

Factors Responsible For School Dropout Among Girls

In Kabare Zone, Kirinyaga District, Kenya

By

Mbuchi Purity Wangithi

BED/10598/61/DF



A Research Project Submitted To The Institute Of Open And Distance

Learning In Partial Fulfillment Of The Requirements For The Award

Of Bachelor Of Education In Early Childhood And Primary

Education Of Kampala International University

November 2009

DECLARATION

I, MBUCHI PURITY WANGITHI, declare that this project is my original work and has never been presented to any other university for award of any academic certificate or anything similar to such. I solemnly bear and stand to correct any inconsistency.

Signature

MBUCHI PURITY WANGITHI



BED/10598/61/DF

APPROVAL

This research report is submitted for examination with my approval as a University Supervisor.

Signed..........

MS ONEGO ROSELINE

Date.....05/09/08.....

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my dear husband David Nyamu and children Charles, Ruth and Mercy for their support while undertaking this course.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
ABSTRACT	viii

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 objectives of Study	2
1.3.1 General Objective.....	2
1.4 Research Questions.....	3
1.5 Scope of the Study	3
1.6 Significance of the Study.....	3
Definition of terms.....	4

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction	5
2.1.1. Poverty and Drop out of Girls	5
2.2 Parents Attitudes and Drop out of Girls	6
2.3 School Environment and Drop out of Girls.....	7
2.4 Traditional Practices and Drop out of Girls.....	8

CHAPTER THREE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design	10
3.2. Scope of the study.....	10
3.3. Instruments of data collection.....	10
3.4. Reliability of instruments	10
3.5. Data collection procedure.....	10
3.6. Statistical treatment of data	11

CHAPTER FOUR DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.0 Introduction	12
4.4 On the main causes of poverty.	16
4.5 Ways of Alleviating Poverty	17
4.6 Effects of Poverty to the Society and the Nation at Large.	20

CHAPTER FIVE
DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction	21
5.1 Discussion and conclusions	21
5.2 Recommendations	23
5.3 Areas of further research	24
REFERENCES	25
APPENDIX A: Questionnaire to the teachers	27

ABSTRACT

The causes of dropping out of school in any population are manifold and complex. The economic and social consequences of dropping out of school cause global concern, as they affect not only the individual who abandons school, but also his/her family and friends as well as the wider community and society.

Recent research statistics has shown that the prevalence of girls dropping out of schools in Kenya is expanding rapidly to the distraction of the society. Kenyans cannot afford to be complacent about it, thus there arises an immediate need to conduct an investigation on the factors responsible for school dropouts especially the girls hence to establishing the factors responsible for girls dropping out of school.

The study adopted a descriptive research design. This enhanced the researcher to obtain a better understanding of the factors responsible for school drop out among girls in Kabare Zone, Kiriinyaga District. The method chosen allowed a collection of comprehensive and intensive data and provided an in-depth understanding of the topic under study.

Information collected was analyzed and edited to create consistency and completeness. After collecting the questionnaires they were edited for completeness and consistency across the respondents and to locate omissions. Information obtained from the research study was presented and analyzed using bar charts, narratives, and statistical figures.

This report provides suggestions for more effective approach to the issue of school dropouts among girls and measures based on the lessons learned from practical experience of others. It is designed for policy makers, planners and stakeholders in the education sector.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground of the Study

As human beings, children are supposed to enjoy basic rights such as the right to education, social inclusion and recreation that need to be recognized in policies, programmes and legal frameworks. UNICEF (2000) Prioritizing children's needs pertaining to their survival and development is also a prerequisite to long-term national development.

