ANALYSIS ON SCHOOL DROPOUTS IN MACHAKOS DISTRICT EASTERN

PROVINCE OF KENYA

BY

KIVUVA CAROLINE NDANU

BAE/16O61/72/DF

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DECLARATION

I Caroline Ndanu Kivuva, do hereby declare that this research report has been done entirely by my effort. It has never been submitted elsewhere for any other degree or any other academic qualification.

Signature: _Kivuva_   Date: _13TH JULY, 2011_

APPROVAL

This research report has been submitted to the faculty of education for examination under my supervision as the university supervisor.

Name: Womuzumbu Moses

Signature: _____   Date: 13/07/2011 _____

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my son Wycliffe, my parents Mr and Mrs Joshua Kitavi and my brothers for their patience and understanding during the period of study.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

The study topic was analysis on school dropouts in Machakos district of Eastern province of Kenya. The study was guided by the following specific objectives: to investigate the causes of school dropouts in Machakos district, to establish the effects of school dropouts in Machakos district and to establish strategies to curb school dropout cases.

A case study design was used and the study was a cross section survey which involved head teachers, parents and students of selected schools who gave a detailed account of their views with regards to the cases of school dropouts in Machakos district. The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative methods of research. Interviews and questionnaires were the tools used and both primary and secondary sources of data were used and formed part of this research.

The findings reveal that the major causes of school dropout are poverty, drug abuse, family problems and unwanted pregnancies. The effects of school dropout as identified are joblessness, increase in crime rate, as well as poverty and underdevelopment. Appropriate strategies have been suggested to curb the phenomenon of school dropout. Some of these include involvement by the government by offering more bursaries, girls who drop out of school should be given a second chance to continue after delivery.

The researcher gave the following recommendations, guidance and counseling, public awareness, the government should offer more bursaries and other financial assistance and finally the government should intervene on the issue of students joining businesses.

From the findings, the researcher concluded that the problem of school dropout is still a big problem in Machakos district with many students dropping out each year. Education being a key to development and to the ability of a country to keep up with the first moving technological change, it is of paramount importance that this problem be discouraged.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Back ground of the study.

A dropout is considered a student who for any reason other than death leaves school before graduation or completion of the course without transferring to another school. Dropping out of school is a well documented social problem and often presents daunting circumstances.

Young people who do not complete high school face many problems in later life than do people who complete their education. While the leaders have demanded that schools, communities, and families make major efforts to retain students; the dropout rate still remains high.

While the country focuses on whether or not the students reach proficiency, there is a big group of students who drop out of school. Students who drop out of school face a bleak future since they are likely to be unemployed, live in poverty, receive public assistance and are un healthy. In Machakos district this problem of dropping out f school has been one of the major setbacks to the Kenyan education system. There was therefore a need to identify the cause of this problem so as to be able to find remedies for the same.

1.1 Statement of the problem.

School dropouts have been the major setback to the education system in Kenya with Machakos district being one of the most affected regions. The problem of school dropout comes along with several other problems which include; rise in crime rate, lack of development, joblessness, rise in number of street children and poverty in general. The rise in

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crime rate is caused by the fact that those people who drop out of school end up without jobs and hence resolve to crime some of them who drop out of school earlier end up becoming street children. The Kenyan government has tried to resolve the problem of students dropping out of school many times but students still continue leaving their education without completing. The government has gone as far as introducing free primary education with the hope that more students will complete their education. In addition many researchers have been carried out to solve this problem all over the world for example; education subsidies and school dropout rate by Lorraine Dearden, a report about high and rising high school dropout by Paul Barton, a research on the causes of school dropouts by Battin Pearson and a study by MC Neal which sought to understand what type of involvement in high school would make students want to drop out of school. All these have however, not been able to solve the problem of school dropout in Machakos District. There was therefore the need to know these causes of these problems so as to come up with proper ways of solving these problems.

1.2 Purpose of the study.

The purpose of the study was to analyze school dropout in Machakos district with a view of finding some possible solutions to these problems. It is true that this problem has been persistent for such a long time but it is also true that when we know the causes of this problem, we can come up with concrete ways of dealing with it.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The study was guided with the following objectives;

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1.3.1 General objectives.

To analyze school dropouts in Machakos District;

1.3.2 Specific objectives.

1. To investigate the causes of school dropouts in Machakos district.

2. To establish the effects of school dropouts in Machakos district.

3. To establish strategies put in place to curb school dropout cases.

1.4 Research questions

The study was guided by the following research question.

1. What are the causes of school dropouts in Machakos district?

2. What are the effects of school dropouts in the region?

3. What are some of the possible solutions to the problem of school dropout?

1.5 Significance of the study

This study in a number of ways as follows;

1. It will enable the government to come up with better plans to support the students who drop out of school.

2. If the problem of dropping out of school is dealt with, there will be development since many people will finish their education and be employed.

