

VICTOR OKOTH SAOKE

PhD Candidate in Education

P. O. Box 6-60010, Embu

Tel: +254 706 029 421

Email: saoke.victor@embuni.ac.ke/Okothvictor997@gmail.com



Executive Summary

Victor Okoth Saoke is a postgraduate qualifier, duly registered with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), and actively involved in curriculum development and instructional delivery. His experience spans classroom teaching, teacher training, curriculum evaluation, and examination setting, equipping him with a deep understanding of subject content, pedagogy, and assessment methodologies. Additionally, his work with secondary schools and colleges has refined his ability to develop engaging, inclusive, and research-backed learning materials.

Beyond his technical expertise, Victor is passionate about enhancing curriculum relevance, integrating emerging educational

trends, and fostering innovation in teaching methodologies. He is confident that his skills in competency-based learning, digital pedagogy, and special needs education add value to curriculum development, teacher training, and educational research processes.

He is currently a PhD candidate in Education at the University of Embu and serves as Project Officer for the HERI Africa Research Chair in Mathematics Education, where he supports research coordination, data management, and policy engagement across education initiatives in Kenya.

Education and Training

Doctor of Philosophy in Education *University of Embu* (2027 - Expected)

To graduate in August 2027. Coursework, data collection and analysis complete. Currently undertaking publication and thesis writing.

Master of Education in Instructional Methods and Educational Technology *University of Embu* (2023)

Awarded a scholarship to pursue the degree. Graduated in September 2023.

Bachelor of Education (Arts) - Kiswahili/CRE *University of Embu* (2015 - 2019)

Awarded First Class Honours for the degree of Bachelor of Education (Arts).

Teaching Practice *St. Mark's Kigari Primary Teachers' College* (May - August 2018)

Obtained a mean grade of A (plain) for the two teaching subjects.

Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education *Got-Rateng' Mixed Secondary School* (2011 - 2014)

Obtained a mean grade of B (plain) for the KCSE Examination.

Kenya Certificate of Primary Education *Chagere Primary School* (2003 - 2010)

Obtained a mean grade of B (plain) for the KCPE Examination.

Short Courses and Professional Training

- Evidence Synthesis Training - trained in the entire process of evidence synthesis under the Unlocking Data Initiatives (UDI), Mizizi Elimu Afrika (2024)
- Early Career Researchers (ECR) Pre-Conference Mentorship Programme, University of Embu in conjunction with EDF-Kenya & EE4A (2025)

Work Experience

May 2026 to date: Project Officer, HERI Africa Research Chair in Mathematics Education (University of Embu)

Duties:

- Supports the planning, coordination, and implementation of education-focused research initiatives
- Monitors project progress, manages data collection processes, and ensures quality and ethical compliance across all activities
- Contributes to research activities including tool development, field coordination, and data management
- Facilitates stakeholder engagement with schools, partners, and government agencies
- Supports documentation and knowledge dissemination through reports, policy briefs, and presentations to inform practice and decision-making

January 2026 - April 2026: Teaching Assistant, Department of Education, University of Embu

Duties:

- Lectured three (3) units within the Department of Education
- Contributed to curriculum development

2024 - 2025: Trainer and Deputy Principal, University of Embu TVETI

Duties:

- Served as Deputy Principal, University of Embu TVETI
- Worked as a Part-time Lecturer, Department of Education, University of Embu

2024 to date: Research Consultant, Mizizi Elimu Afrika

Duties:

- Provides consultant support in research, literature review, and evidence synthesis for the Unlocking Data Initiative (UDI)
- Develops policy briefs and blogs
- Develops publishable articles in Early Childhood Education (ECE)

2022 - 2023: Kiswahili/CRE Teacher, Kamuiru Boys' High School

Duties:

- Taught Kiswahili and Christian Religious Education (CRE)

2019 - 2020: Kiswahili/CRE Teacher, Kandegwa Mixed Secondary School

As a fresh graduate with a Bachelor of Education (Arts), Victor was employed by the Board of Management of Kandegwa Mixed Secondary School to teach Kiswahili and CRE. He was entrusted with the candidate class, teaching Kiswahili in Form Four and leading the class to the National Examination. In 2020, Kiswahili emerged the most improved subject in the school, with a mean score of 5.034 compared to 3.056 the previous year.

Achievements

- First Class Honours, Bachelor of Education (Arts) - Kiswahili/CRE, University of Embu (2019)
- Led Kiswahili to become the most improved subject at Kandegwa Mixed Secondary School in the 2020 KCSE, raising the mean score from 3.056 to 5.034
- Awarded a scholarship to pursue a Master of Education in Instructional Methods and Educational Technology, University of Embu
- Awarded a Certificate of Service by the University of Embu as the first Deputy Chairperson of the Kiswahili Club (CHAKIE)
- Represented the University of Embu at multiple inter-university Kiswahili conferences across Kenya
- Registered member of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC)

Leadership and Committee Roles

Deputy Chairperson, Kiswahili Club - CHAKIE (Chama Cha Kiswahili Chuo Kikuu Cha Embu), University of Embu