Children have views and opinions that need to be taken into account in national planning and policies. If children play an active role in decisions affecting them they will learn the skills to become active members of society and thus productive citizens who are self-confident, self-reliant and enterprising rather than becoming a further drain on both household and national resources. UNESCO (2003)

Twenty years ago, little was said and even less was known about female schooling in Africa Joy C. Kwesiga (1990). Although it is no longer the case today, there are still important gaps in our knowledge base, particularly at the school level. Girls' enrollment, persistence, and success in school depend, of course, on many factors beyond the classroom and the school itself. Studies in a number of African countries demonstrate the critical importance of factors such as the local functions of marriage, mothers' and daughters' workloads, distance from home to school, discrimination against women in the job market, demand and supply issues as determined by established policies, the parents' level of education and their socio-economic status as well as political commitment.. UNICEF (2000) Globally, girls represent 60 percent of all out of schoolchildren (USAID, 1998). in most countries, girl's initial enrollment rates are lower than those of, boys, indicating barriers to access. In a country, such as Kenya, initial enrollment rates are roughly equal, but as girls enter their adolescent years, they drop out at faster rates than boys. Mukangara, F, and Koda, B (1997):

The problem of dropout has been continually troubling the primary education system developing countries. Dropout does not mean mere rejection of school by children. UNICEF (2000) It leads to wastage of the funds invested in school buildings, teachers' salaries, equipment, textbooks and so on. It also means the existence of some deficiencies in the organization of the primary education system. It is upon this background that the study was undertaken.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

All over the world, the female gender from a tender age faces a lot of challenges. In Africa for instance, girls are subjected to various domestic chaos which hinders them from high demand of education. Among the Maasai in Kenya, some girls are forced to marry at a very tender age. Biologically girls are affected by the psychological of the age which to some extent leads to stigmatization making them less competent like their male counter parts.

There is no sufficient data to show the cause of school drop out on girls

1.3 Objectives of Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study was to determine the causes of school drop out on girls in Kabare Zone, Kirinyaga District, Kenya and come up with possible strategies to solve the problem.

1.3 2 Specific Objectives

- i). To asses the relationship between poverty and drop out of girls ii). To examine the relationship between parents attitudes and drop out of girls
- iii). Discuss the relationship between school environment and drop out of girls.
- iv). Analyze the relationship between traditional practices and drop out of girls.

The problem of dropout has been continually troubling the primary education system developing countries. Dropout does not mean mere rejection of school by children. UNICEF (2000) It leads to wastage of the funds invested in school buildings, teachers' salaries, equipment, textbooks and so on. It also means the existence of some deficiencies in the organization of the primary education system. It is upon this background that the study was undertaken.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

All over the world, the female gender from a tender age faces a lot of challenges. In Africa for instance, girls are subjected to various domestic chaos which hinders them from high demand of education. Among the Maasai in Kenya, some girls are forced to marry at a very tender age. Biologically girls are affected by the psychological of the age which to some extent leads to stigmatization making them less competent like their male counter parts.

There is no sufficient data to show the cause of school drop out on girls

1.3 Objectives of Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study was to determine the causes of school drop out on girls in Kabare Zone, Kirinyaga District, Kenya and come up with possible strategies to solve the problem.

1.3 2 Specific Objectives

- i). To asses the relationship between poverty and drop out of girls ii). To examine the relationship between parents attitudes and drop out of girls
- iii). Discuss the relationship between school environment and drop out of girls.
- iv). Analyze the relationship between traditional practices and drop out of girls.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between poverty and school drop out of girls?
2. What is the relationship between parents' attitudes and drop out of girls?
3. What is the relationship between school environment and drop out of girls?
4. What is the relationship between traditional practices and school drop out of girls?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study was carried out in Kabare zone, Kirinyaga district. Kirinyaga District is an administrative district in the Central Province of Kenya. Its Headquarter is Kerugoya. The district has a population of 457,105 and an area of 1,478 km². The study was limited to the objectives in regards to the causes of girls drop out of school.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will help education planners to study the root cause of drop out of girls in Kenya. It is relevant in that girls have the right to be educated. They therefore regularly engage in drafting policies that will benefit girl's education. Head teachers, teachers and parents will be sensitized in identifying the problem of school drop out and finding ways to solve the problem and also have particular interest in girl's especially adolescent girls.

The study will become an instrument of change in the ways in which people and communities think about the education of the girl child and their capabilities. With changed attitudes, an appropriate, relevant, affordable and effective education within the communities, the discrimination girls face for just being girls in the society could be countered.

1.7 Definition of terms

The following terms have been defined in the context of this research;

Adolescence: The period when girls develop from childhood to adulthood more especially when they start menstruating.

Drug abuse: the improper use of drugs or alcohol to the degree that the consequences are detrimental to the user in society.

Enrolment: When a school admits a new student or when a student joins a new school.