3. It will also help curb the problem of joblessness and increase in crime rate since some who indulge themselves in crime are the jobless and sometimes school drop outs.

4. The data collection in this study will help in the policy makers and NGOs working for the welfare of the school going children to suggest the remedial measures and suggestions to reduce school dropout rates among high school students in Machakos district.

1.6 Scope of the study.

This study was conducted in Machakos, majority among Teachers, Parents, and students.

1.7 Limitations of the study.

The study faced the following limitation;

a) Transportation was the major problem because some roads where impassable and sometimes I had to walk for long distances on foot.

b) Language barrio was another problem encountered during the study. Some parents who have never gone to school could not answer the questions in the questionnaires well. The interviews were also understood by such people well since some things were in English.

c) Financial constraints were also experienced. These were especially on the side of the meals and transportation.

d) Naturally due to unpredictable nature of human beings, some people refused to release information may be because they considered such information to be private family affairs

1.8 Theoretical framework.

This study is based on five theories namely; the academic mediation, general defiance, deviant affiliations, poor family associations and structural strains theories.

The academic mediation theory emphasizes that every factor involved in a students' life influences how well he does in school; then his grades or what he gets out of his work ethic, influence his desire to drop out of school. Many students have shown that a student's academic performance greatly influences whether or not he will finish school; if he does well in school, will most like want to continue and if he does consistently poorly in school, he will feel the urge to dropout more likely. In the study done by Battin – Pearson and Newcomb, this theory showed heavy correlation, suggesting that poor academic performance leads to students dropping out more likely than any other reason stated in the article.

The general deviance theory stresses the impact that certain deviant behaviors have on a student finishing school. Certain factors such as delinquency, drug use, and pregnancy and early sex are good predictors of high rate of school drop outs. According to the study, these four factors each influence a teen to drop out greatly. It also stated that delinquency actually decreased after a student dropped out of school. Each of these factors has a direct effect on the adolescent's discussion to drop out. But can also influence and be influenced by adolescent's academic achievement.

The deviant affiliation theory looks into how peers can influence each other to drop out of school. This can be caused by certain things like a negative influence by some other students or by rejection and troubles with the peers. This theory did not have strong effect on deciding

whether or not to leave school, but still played a vital role. It showed that adolescents make decisions about their futures based on what others think and how they are treated.

The poor family socialization theory goes back to the child's development within his family. A student's performance in high school is directly affected by his family history, including divorce, stress and parental behavior. The most important aspects of this theory are the education levels of the student's parents and their aspiration for the child. If neither parents finished high school, it is easy to see why the student would drop out of school himself. Similarly if neither parent expects really anything to come out of their child, it is easy to see why the he would leave school. This theory too did not have as much of an importance in the decision to drop out of school as academic mediation and General Deviance theory.

The fifth theory is the structural strain's theory, which encompasses certain traits associated with the student's drop out that typically can't be changed. This theory states that a student is more typically to drop out if he is a male and/or if he comes from a family with a low socioeconomic status. From these five theories we can see that a multitude of factors can influence an adolescent to drop out of school early.

1.9 Operational definitions of terms

a) Dropout – A student who for any reason other than death leaves school before graduation or completion of the course without transferring to another school.

b) Proficiency. The ability to do something well as a result of careful training practice.

c) Daunting. Making someone feel nervous and less confident about doing something.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter contains what has already being written by other people about the causes, effects and possible solutions to the problem of school dropout. Some information from this chapter is also derived from the internet.

2.1 The causes of dropouts.

Rodney stark et al (1973:316) states that one of the major reasons for children to drop out of school is lack of education of the parents. The education attainment of the parents significantly affects the child's education attainment at school. When either none of the parents is literate especially when women are literate, they are more willing to send their children especially girls to school. The huge dropout rates, however, indicate children girls more often than boys are needed for other activities especially looking after other siblings domestic work and help with farm work. Parents play a crucial role in keeping children in school.

According to Rodney Starck et al (1973:316) poverty is another reason why people drop out of school. Lack of school fees as well as other needs that motivate individuals towards education also prompts such people to drop out of school. Rodney states that minority groups actually constitute a small fraction of those who are disadvantaged throughout life as a result of inequality. Parents who cannot afford to feed their children, cloth them or offer medical care to them leave them with no choice other than leave school.

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Rolf E. Muus (1970:435) states that drug abuse is another major cause of school dropout. Some students while in school engage themselves in drug abuse. Due to this they violate the school rules and when they are discovered they are sent away from school. While away they decide to continue using drugs and thus could result to their not coming back to school again. Rolf E. Muus (1970:435) argues that consumption of illegal drugs by school children receives little attention in the media today than it did during the early seventies, partly because it is no longer the big social issue it was. Society seems to have costumed to the fact that drugs are here to stay and temptation of drug use is just one more choice youths have to make.

