers College and later the University of Nairobi having attained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Literature. She has taught English and Literature at the International Teachers Training College where she did her attachment. She has also been teaching English at Milimani Primary where she prepares candidate classes in English language as a subject.
James Mbaria Njire holds P1 Teaching Certificate from Kilimambogo Teachers College. He has 15 years of teaching experience. He is currently a teacher at Forest One Primary School in Nyandarua County. He is also an examiner of English Compositions with KNEC.

JUDGING CRITERIA (ACTUAL FINAL CRITERIA)

Each essay must reflect the contestant's own research, writing and original thinking. Any essay that the judges may deem to have been written by someone else will be disqualified.

a. Factors to weigh in assessing overall quality of essays
The final winners should reflect regional, gender and social balance, but not to the exclusion of overall essay quality according to the scoring criteria below which should be the major determining factors in deciding winners. Received essays will be categorized in two groups: Upper Primary School and Secondary School essays.

The following characteristics will be noted as factors to consider in judging each essay:
   a. Private/public schools
   b. Urban/rural schools
   c. Gender of the writer: male/female
   d. Grade level

The essays will be judged using five criteria as indicated on the scoring sheet below. Rate each of the five tested skills on a scale of 1-20, with 20 as the highest score. Add the five categories to reach the candidate's final percentage score.
Essay Number ______________

I. Comprehension (1-20 points) __________
How well does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the issues indicated by the essay question? Essays may be approached in unusual ways (questions can be answered as essays, stories, dialogue). They should still respond to the essay question.

II. Organization (1-20 points) __________
Does the argument follow a logical and easily understood progression? Does corroborating evidence support the essay's main points?

III. Conclusions (1-20 points) __________
Do the conclusions follow logically from the argument? How compelling are the conclusions?

IV. Creativity (1-20 points) __________
Portrayal of an innovative and creative angle on the issue.

V. Writing (1-20 points) __________
Correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Concise language.
Final Score

Marking schemes: criteria related to grade bands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 – 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 – 59</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The individual judges will present the essays they categorized in grade A to the lead judge who will allocate them to different judges to do the grading again and identify the best among them. The panel of judges will then agree on 20 to pick based on the above categories.

b. DEC 2015 results

For both Secondary and Primary school categories at least the 10 best Kiswahili and 20 best English Essays will be selected and presented to the CEO of eKitabu.
VI. DEC 2015 FINAL RESULTS & ANALYSIS

DEC 2015 received 2,120 Essays
The essays came from:
172 Schools
  – 60 Primary Schools and 112 Secondary Schools
  – 112 New Schools (65% new/unique schools)
  – 430 Kiswahili Essays (20% of the total number of Essays)
  – 45 counties registered
The charts that follow summarize DEC 2015 results.

1. Schools by Category: Primary vs. Secondary

Observation:
- DEC 2015 registered more secondary schools than primary schools.
2. New Schools, Return Schools, and Total Schools Since Start

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF DIGITAL ESSAY COMPETITION SCHOOLS SINCE 2013 TO 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW SCHOOLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RETURN SCHOOLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NO. OF SCHOOLS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![NUMBER OF DEC SCHOOLS SINCE 2013](chart)
3. NUMBER OF DEC 2015 ENTRIES PER CATEGORY, PRIMARY VS. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Observations:
- DEC 2015 registered a higher number of essays from Primary schools (1,366) than from Secondary schools (754).
- In DEC 2015 Primary schools, though lesser in number than Secondary schools, registered the highest number of entries.
4. THE OVERAL NUMBER OF DEC 2015 ENTRIES; KISWAHILI VS ENGLISH

Observation:
- Kiswahili essays submitted were 20% of the total number of essays submitted.
5. NUMBER OF DEC ONLINE VS. PAPER ENTRIES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONLINE</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPER</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td>1057</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Online vs. Paper Entries for Primary Schools Since 2013 to 2015](chart)
6. NUMBER OF DEC ONLINE VS. PAPER ENTRIES FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL SINCE 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ONLINE</strong></td>
<td>331</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAPER</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar chart showing online vs. paper entries for secondary schools from 2013 to 2015]
Observation:

- More than 90% of Secondary school entries have been online over the three years compared to below 30% online entries over the three years for Primary schools. This gives a picture of the presence of Internet and ICT infrastructure at the different levels of education.
7. **NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN DEC SINCE 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NO. OF TEACHERS</strong></td>
<td>76</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RETURN TEACHERS</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW TEACHERS</strong></td>
<td>76</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**DIGITAL ESSAY COMPETITION TEACHERS 2013 TO 2015**

![Digital Essay Competition Teachers Diagram](image-url)
8. **SCORES ABOVE 60% IN ENGLISH ENTRIES FOR BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY GENDER**

**Observation:**
- More than 56% of the primary and secondary school students with a score of 60% and above in the English category were female.
9. SCORES ABOVE 60% IN KISWAHILI ENTRIES FOR BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY GENDER

Observation:
- More than 58% of the secondary and primary school students with a score of 60% and above in the Kiswahili category were female.
10. 2013, 2014 AND 2015 ENTRIES BY GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENTRIES BY GENDER</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>1093</td>
<td>1152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![2013, 2014 AND 2015 ENTRIES BY GENDER](chart.png)
11. FINALISTS

After the first judging we had 60 candidates (Finalists) whose essays proceeded to the second round judging. They were: 10 Finalists per category for Kiswahili and 20 Finalists per category for English. These Finalists and their teachers produced quality essays and were all recognized by eKitabu for their outstanding efforts.

By gender the Finalists were:

![NUMBER OF FEMALE VS. MALE FINALISTS](image)

- Female: 72%
- Male: 28%
12. FINALISTS BY GENDER 2013 TO 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESSAY COMPETITION FINALISTS FROM 2013 TO 2015</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NUMBER FINALISTS FEMALE VS. MALE SINCE 2013 TO 2015**

![Bar chart showing the number of finalists for both genders from 2013 to 2015]
### COUNTIES WITH MULTIPLE FINALISTS 2013 TO 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTIES</th>
<th>NO OF FINALISTS</th>
<th>COUNTIES</th>
<th>NO OF FINALISTS</th>
<th>COUNTIES</th>
<th>NO. OF FINALISTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KERICHO</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>HOMA BAY</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>SIAYA</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIAMBU</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>MAKUENI</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>UASIN GISHU</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NYAMIRA</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NYANDARUA</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>KILIFI</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ISIOLO</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>KIAMBU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NYERI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MACHAKOS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14. WINNERS BY GENDER

The 2nd judging judges selected the winners in each category: 5 winners each category for English and 3 winners each category for Kiswahili. These are the 16 award winning students.

By gender the winners were:

- **FEMALE** 75%
- **MALE** 25%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MALE</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEMALE</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ESSAY COMPETITION WINNERS BY GENDER 2013 TO 2015**

**DEC WINNERS BY GENDER FROM 2013**

- **D.E.C. 2013**
  - Male: 2
  - Female: 4
- **D.E.C. 2014**
  - Male: 6
  - Female: 8
- **D.E.C. 2015**
  - Male: 4
  - Female: 12
## 15. COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF WINNERS 2013 TO 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTIES</th>
<th>NO. OF WINNERS</th>
<th>COUNTIES</th>
<th>NO. OF WINNERS</th>
<th>COUNTIES</th>
<th>NO. OF WINNERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KERICHO</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>NAIROBI</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>UASIN GISHU</td>
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<td>SAMBURU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NYERI</td>
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### STAGE IV. AWARDS

All Finalists produced outstanding essays per the judging criteria. All received awards and Finalist certificates during the Nairobi International Book fair held on 23rd September 2015.