Sexualities: The differentiation between sexes.

School drop out: the number of pupils who enroll in a school during a year but leave the school before the end of the year. It does not include girls who transfer from one school to another.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature as an account of the knowledge and ideas that have been established by accredited scholars and experts in the field of low enrollment of students more specially girls. It is guided by the objectives of the study outlined in chapter one.

2.1.1. Poverty and Drop out of Girls

For parents who are aware of the importance of and concerned about the education of girls, enrollment levels are still low and drop out high due to their inability to meet the costs of education World Bank (2000). The high cost of education coupled with the deteriorating economy, which has reduced the disposable income available to the families, has made it difficult to provide an education for all the children regardless of sex. In Kenya education is financed through cost sharing, with the parents bearing the bigger share of the burden.

Another issue that further aggravates this situation is the fact that, especially in the rural areas, families tend to have a fairly large number of children. The cumulative effect of the finances required for education often proves to be too much for many families, in communities where girls' education is not valued, the issue of poverty further aggravates the situation of girls' lack of access to education because in such areas parents when faced with scarce resources choose to educate boys rather than girls. Low economic status promotes gender discrimination of the girl child in education It creates a sense of dependence as always poor people seek for acceptance and recognition in a community through observing culture so as to be helped in social activities (funeral, wedding, Female Genital Mutilation,etc). Earthman, Glen I. (November 1998) It ignores girls' education to avoid costs. Parents seek simple alternatives for increasing their income by marrying off young girls. Some well off people take this advantage by deceiving pupils from poor families and engage them in sex with promises of material things and hence violate children's rights to education.

2.2 Parents Attitudes and Drop out of Girls

Parents' perceptions and society expectation, part of gendered sex role socialization affect how girls and boys participate in education. From tender age, the young children are socialized into "sex roles." UNESCO (2003) Thus learning "sex appropriate" behaviors and traits in childhood is one of the prerequisites for smooth functioning in society (common in rural areas).

In general most children, and girls in particular, especially those in rural areas, fail to enroll in or to complete primary schooling because their parents do not value education. In most cases because the parents themselves are uneducated / illiterate. There is also a 'myth' among most illiterate parents that "boys are generally clever and hard working in school. Their minds are always in school but girls like playing and when they mature they are difficult to deal with and they get pregnant" Joy C. Kwesiga (1990). The implication is that they should not be given the opportunity to go to school. Such 'messages' demotivating to girls, who internalize them and in return end up believing that school, is not for them.

Many parents also have the attitude that educating girls is a waste of time and money, because they will eventually be married off and their education would therefore only benefit their husbands and the families they marry into. Money spent on the girls education would thus be considered lost to the girls' family. Girls are also considered a risk to educate because they were likely to get pregnant or married and drop out of school and any money spent on their education would therefore be wasted FAWE (2000)

Girls on the other hand drop out of school because of low status reasons. They may be made to remain at home doing some chores. Ministry of Education Science and technology (2001)

2.3 School Environment and Drop out of Girls.

The school is a very child unfriendly environment for girls in a way that they are abused and sexually harassed by male teachers and boys. Girls are often abused, beaten and humiliated in class. (Gupta N and M. Mahy, 2000) Because of this girls hate the school environment and therefore drop out of school. They also become pregnant and therefore have no choice that to drop out of school. (Eloundou-Enyegue, Parfait M.2000)

If Education For All (EFA) is to be achieved, then an empowering learning environment characterized by “ physical, emotional intellectual and sexual safety of girls” has to be created through an evolving process, an environment “in which girls are not merely protected and sheltered from danger of man kind, and their physical, emotional and intellectual growth is encouraged and nurtured, but also one in which they are supplied with the tools of knowledge, self confidence and assertiveness that will provide some measures of defense against abuse.” UNICEF (2000) Most of the schools in rural areas have classrooms that are dilapidated, with floors that are not cemented and thus dusty.