According to Rolf E. Muus (1970:178) peer pressure makes some students leave school. Rolf E. Muus argues that youth sub cultures is one of the most distinctive features of modern urban life that fundamentally affects the personal development of urban man. The peer groups of adolescent have an impact on the individuals socialization second only to that of the family and they progressively replace the family controlling the life and says of the adolescent and modifying his personality. Some students join friends who may advice them to leave school and indulge in other activities like business. These friends may show them how easy it is to make money and convince them that education is of little importance to them.

Dianna Kendall (2002:298) says that gender bias leads to school dropouts. She says that gender bias of showing favoritism towards one gender over the other leads to dropouts. Some parents do not give girls equal chances with boys when it comes to education. They have the view that girls are to be married and therefore there is no need to educate them. Dianna continues to say that one of the messages that teachers may communicate to the

students is that boys are more important than girls. This may end up discouraging the girls and make them eventually give up in the process of acquiring education.

Strict rules and regulations can also be another cause of school dropouts according to Dianna Kendall (2002:149). Dianna say that goal displacement occurs when the rules become and end in themselves rather than means to an end, and organizational survival becomes more important that achievement of goals. Therefore strict rules and regulations can cause school dropouts.

2.2 Effects of school dropout.

The following are some of the effects of dropping out of school.

According to Rodney Stark (1973:310) joblessness is an efferent of dropping out of school. After leaving school without any certificates, school dropouts find it hard to get employed. They end up living very miserable lives to the extent that they end up doing jobs they had never imagined of in their lives before.

Rodney Stark (1973:310) says that another effect of dropping out of school is drug abuse. Most people who drop out of school and are disillusioned in life use drugs so as to forget their predicament. They think that drugs can help them forget their problems. Some even go to the extent of selling drugs that are illegal.

Dianna Kendall (2002:299) argues that poverty and underdevelopment is an effect of dropping out of schools. School dropouts who fail to achieve much in life end up being very poor. They may even lack the basic needs like, shelter, food, clothing and health facilities.

This also brings about underdevelopment since without education, there will hardly be any development realized.

According to Rodney Stark (1973:310) dropping out of school leads to inferiority complex. School dropouts often feel inferior whenever they are in company of their colleagues who finished their courses and employed.

2.3 Possible solutions to the problems of school dropouts.

The following are solutions that have been given to curb the problem of school dropouts. According to Dianna Kendall (2002:230) counseling is a possible solution to school dropouts. Counseling is a good a way of minimizing the rate of school dropouts. Those students whose reasons of leaving school is stress, which is brought about by the parents, can be counseled and their parents can be talked to so as to ensure that they cooperate. These others who drop out due to the unwanted pregnancies can also be assisted through counseling such that they come back to school after delivery.

Dainna Kendall (2002:230) suggests that public awareness could be a possible solution to school dropout. Educating the public on the importance of education also can play a great role in reducing the number of students who drop out of school, some parents fail to educate girls simply because they will get married. Such parents do so due to ignorance. By educating such parents, the number of girls likely to drop out of school is reduced.

Ocan Johnson (2002:175) suggested that the teaching and curriculum should be improved to make school more relevant by engaging and providing opportunities to students for real

worlds learning. Through internships and service learning opportunities chances of graduating from high schools are improved.

Ocan Johnson (2002:175) says that a school climate that fosters academics should be build. Supervision and discipline is necessary in a school environment. Disruptions in class prevent students from doing homework or paying attention in class.

According to Ocan Johnson (2002:175) communication between parents and school should be improved. Better communication between parents and school and increased parental involvement   in their child's education are essential to keeping students in school.

In conclusion therefore, education has been the center of policies to promote growth in both the developing world and in wealthier countries, it is seen as a key to development and to the ability of a country to keep up with the fast moving technological change. Education is also see as a way for individuals to escape poverty and welfare (and possibly crime) dependency and this perception has motivated numerous policies worldwide that promote education as a long term   solution to those   problems. Therefore the problem of school dropouts which happens to be a hindrance to education should be fought with uttermost determination

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the methods that the researcher used to collect data.

3.1 Research Design

The study was a cross section survey which involved students and head teachers which gave detailed account of their views with regards to the causes of school dropouts in Machakos district.

The researcher used both the qualitative and the quantitative methods of research.

3.2 Research Environment

The study was conducted in Machakos district with the target population being the parents, students and the head teacher of Machakos Girls' High School, Machakos School, Mbuni High School, Kunikila Secondary School and St. Carmel Girls. There are a total number of fifteen secondary schools in the district. The five selected schools represented the district in that two; Machakos girls' School and Machakos School represented the urban area of Machakos while the other three represented the rural areas. On the other hand one out of the selected schools is a mixed school, two are boys schools while the remaining two are girls.