The prizewinners received:

1. For 1st prize winners in both Primary and Secondary categories, scholarship money of Kenya shillings 40,000 and Kenya shillings 10,000 for uniform.
2. For 2\textsuperscript{nd} prize winners in both Primary and Secondary categories, scholarship money of Kenya Shillings 20,000 and uniform money of Kenya shillings 5,000.

3. For 3\textsuperscript{rd} prize winners in both Primary and Secondary categories, uniform money of Kenya shillings 10,000.

4. Five computing devices for the top 5 students, Primary school category and five computing devices for the top 5 students, Secondary school category.

5. Three Laptops for the top 3 students in primary and three laptops for the top 3 students secondary in the Kiswahili category.

**STAGE V. RELEASING OF RESULTS**

The eKitabu team posts official on the DEC website the next day after the awards ceremony. The rest of the results are posted on the same website two weeks after. Feedback forms for individual students as well as their schools are sent at the same time.
In summary, the Digital Essay Competition in 2015 may be represented as follows:

- **Outreach:** 8,000 schools
- **2,120 essays submitted**
- **1st round judging:**
  - **2120 essays submitted**
  - **1366/754 entries**
  - **60/112 schools**
- **Finalists judging:**
  - **16/15 schools**
  - **30/30 finalists**
- **Winner judging:**
  - **8/8 winners**
  - **1/1 grand prize**
DEC 2015: HIGHLIGHTS

1. This year saw the entry of two National Schools Moi Girls High School - Eldoret and Maranda High School. Each of these national schools produced winners, 3 from Moi Girls High School, 2 Maranda High School.
2. The Grand Prize Winner in the Primary Schools category Zamzam Suleiman comes from Isiolo County. She travelled for the prize giving event with a delegation including the Deputy Governor.
3. Malindi High School for the third year running produced a winner in the Kiswahili category.
4. DEC has engaged 433 unique schools since 2013.
5. 12 out of 16 winners were female students in 2015.
6. 43 out of 60 2015 Finalists were female students compared to 17 out of 60 who were male.
7. 6 of the 16 winners came from schools in Nairobi County; the others were from: UasinGishu, Siaya, Kilifi, Kericho, Nyeri, and Isiolo.
8. New sponsors were Avanti, DataWind And BestBuys.
VII. DEC 2015 VOICES AND IMAGES

• The digitalization of education has not only made the learning process interesting but also easy.”
• “I imagine myself walking in to the classroom and instead of seeing mountains of books on the desks all I see are laptops. If only life in school was like that!”
• “The digital world is filled with fun!”
• “This was just a dream—like chasing the wind—but now it is a reality!”
• “Students have enhanced self-responsibility and can learn “anywhere” “anytime” and “everywhere.”
• “The use of ICT in my school has greatly reduced expenditure by the school investing heavily on purchasing textbooks.”
Photo of the Grand Prize Winner: Zamzam Suleiman and the delegation from Isiolo County including the Deputy Governor, Zamzam’s mother, the pilot, her teacher and other Isiolo County officials during the Prize giving ceremony
Photo of the delegation from Isiolo County including the Deputy Governor
The six Kiswahili Winners both Primary and Secondary category
Distinguished guests from KPA, Sponsors, Partner Organizations and Publishing houses
Writing a letter good enough for Uhuru’s eyes

SY FIKAR JIBET
and JOSIPHE MOSONGU

Despite the numerous and the low standards of education in most provinces, a 5-year-old girl managed
to win the eKitabu Essay Competition by leaving the
high number of participants in the dust with her
wonderful and touching story. Regina Mwangi from St. Agnes Academy beat more than 2,000 pupils from three
provinces in the country after writing a story that showed
her passion in learning and her desire to support digital learning in the country.

Rebecca said she did not printed the essay so she wasn’t
prepared for the competition.

This, however, not her first time to participate in essay
writing competitions; she had it in 2014 and emerged
the winner.

"I was not prepared for the competition, but our English
teacher encouraged me to write the essay during our usual
English class. She read the story she received from her dad and the
other stories were good for her to write the best one,"

Rebecca said.