There are windows and doors with no shutters. Such classrooms have few desks for pupils and some of them seat on makeshift forms and/or stones. But the most worrying issue is the lack and/or poor state of toilet and sanitary facilities. Joy C. Kwesiga (1990) Sanitation provision can have a detrimental effect that can further contribute to low attendance and retention rates for girls. (Beusang 2004) Female students often missed classes during menstruation, or because cultural restrictions combined with poor hygiene and lack of privacy prevent them from using the school latrines at all. Studies show that girls’ performance, attendance and retention rates are lower than boys, and poor school sanitation is one of the multiple difficulties that girls have to struggle with. (UNICEF 2005)

2.4 Traditional Practices and Drop out of Girls

According to Ngugi Wa Thiong'o (1996) "harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation and other initiations rituals practice in some African societies are brutal and inhuman.

Cultural practices lead to despair in schools attendances on girls both in preparations and healing processes which some times lead to death. Gachiri, E. W. (2000). The ultimate lead to despair in school attendance and the performance ends up to girls with drawing from school (Okwach, 1997)

Many communities favor marrying off girls while still fairly young. In most cases, these girls drop out of school once they are married to start families. In some communities, especially in the Muslim communities, there is the practice of betrothing girls at a very young age, sometimes at birth and marrying them off in late adolescence. The practice of early marriage often therefore leads to the end of a girls' formal education. The Daily Nation. (2003)

In Ghana, girls and women cross over into neighboring countries to carry out trading which is often a lucrative activity. Their success has been found to lure other school girls to try this business, leading to school drop out.

In some areas of rural Tanzania, on reaching puberty (from upper primary), girls are expected to participate in initiation ceremonies aimed at preparing them for womanhood and marriage. Mbilinyi, M and Mascarenhas, O (1983): These ceremonies are often held during the school term and result in girls missing a considerable amount of school time. Participation in these ceremonies affect girls' participation in education in general in two particular ways. Mabala R. et al (1995): One is that the time spent at these ceremonies is at the expense of precious school time. When these girls eventually return to school, teachers find it difficult to find the time to give them the individual attention required to help them catch up with the others. Another effect of these ceremonies is that the girls who are initiated regard themselves as adults and ready for marriage and no longer see

the need to concentrate on their school work as they feel that it would be of little use to them in their future roles as mothers and wives. Manlove, Jennifer. (1998).



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design

This study used a descriptive cross sectional survey. The research drew from both the qualitative and quantitative analysis approaches in order to get a bigger picture both in number and data.

3.2. Scope of the study

This study was carried out in Kabare zone, Kirinyaga district. The respondents included Pupils, teachers and community members. 20 teachers and 30 pupils were selected to participate in the study while 40 community members were included in the study.

3.3. Instruments of data collection

Questionnaires were used to extract information from pupils. Interviews were carried out with the teachers and focus group discussions held with the community members. Open ended questionnaires were suitable for investigating deeper the subject matter. Library search was used to search for data related to the study and observation was done on the state of the children and the way they coped at school.

3.4. Reliability of instruments

Questionnaires helped the researcher to get a lot of information in a short period of time. With interviews, the researcher got all the required data since he was interacting with the respondents.

With library search, the researcher got all the necessary information related to the study through reading relevant books.

3.5. Data collection procedure

A letter of introduction from the Institute of Open and Distance Learning was sent to facilitate in the data collection exercise. The letter was handed to the head teacher before Questionnaires were distributed to pupils and interviews with the teachers. Local council

leaders were approached on how to organize the community members for focus group discussions. The data collected was sorted and categorized after which it was analyzed. Conclusions and recommendations were made.

3.6. Statistical treatment of data

The frequencies and percentages were used to determine the number of sample respondents used in the research process and the number that participated positively in contribution to the research.

Formula;

$$\text{Percentage (\%)} = \frac{F}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times 100$$

Total number of respondents

Where F = number of respondents

Observed

Qualitative analysis; Data from questionnaires was standardized hence requiring categorization. Such data was presented in a descriptive form above which was used to discuss the results of quantitative data.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter is a presentation; interpretation and discussion of the findings. The results are presented in form of tables and frequency counts and percentage. It focuses on parenthood and academic performance.