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3.3 Sample Selection and size

The secondary school chosen represented the district evenly because, two of them which are Machakos Girls Machakos Boys were chosen to represent the urban area of Machakos while the rest represented the rural areas. Machakos town is the most densily populated area of Machakos district, this is where the schools where chosen from there.

3.4 Data collection procedures.

First of all I acquired a letter of introduction from the faculty of education of Kampala International University which I used to introduce myself to the respondents. The questionnaires were given to two parents in each of the identified secondary schools while interviews were conducted to the head teachers of the same schools and two students in each school.

3.5 Methods of Data collection

3.5.1 Questionnaires

Questionnaires were administered to get data about the number of schools dropouts and also the causes of school dropouts.

They were distributed to the head teachers, parents and students.

3.5.2 Oral Interviews.

Oral interviews were also conducted to collect data about he causes of school dropout. They were administered to the head teachers, parents as well as the students of the identified secondary schools.

3.6 Source of Data

The researcher used two sources to collect data. These are the primary and secondary sources.

Primary sources involved data collection through interviewing and submission of questionnaires that were filled by respondents while the secondary sources involved data collection from previous reports on the research problems. The major sources of data here included; Libraries, Internet and Journals.

3.7 Data Analysis

The researcher upon collecting the data from the field, identified it as per the respondents and analyzed it. The researcher interpreted it using tables where necessary.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.0. Introduction

In this chapter, findings of the study are presented as derived from the various instruments used to collect data. The data is then analyzed in form of percentage, tables of absolute, numbers, bars graphs and pie-charts. Thereafter, these findings are discussed thematically and systematically in response to the specific research questions which were stated as;

i. What are the causes of school dropouts Machakos district?

ii. What are the effects of school dropouts in the region?

iii. What are some of the possible solutions to the problems of school dropout?

4.1 Number of students who drop out of school in the year 2010.

4.1.1 Number of boys who drop out of school as compared to that of the girls in the year 2010.

Data collected from various respondents such as parents and head teachers show that the number of boys who dropped out of schools in the year 2010 is smaller than that of the girls. Interviews conducted to head teachers and questionnaires administered to the parents yielded the following data.

Table 1:

	Boys	Girls	Total
Frequency	11	18	29
Percentage	38%	62%	100%

From the data provided in table 1, it is evident that 62% of those who dropped out of school were girls while the remaining 37% are boys. This can be presented in a pie chat as follows.

Pie chart showing the percentage of boys to girls school dropouts.
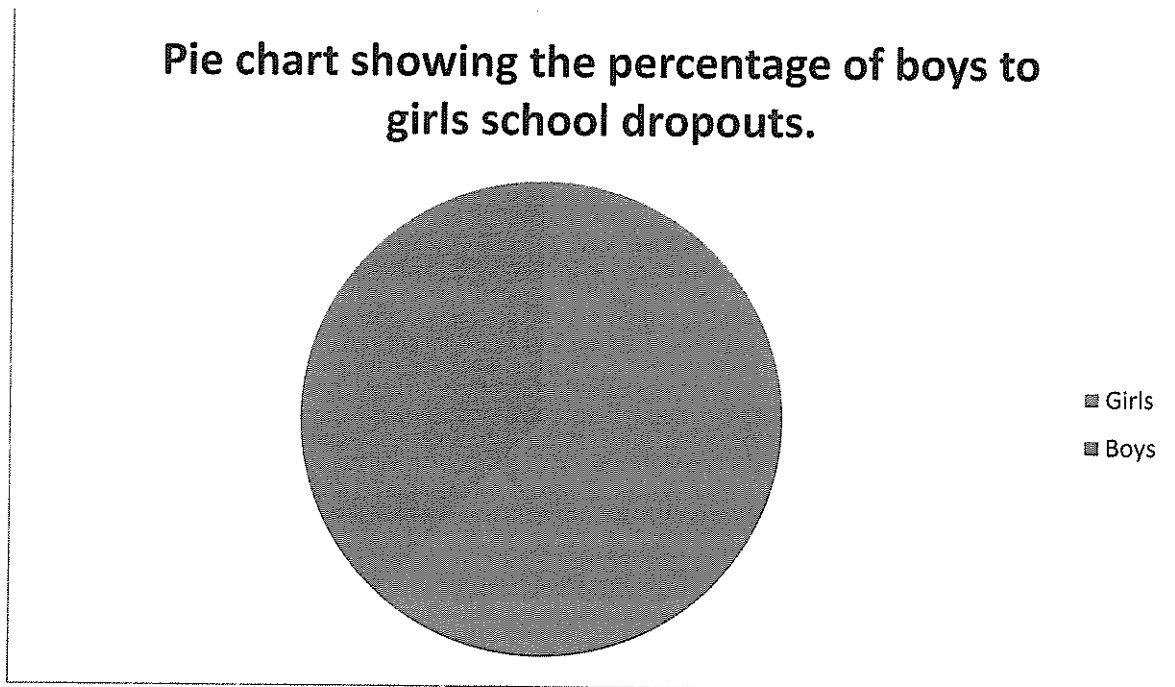
The data presented above shows that more girls drop out of schools than boys. This gives a clue on the problem of girl child education.