- Led a group of Kiswahili students from the University of Embu to a national conference at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Siaya County (March 2019), representing the university among institutions across East Africa offering Kiswahili
- Led Kiswahili students to conferences at Kenyatta University (17/02/2018), Egerton University (10/11/2018), and Karatina University (26/01/2019)
- Awarded a Certificate of Service by the University of Embu upon graduation in 2019, as the first Deputy Chairperson of the Kiswahili Club - CHAKIE

Workshops and Conferences

1. Early Career Researchers (ECR) Pre-Conference Mentorship Programme, University of Embu in conjunction with EDF-Kenya & EE4A. Presented on: "Strengthening the Education Eco-system: Revitalizing University Academy and Research through Graduate Students." August 25th - 26th, 2025
2. Education Evidence for Action (EE4A) & Education Deans Forum - Kenya (EDF-K) Conference, University of Embu. Theme: "Reimagining Education in Kenya: Reforming Teacher Education for Sustainable Development." August 27th - 28th, 2025
3. Kiswahili Conference, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Siaya County. March 2019
4. Kiswahili Conference, Karatina University. January 26th, 2019

5. Kiswahili Conference, Egerton University. November 10th, 2018
6. Kiswahili Conference, Kenyatta University. February 17th, 2018

Publications

1. **Saoke, V. O.**, Asweto, C. O., Kyalo, A. M., Gitonga, C. M., & Alzain, M. A. (2026). Environmental education in African secondary schooling: a PRISMA-based systematic review. *Discover Conservation*, 3(38). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44353-026-00108-9>
2. **Saoke, V. O.**, Gitonga, C. M., Ndwiga, Z. N., Atitwa, E. B., & Musafiri, C. M. (2026). Generation differences in awareness and adoption of technology enhanced anticipatory sets among teachers in Kenya. *Discover Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44217-026-01668-7>
3. Elmi, M. S., Ndunyu, L., Asweto, C. O., & **Saoke, V. O.** (2026). Faith, Culture, and Choice: Unraveling the Determinants of Modern Contraceptive Use Among Married Women in Garbatula. *Biomed Research International*, 2026, 15. <https://doi.org/10.1155/bmri/8308911>
4. Gitonga, C. M., Karuku, S., Asweto, C. O., Rugano, P., Mueni, C., Ngicho, D. O., **Saoke, V. O.**, & Mulonzi, B. M. (2026). Parental empowerment and engagement as predictors of foundational learning. *Journal of Childhood, Education & Society*, 7(2), 309-327. <https://doi.org/10.37291/jces.591>
5. Mbithi, A. W., Mbaka, P. K., Mbaka, K. K., & **Saoke, V. O.** (2026). Gendered determinants of students' perceived participation in classroom activities: evidence from public day secondary schools in South Eastern Kenya. *SN Social Sciences*, 6(9), 423. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-026-01720-1>
6. **Saoke, V. O.**, Ndwiga, Z. N., Githaiga, P. W., Gitonga, C. M., Kubai, K. I., Nzomo, C. M., Mulonzi, B. M., & Ngicho, D. O. (2025). The Relationship Between Teachers' Planning and Content Delivery Using the Five-Stage Lesson Plan Structure: An Analysis of Age, Gender, Experience and Academic Qualifications in Kenya. *European Journal of Education*, 60(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ejed.70021>
7. Asweto, C. O., **Saoke, V. O.**, Kyalo, A. M., & Alzain, M. A. (2025). Growing resilience: Regional and community strategies for sustainable agriculture and food systems in Africa. *Reference Module in Food Science*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b978-0-443-15976-3.00070-2>
8. Gitonga, C. M., Karuku, S., Asweto, C. O., Rugano, P., **Saoke, O.**, Mulonzi, B. M., Nzomo, C. M., & Mwenda, E. (2025). Determinants of parental engagement in early childhood education in Kenya. *Discover Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44217-025-01059-4>
9. **Saoke, V. O.**, Musafiri, C. M., Ndwiga, Z. N., & Githaiga, P. W. (2023). The Christian religious education teachers' attitudes toward the five-stage lesson plan framework in Kenya: A gender-based analysis. *Heliyon*, 9(8), e19104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e19104>
10. **Saoke, V. O.**, Ndwiga, Z. N., Githaiga, P. W., & Musafiri, C. M. (2022). Determinants of awareness and implementation of five-stage lesson plan framework among Christian Religious Education teachers in Meru County, Kenya. *Heliyon*, 8(11). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2022.e11177>

Professional Bodies and Membership

- Registered Member, Teachers Service Commission (TSC)
- Member, Kiswahili Club - CHAKIE, University of Embu (Founding Deputy Chairperson)

Skills

- Ability to work within a team
- Adaptability to new environments
- Good command of the MS Office suite
- Knack for multitasking
- Ability to work under pressure
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

Co-curricular Activities

Chagere Primary School

- Participated in athletics and represented the school during Primary School athletics competitions
- Participated in the school volleyball team throughout his primary school years

Interests

- Reading articles and journals of interest
- Learning new skills
- Traveling and socializing
- Engaging in voluntary work and environmental conservation

Referees

Prof. Ciriaka Gitonga

Associate Professor, University of Embu

Tel: 0722 444094

Email: ciriaka.gitonga@embuni.ac.ke

Dr. Simon Karuku

Co-Chair, HERI Africa Research Chair in Mathematics Education

Tel: +254 739 851 478

Email: simon.karuku@embuni.ac.ke