TABLE I :Socio-economic related factors to school dropout

TYPES/ FORMS OF POVERTY	POSITIVE	%	NEGATIVE	%	TOTAL
i. Those who go for bursaries	12	40	18	60	30
ii. Those with two or most children who did not complete school	18	60	12	40	30
iii. Those who have problems in fees payment	25	83.3	5	16.7	30
iv. Everybody lives below poverty line	30	100	0	0.0	30
v. Those who agreed their problems results	28	93.3	2	6.7	30

from poverty					
--------------	--	--	--	--	--

Source; Field survey

As per the results in average

$$\frac{12+18+25+30+28}{5} = \frac{113}{5} = 22.6$$

5

5

This is approximately equal to 23 parents out of 30 who filled the questionnaires. These 23 parents agreed in general that poverty is widespread in the community.

In percentage $23/30 \times 100 = 76.67\%$

And so 77% of the community members agreed that poverty is widespread in Nairutia ward.

Table I shows that only around 40% people get the bursaries. This is very little number because most of the population is poor. This number is very low if we compare the number of parents who have two or more children who did not complete their education due to lack of fees.

The table further reveals that more than 25 parents had problems in fees payments but they (pupils) did not drop out of school.

The table further shows that most of the community members live below the poverty line (income of one dollar a day)

Finally the table shows that about 93.3% of the community members agreed the main causes of their problems in poverty. This clearly shows how poverty is widespread in the area. So we can conclude that poverty is a threat to daily activities in Nairutia ward.

TABLE 2 On the relationship between poverty and enrolment

CAUSES OF LOW ENROLMENT	POSITIVE	PERCENTAGE	NEGATIVE	PERCENTAGE	TOTAL
i. Poverty	67	94.37	4	5.63	71
ii High Education cost	64	90.14	7	9.36	71
iii. Lack of facilities	57	80.28	14	19.72	71
iv. Drop out	57	80.28	14	19.72	71
v. Teachers	27	32.03	14	61.97	71

Source: field survey

Table 2 clearly shows that poverty is the major cause of low enrolment in S.D.S.S. It accounts for about 94% because all the first four items of table 4.2 (ie poverty, high education cost, lack of facilities and drop out rate) all poverty related or poverty originated problems)

As per this results therefore, poverty contributes significantly to the low school enrolment

than high cost of education which is related to poverty since if the community members are rich, then cost of education would not be a factor. Drop out from school and lack of facilities are other factors that affect enrolment. Here, the main contributing factor is poverty (which is widespread in the community), drug abuse, peer influence, unwanted pregnancies, lack of better school financial management which would support school development projects. Such as laboratories, libraries and workshops.

The teachers affect school enrolment to a very little or minute extent. The investigator noted that laxity of teachers, time wastage and their general conduct towards pupils may result to inadequate or minimal coverage of the syllabus and this might in the long run affect school enrolment.

If poverty and drop out rates are reduced, facilities put up and the cost of education subsidized the enrolment can be improved.

4.4 On the main causes of poverty.

From the questionnaires fill in by both the parent and the pupils the following results were obtained

TABLE 3 on main causes of poverty

CAUSES OF POVERTY	POSITIVE	PERCENTAGE	NEGATIVE	PERCENTAGE	TOTAL
i. Weather conditions	51	72.93	19	27.07	70
ii. Lack of resources	46	65.78	24	34.22	70
iii. Lack of government Aid	43	61.49	27	38.51	70
iv. Social problems	34	48.62	36	51.38	70
v. Lack of education	26	37.18	44	62.82	70

Source: field survey

Table 4 Clearly shows the above major cause of poverty.

- a. Lack of government assistance in provision of water, infrastructure, lack of market of their farm produce (milk, potatoes and maize) and lack of a cash crop.
This makes the community to believe that the only way out of poverty is through

government assistance, through provision of water, food and all weather roads and ready market for their little farm produce.

- b. Weather condition is the other main cause of poverty. The area often has a very long dry spell of drought and unpredictable weather that cause mass crop failure and by extension and death of their livestock.
- c. Lack of resources, this includes lack of capital, loan facilities and even knowledge that would help the community members initiate and maintain income generating activities.
- d. Social problems like lack of priorities, lack of knowledge on factors causing and means of overcoming those problems is another cause of poverty. Some community members also in antisocial behaviours eg drinking of alcohol, crime and other unconomical activities and other minor causes of poverty.
- e. Lack of education contributes to some extent on causing poverty. Though the investigator believe that this is the main cause of poverty, but the community members don't want to admit their low literacy level contribute to poverty.