4.2 Causes of school dropout in Machakos district.

4.2.1 Reasons why boys leave school;

The following are some of the responses as provided by the head teachers, parents as well as the students as to why come boys drop out of school without completing their education.

Table 2

Fees problem	Business	Drug abuse	Family problems	Total
3	5	2	1	11
27%	46%	18%	9%	100%

From the findings above, we realize that 46% of the boys who left school in the year 2010 did so to engage in business, 27% of them left school due to lack of school fee, 18% are these who dropped because of drug abuse

While 9% are those who left school because of disagreements at their homes.

This information can be put in a bar graph as follows;
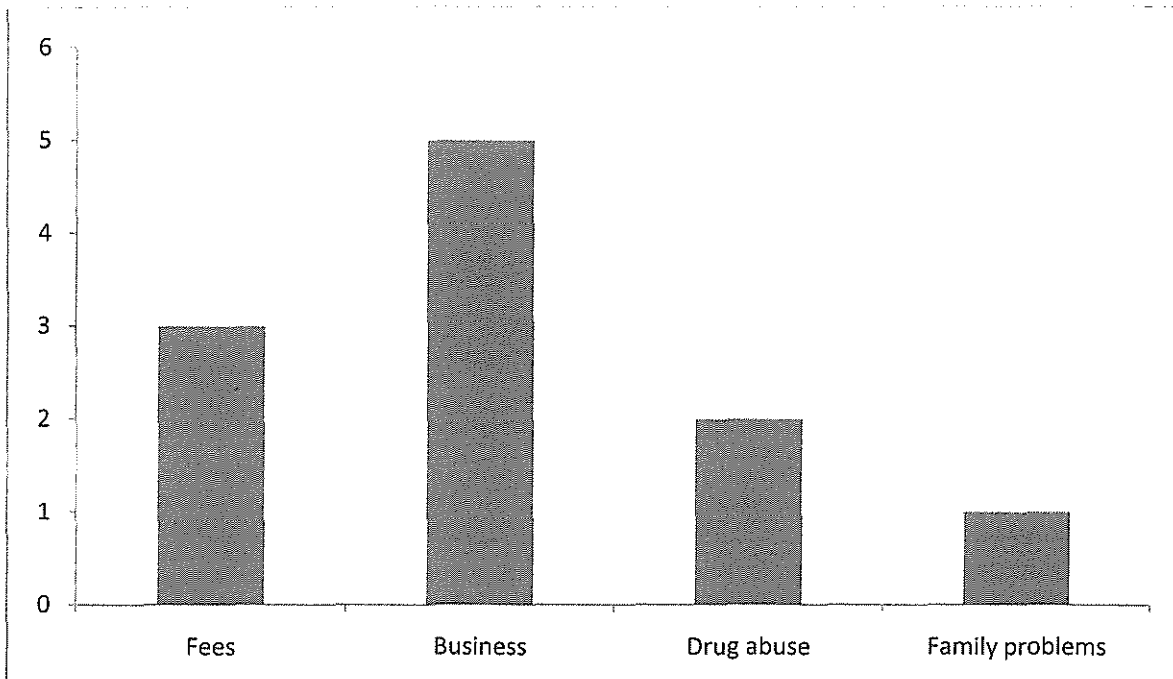
4.3 Reasons why girls drop out of school in Machakos district.

The following are some of the responses given concerning the reasons as to why girls drop out of school.

Table 3

	Teenage pregnancy	School fees	Family problems	Business	Total
Frequency	5	3	8	2	18
Percentage	28%	17%	44%	11%	100%

In the table above we realize that the biggest percentage of girls who dropout from schools are those affected by family problems such as early marriages or parents who do not value educating girls. The information on the table can be presented on a bar graph as follows;