The school Director Ms. Jane Kirui said she is proud of
Rebecca since she competed with so many people who were
not engaged in digital learning.

"She is a very bright girl, intelligent, humble,
and works very well in class. The love of English and
Mathematics says she hopes to go to Alliance Girls next year.

Dancan Sambuis, the 13-year-old girl who came first among
2,000 participants in the eKitabu Essay 2015 competition.
Ametuzwa kwa bidii na utiifu wake

NA ANTHONY OMWAYI

"Nashusha mama kuzoe mtoto. Utaka chaa kusimamia na kusaidia kama mmoja waliokuwa kwa kujenga katika, lina nisho ya kusaidia za watoto na kuwa ni moja wa umoja wa watoto." Mwanzo, mtoto wa msamaha wa Kitovu wa Kijusuru, amekusaidia kama mmoja waliokuwa kwa kuhusu hivyo na kuwa ni moja wa umoja wa watoto. "Kama mtoto wa msamaha na kusaidia watoto, watoto wala mtu wa msamaha na kusaidia watoto wa msamaha wa Kitovu wa Kijusuru."
All smiles for top essay writers

With her success, Danvuna was grateful to her teachers. She said she was passionate about being an author in the way she writes stories and shares them with others, living in the world.

The number one position was taken by Linda Njihanga who wrote:

Linda Njihanga, who won the top spot, said that she had always been passionate about writing stories and sharing them with others. She said that she was thankful to her parents for always supporting her and encouraging her to keep writing. She also thanked her teachers for their guidance and support.

Submitted to The Nation by Linda Njihanga

Linda Njihanga

WHAT THEY SAY

MY FAVOURITE BREAK TIME GAMES

BRIPWENI SACHIGA
I like to play hide and seek in the playground. I also make toys from mud and play with my friends.

DIANA KIPKORI 10
I like jumping on my left foot while riding my right knee. Then I do a non-foot jump. Jump on my left foot again while sitting on my right knee. Then I repeat with the other leg. I love this game.

EKNABARAS, 11
I play soccer with my friends. We make rules and play ball games.

KAREN KIWARUKI 11
I like playing football with my friends. We make rules and play ball games.


eKitabu Confidential
VIII. PLANS FOR 2016 eKitabu DIGITAL ESSAY COMPETITION

The 2016 Digital Essay Competition will be held from April 2016. The submission period will be open from 12th April 2016 and will close on 21st July 2016. Winners will be announced at the Prize Giving ceremony on 21st September 2016.

Students will register and submit their essays through http://essay.ekitabu.com/

The Digital Essay Competition gives students in Kenya the chance to contribute their voices and visions to the integration of ICT in learning and teaching. It helps them develop critical thinking and innovative minds. DEC also provides a vehicle for research into ICT integration for learning and teaching in Kenya.

Major research priorities for 2016 are:

● Expand assessment of the impact of DEC on schools and students
● Explore the best ways of partnering and sustaining relationships with teachers and schools’ ICT champions
● Develop a clearer picture of ICT integration in participating schools
IX. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

eKitabu thanks the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology for its support in 2015, and looks forward to more collaboration in 2016.

We thank the DEC 2015 sponsors for supporting this worthy course we look forward to doing more in 2016. Thanks to our partner organizations all 1st and 2nd round Judges for supporting the program.

Many thanks to the eKitabu team for the planning, support and the team work in the execution of DEC 2015 project.

*Tunaenda Digital!*
Contact Information

**Headquarters**
eKitabu, LLC
Paramount Plaza, Seventh Floor
Off Globe Cinema Roundabout
P.O. Box 4282-00506
NAIROBI, Kenya
Office: +254 713 547245

**Americas Office**
eKitabu, LLC
6709 Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119 USA
Office: +1 617 909-9133

**Report Contact**
Michael Ng’eno
Program Manager
michael.ngeno@ekitabu.com
Mobile: +254 722 813517