4.5 Ways of Alleviating Poverty

Data presentation and analysis on ways of alleviating poverty, the researcher obtained the following results;

Table 4 on ways of alleviating poverty

MEANS OF FIGHTING POVERTY	POSITIVE	PERCENTAGE	NEGATIVE	PERCENTAGE	TOTAL
1. By education of youth and community	59	84.37	11	15.63	70
2. Employment of School leavers	52	74.36	18	25.64	70
3. Improvement of infrastructure, water supply_etc	47	67.21	23	32.79	70
4. Improved participation by N.G.O's to community	38	54.34	32	45.66	70
5. Improvement of security	3	4.29	67	95.71	70
6. Government improving the morale of farmers	8	11.44	62	88.56	70

Source: field study

The research found out that poverty can be fought in the following ways in Nairutia Ward.

By education of the youth and community members such that they can get enough means of fighting poverty. If the youth and community members can be educated, they would enhance their chances of being employed and hence increase their income and hence reduce their incidence of poverty.

Secondly if the school leavers are employed, their incomes would rise and their incidence would reduce. This is a good way of fighting poverty

Thirdly, if the infrastructure and water supply were improved then the community members would Be able to improve their food drop harvest and accessibility to market this produce. In the long run this would reduce their incidence of poverty.

Fourthly, on participation by NGO's to the community, this would enable the N GO's to understand to community's problems. The NGO's are believed to provide or assist the community with money or funds which would enable them to initiate income generating projects which would reduce poverty.

Finally, if the government improves the morale of farmers that could be by subsidies or farm inputs and provision of ready market, this would encourage farmers to realize high yield's and so achievements would be more. This leads to reduced poverty.

4.6 Effects of Poverty to the Society and the Nation at Large.

The researcher received the following result pertaining to the effect of poverty in achievement of National goals and societal goals.

Then will be increased social evils like violent robberies, prostitution, drug abuse to escape From the reality, mugging and collapse of the society coherence.

Rise in illiteracy levels which lead to unachievement of societal goals and finally national goals eg industrialization and provision for tapped water for all.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

In this chapter an attempt is made to discuss the findings and come up with conclusions and the recommendations there to.

5.1 Discussion and conclusions

One of the main outcomes of the study is the confirmation it has provided that teaching learning aids were impacting on the learning environment. These findings correspond with the findings of Kimuyu, P., Wagacha M., and Okwach, O. (2004) that the learning environment had dramatically changed on introduction of free primary education.

Another finding has been to the effect that other factors like socio-economic factors were contributing to the learning environment in general. One of these factors adversely affecting school attendance of children is poverty. Poverty may be due to low wages, unemployment, large family or the loss of family breadwinner. There are many ways in which extreme poverty might be expected to exert an influence on school attendance.

According to Kinyanjui, (2003), malnutrition and poor living conditions are bound to have an influence on the health of the child, and so directly or indirectly affect his ability to learn. Pre-natal damage may occur in the child as a result of inadequate pre- natal care limited incomes among lower class families have been found to restrict the provision of school books, building funds, and other necessary materials to ensure good performance and attendance at school.

On the other hand lower class families have been found to have lower aspiration for their children than upper class families due to opportunity cost of the child according to Michael Todaro (1977). Some of the studies have concluded that, the intellectual stimulation that reinforces the schooling experience is less likely to be present in lower income families; and that socio-economic background contributes to absenteeism and dropout rates

Rural studies in United States of America provided valuable insight that appeared to provide a most important factor governing the school attendance. McIntire, 1918 in effects of Agricultural Employment upon school attendance; and Folks (1920) reported a strong influence of seasonal farm demands on pupils' attendance.

From the findings of the study, the roles of boys and girls before and after school during harvests do influence their attendance at schools. Over 80% of the people in Kenya live in the rural areas, and derive their income from farming. It has therefore been observed by Raju B (1973). that poor families who cannot afford to employ casual labourers during land preparations, ploughing and harvesting draw their children from school to work on the family farm or look after cattle.

Studies in Tanzania by Mbilunji (1999) and others on the school community and class found that regional and locational effects are less important than the set up of the child's family background, traditional social structure, and stratification among peasant and traders in rural areas.