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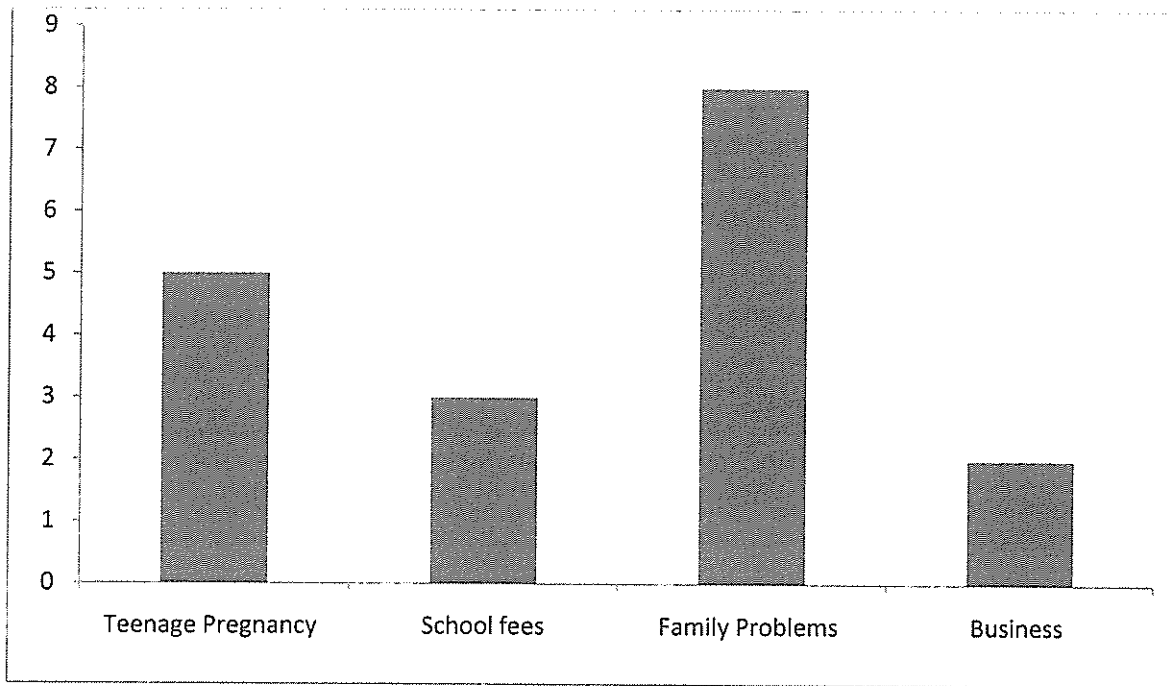
4.4 Comparison between the year 2008, 2009 and 2010 school dropouts in secondary schools in Machakos district.

Below is a table contain the total number of boys and girls who dropped from school in the year 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Table 4

Years	Boys	Girls	Total
2008	17	24	41
2009	15	17	32
2010	11	18	29

From the table above, we can deduce that the number of school dropouts is decreasing every year since in the year 2008, there were a total of 41 students who left school and this number has decreased to a total of 29 students in the year 2010.

Below is a bar graph showing the total number of students who have dropped from school in the three years;-
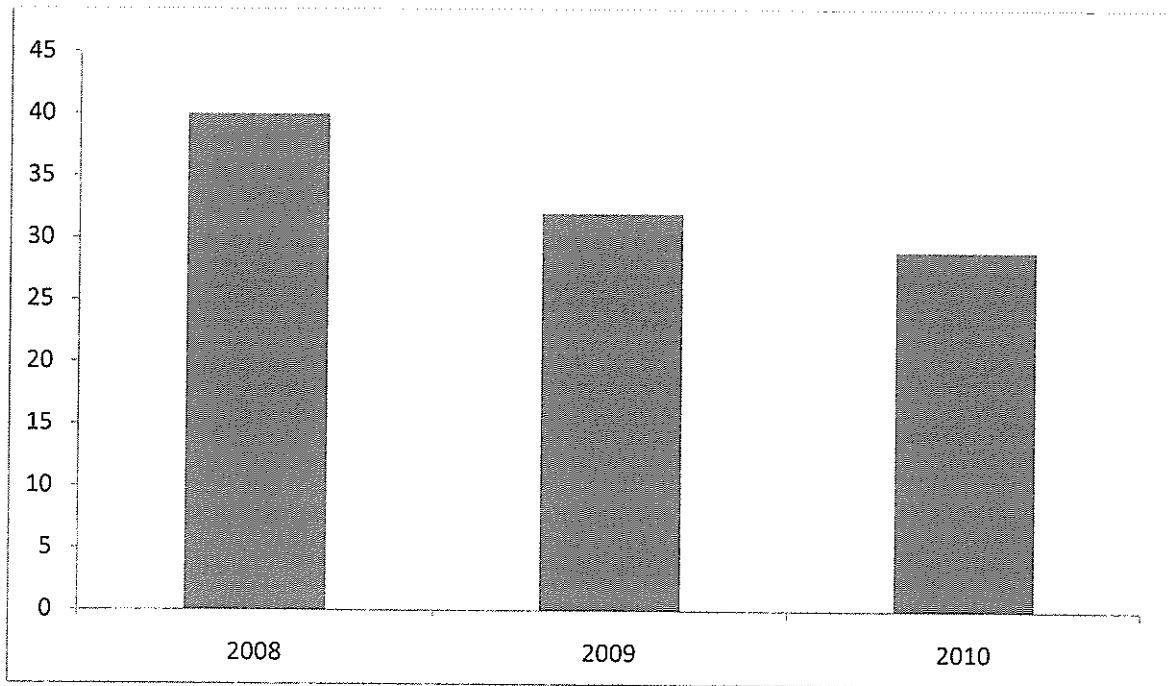
4.5 The effects of school dropouts as identified by the head teachers and the parents.