Sharma and Sapra (1971) in their Indian study, found drop outs and non drop outs to differ in their attendance rates. Pupils with less than 60% attendance rate were seen to be potential dropouts. Jamison and McNally (1975) found attendance to fluctuate with the farming calendar in rural areas.

According to researches done by Dentler (1965) the attributes that are considered as a disadvantage leading to dropout are only aspects of a general pattern of stratification but are circular statements of what is involved in school withdrawal. They pointed out that socio-economic disadvantage is the equivalent of an educational disadvantage which in turn is productive of poor school performance, repetition, disinterest and even withdrawal.

The concept of social class is useful because it refers to more than just the effect of parental education, occupation, incomes or any of a number of correlated variables that are used to measure socio- economic status.

Kohu, Melum, 1963 in his contribution on "Social class and Parental-child Relationship has pointed out that, "members of different social classes, by virtue of enjoying (or suffering) different conditions of life, come to see the world differently and to develop different conceptions of social reality, different aspirations, hopes and fears and different conceptions of the desirable".

The definition of social reality and its concomitant aspirations may be the root to explaining the barriers which operate to reduce educational participation of children from lower class origins relative to those from higher ones. Levin, H.M., 1976 concluded that there are those barriers that are within the school structure. Levin pointed out that the external barriers may include family expectation, limited incomes.

From the responses obtained, most of the teachers interviewed felt that FPE was a good idea, as it has given a chance to many pupils who would, otherwise, have been out of school. It has also allowed some adults who did not have a chance at their young age to go to school to be enrolled.

5.2 Recommendations

(i) The implementation of Free Primary Education is critical to the achievement of EFA, which is a key objective under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

(ii) The government must therefore continue to invest heavily and sustain FPE in order to provide an all inclusive education and training to all Kenyans irrespective of their region of origin, income status, gender, religion and any other disparities. It must invest in people by expanding access to schooling, targeting the neediest and providing safety nets for the working poor, those unable to work and special vulnerable and marginalized groups.

(iii)The government must therefore continue to invest heavily and sustain FPE in order to provide an all inclusive education and training to all Kenyans irrespective of their region of origin, income status, gender, religion and any other disparities,according to Araujo Caridad, Francisco Ferreira, and Norbert Schady (2004),it must invest in people by expanding access to schooling, targeting the neediest and providing safety nets for the working poor, those unable to work and special vulnerable and marginalized groups.

5.3 Areas of further research

Further research on the impact of socio-economic factors on academic performance needs to be carried out. A research on the impact of free primary education on teachers performance would certainly highlight the quality of education offered.

REFERENCES

- .Card, David (2001). "Estimating the return to schooling: Progress on some persistent econometric problems". In *Econometrica* 69 (5): 1127- 1160, September.
- Earthman, Glen I. (November 1998). The impact of school building condition on student achievement and behavior. Paper presented at the international conference, The Appraisal of Educational Investment, Luxembourg: European Investment Bank FAWE (2000) The Education of Girls and Women in Africa FAWE magazine publications.
- Gachiri, E. W. (2000). Female Circumcision: With Reference to the Agikuyu of Kenya Kolbe Press: Nairobi, Kenya.
- Joy C. Kwesiga (1990) Women's Access to Higher Education in Africa. Kampala Fountain Publishers.
- Kenya Ferguson Et Al (1993) Pregnant School Required to Discontinue Education for at Least One Year. Washington DC: National Academic Press.
- Mabala R. et al (1995): The Girl Child in Tanzania . Today's girl tomorrow's woman. Research report, 1995
- Manlove, Jennifer. 1998. "The influence of high school dropout and school disengagement on the risk of school-age pregnancy." *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 8(2): 187—220.
- Mbilinyi, M and Mascarenhas, O (1983): Women in Tanzania: An Analytical Bibliography. Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Uppsala SIDA, Stockholm
- Printed in Sweden by Motala Grafiska, Motala.
- Mbugua, (2000): Gender and HIV/AIDS: Social Mobilisation and the Role of Leaders.
- Mensch, Barbara S., Wesley H. Clark, Cynthia B. Lloyd, and Annabel S. Erulkar. 2001. "Premarital sex, schoolgirl pregnancy, and school quality in rural Kenya." *Studies in Family Planning*