Some of the identified effects of dropouts according to the head teachers and the parents are: jobless, increased crimes are, as well as poverty and underdevelopment. After leaving school, students find themselves with nothing else to do earn them a living even those who get into businesses may not succeed so much due to lack of knowledge. Such students may lose hope in life and sometimes indulge in crime. Others live in misery since they cannot afford all the basic needs. These are some of the effects of school dropouts as indentified in this study

4.6 What head teachers have done to curb the problem of school dropouts?

Most head teachers who were interviewed pointed out the following ways through which they had tried to curb this problem:

On top of the bursaries given by the government to support the needy students, the head teachers with their board of directors have initiated another plan to boost the bursaries which sometimes are to little to help all the needy students. This they have done by opening a bank account for the needy students and calling upon all the well wishers to support them financially. This project has succeeded in many schools in this region for example: Machakos Boys High School, Kurukija high School and Machakos Girls High School.

The head teachers have also tried to fight drug abuse by imposing heavy punishments on those found in possession of any form of illegal drug. Though this problem has proven quite challenging to them, the heavy punishments have played a big deal in reducing the rate of drugs in secondary schools in the region.

4.7 Some of the solutions given to curb the problem of school dropouts.

Most of the head teachers that were interviewed were for the following ideas in relation to solving the school dropout problem:

Parents should endeavor to pay school fees in time and in full amounts. This will reduce the problem of students who drop out due to school fees. On the same issue of school fees, the head teachers as well as the parents who were interviewed were for the view that the government should offer adequate bursaries to cater for the needy students.

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Secondary, some head teachers and parents though it wise that the government makes sure that young people who should be in school do not take part in business because according to them was pulling education in the region backwards. According to them, the government should take the initiatives of making sure that young people are in school and not in business since the head teachers and the parents alone have found it very hard to deal with this problem.

On the issue of teenage pregnancy, the head teachers were for the view that the girls who fall victims to teenage pregnancies should be given a second chance after delivering. This is due to the fact that it is a loss to the students, parents , the school and the whole community if a girl after investing so much of her time and her parents money in school just drops out because a pregnancy yet she can be given second chance.

Drug abuse problems were also discussed by most of the head teachers and parents interviewed. To them, teamwork between both parents and teachers was vital if at all they where to win fighting drug abuse. Guidance and counseling according to them can help students avoid falling prey to bad peer groups which could lead them astray. The guidance and counseling is responsibility of both teachers and parents.

4.8 Summary of findings.

The findings reported in this chapter and the subsequent discussion of the data collected in the present study have revealed usefully information concerning the problem of school dropout. Generally it has been noticed that:

- Every year, many students drop out of school due to factors some of which include; lack of schools fees, drug abuse, teenage pregnancies and engagement in business.

- More girls than boy's dropout of schools every year in Machakos district.

- Many girls drop out of schools due to family problems. About 44% of the girl's dropouts in the year 2010 are due to family problem.

- Many boys drop out of schools to start businesses. In the year 2010, 46% of the total number of boys who dropped out of schools did so to engage themselves in businesses.

- Drug abuse is still a big problem since students still drop out of schools because of it.

- The effects of school dropouts in the region are: jobless, increase in crime rate and poverty and underdevelopment.

- Some of the solutions identifies are; involvement by the government to curb school dropouts and offering more bursaries and girls who drop due to unwanted pregnancies should be given a second chance to continue after delivering.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the data obtained and recorded in the previous chapters is discussed in details

in relation to the specific objectives of the study. There after a precise conclusion is made,

alongside some possible recommendations which are considered profitable to the stated

problem.

The major aim is to make the study practical rather than just a mere presentation of abstract

data.

5.1 Discussion of findings

The study identified a number of important factors concerning issues of schools drop outs,

which partially or even fully responds to the research objectives. The first objective was;

5.1.1 To investigate the causes of school drop outs in Machakos district.

From the findings it was established that there are many reasons as to why students drop

out of schools. First of all, some students leave so as to take part in the business. This has

claimed a total of 57% of the total number of students who dropped out of school in the

year 2010.

Family problems have also been another cause of students dropping out of schools. This is

reluctance of some parents and domestic activities make many students leave school. This

is especially very common among the girls. In this study, it was realized that 44% of the girls who dropped out of school in the year 2010 did so due to family problems. Many parents from this region do not value educating girls. They have this bad notion that girls are to be married and education them they think is wasting resources.

The problem of teenage pregnancies is also evident in the findings with a total of 28% of the school dropout girls in the year 2010 doing so because of it. Five out of the eighteen girls who dropped out that year did so because of the teenage pregnancies.

Drug abuse has also led some out of school. In this study the findings show that 18% of the school dropout boys in year 2010 were due to engagement in drug abuse. The most common drugs that are readily available to the young people Marijuana (Bhag) and Khart (Miraa)

5.1.2 To establish the effects of school dropouts in Machakos district

It was established from the findings that the problem of school dropouts has resulted to the following effects in Machakos district

Many school drop outs end up with no jobs and this makes them join gangs that engage themselves in crimes. They get into crimes so that they can manage to get the basic needs.

Many who drop out of schools also live in poverty as seen from the findings. Due to the high rate of school dropouts, Machakos district lugs behind other districts in terms of

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development. This is because most of the schools dropouts end up being poor hence pulling the district backwards.

5.2 Conclusion

From the findings the researcher concluded that the problem of school dropouts is still a big problem in Machakos district with many students out of school each year. Education being a key to development and to the ability of a country to keep up with the fast moving technological change , it is of paramount importance that as much as possible this problem should be discouraged. Below are some recommendations that were made concerning this problem.

5.3 Recommendations

The recommendations made to here are based on the findings in the study. These findings are made in consideration of the need to the curb the problem of school dropouts in Machakos district;

- Guidance and counseling is one way that can help to curb the problem of school dropouts. In order to combat the dropout rate, it is imperative that educators and teachers implement moral training in the class room. It is not sufficient enough to resent academic information alone and hope that assignments and assessments alone will propel students' academic and personal success in life. Moral training must be priority alongside academic instruction. Even though it is possible for a high school dropout to get back on track, schools should try their hardest to

prevent students from dropping out in the first place. Many students with low grade point average will feel that they cannot finish high school. But if the school counselors pull through and empower these students to try their hardest, their chances of leaving school decrease. This is done by giving them optimistic views of the future whenever they see the future in a negative light. Counselors could also keep students from dropping out by guiding them on their career paths early on. This rises to adolescent's aspirations to do well in school. Guidance and counseling can help those students who drop because of teenage pregnancies and drug abuse.

- Public awareness is another way through which this can be reduced. From the findings, it is true that some parents are not yet aware of the importance of educating their children especially girls. The government should therefore endeavor to educate such parents on the importance of educating their children.

- The government should also offer more bursaries or financial assistance. It is true that some students whose parents are not able to afford school fees have the capabilities to prosper in education. Such students are given maximum support financially to enable them to complete their education successfully.

- The government should intervene on the issue of students to join businesses. By making sure that all students remain in school, the government will have helped to eliminated this problem.

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APPENDIX A

Interview guide to head teachers

1. How many students dropped out the school in the year 2010?
2. Out of those who dropped, how many were girls and how many were boys?
3. Has this number increased from the previous years or it has decreased?
4. What made them leave school?
5. What do you do to help such students?
6. How do you think this problems affects our region?
7. What do you think can be done to improve the situation?

APPENDIX B

Interview guide to the students

1. How many are you in your class?
2. Do you have some friends that dropped out of school?
3. What made them drop?
4. What are they doing after dropping out of school?
5. What do you think can be done to assist such students?

APPENDIX C

Questionnaire guide to parents

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Kivuva Caroline Ndanu of reg. No. BAE/16061/72/DF perusing a Bachelor of Arts with Education degree at Kampala International University. I am currently carrying out a research topic – analysis o school dropouts in Machakos district.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the causes, the effects and find out some remedies to the problem of dropping out of school. Precisely, your response will be treated with confidentiality and the information obtained with strictly be for educational purpose.

Tick or write relevant information on the space provide.

SECTION A.

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

1. Age

   20-25 [ ]   26-30 [ ]   31-39 [ ]   10-49 [ ]   50 and above [ ]

2. Sex

   Male [ ]   Female [ ]

3. Marital status

   ....

SECTION B

1. Have any of your children dropped out of school?

   ....

2. If yes why?

   ....

   ....

3. Do you have neighbors whose children have dropped out of school?

   ....

4. If yes, how many?

   ....

   ....

5. What are the reasons as to why children drop out of school in this region?

   ....

   ....

   ....

   ....

6. How has dropping out of school affected this region?

   ....

   ....

   ....

7. What do you think can be done to improve the situation?

   ....

   ....

   ....