- Ministry of Education Science and technology Copyright February (2001)
- Mukangara, F, and Koda, B (1997): Beyond Inequalities. Women in Tanzania. TGNP&SARDC, 1997. Printed by SCE Printing LTD. Mauritius
- Narayan, D et al (2000): Voices of THE POOR. Can Anyone Hear Us? Oxford University Press
- Ngugi Wa Thiongo (1996) The River Between: Nairobi Printing Press
- Report of the UNFPA-Organised Breakout Pannel, Africa Development Forum, Addis The Daily Nation. Wednesday 29th June 2003 Most Girls Are Left To Be Married Off At 15. Nairobi Nation Publication.
- UNESCO 2003 Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2003/4: Gender and Education for All, the Leap to Equality,”
- UNICEF (2000) Educating Girls ra sforming the Future. New York: UNICEF Publications.
- UNICEF (2000) Education for All, No Excuses. New York: UNICEF Publications.
- Walkerdine V., Lucey H. and Melody, J. (2001). Growing up girl: psychosocial explorations of gender and class. New York: New York University Press.
- World Bank (2000) Poverty and Vulnerability in Four Poor Urban Communities.’ Environmentally Sustainable Development Studies and Monograph Series No. 8. Washington, DC:

APPENDIX A: Questionnaire to the teachers

Dear Respondent,

I am student of Kampala International University carrying out an academic research on the topic “causes of school drop out on girls in Kabare zone, Kirinyaga district, Kenya. You have been randomly selected to participate in the study and you are therefore kindly requested to provide an appropriate answer by either ticking the best option or give explanation where applicable. The answers provided will only be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.
NB: Do not write your name anywhere on this paper.

Personal Information:

Sex

Male [] Female []

Age

18-25 [] 26-35 years [] 36 and above []

Poverty and drop out of girls

1. girls drop out of school because they cannot afford to pay for school fees

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

2. because of poverty girls have to sell produces in the market

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

3. because of poverty girls are married off

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

4. Girls engage in sexual activities because of poverty.

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

Parents' attitudes and drop out of girls

5. girls drop out of school because parents do not value their education

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

6. Parents think girls should get married

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

7. Because of negative attitudes girls are not encouraged to continue in school.

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

School environment and drop out of girls

8. The school environment is not safe for girls

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

9. girls are sexually harassed at school

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

10. The infrastructure of the school is not conducive

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [☐] Disagree [☐]

11. the sanitation of the school discourages girls to continue in school

Strongly agree [☐] Agree [☐]

Strongly disagree [☐] Disagree [☐]

12. teachers do not encourage girls to study

Strongly agree [☐] Agree [☐]

Strongly disagree [☐] Disagree [☐]

Traditional practices and drop out of girls

13. female genital mutilation hinders girls education

Strongly agree [☐] Agree [☐]

Strongly disagree [☐] Disagree [☐]

14. girls are married off because of culture

Strongly agree [☐] Agree [☐]

Strongly disagree [☐] Disagree [☐]

15. girls have to do all the chores at home

Strongly agree [☐] Agree [☐]

Strongly disagree [☐] Disagree [☐]

16. Girls are engaged in initiation ceremonies which hinders their education

Strongly agree [☐] Agree [☐]

Strongly disagree [☐] Disagree [☐]





Kampala International University
Institute of Open and Distance Learning
P O Box 20000 Kansanga, Kampala, Uganda
256 41 373 498/ 256 41 373 889 (Ug) 254 20246275 (Ke)
e-mail: efagbamiye@yahoo.com Tel: 0753142725

Office of the Director

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INTRODUCTION LETTER FOR MS/MRS/MR. PURITY W. MBUYI

REG. #. RED/10598/611DF

The above named is our student in the Institute of Open and Distance Learning (IODL), pursuing a Diploma/Bachelors degree in Education.

He/she wishes to carry out a research in your Organization on:

FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHOOL
DROPOUTS AMONG GIRLS
IN KABARE ZONE, KIRINYAGA
DISTRICT, KENYA

The research is a requirement for the Award of a Diploma/Bachelors degree in Education.

Any assistance accorded to him/her regarding research will be highly appreciated.

Yours Faithfully,

