

**FACTORS LEADING TO DROP OUT
AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KINANGOP
DISTRICT, KENYA**

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INTRODUCTION

- The secondary school segment in the education cycle of Kenya is important for three major reasons:
 - (a) It de-links one from elementary primary learning,
 - (b) It provides a chance for one to complete the cycle for basic education,
 - (c) It anchors as the springboard to either tertiary or higher learning.

Introduction continuation

- Despite many policies and strategies developed to enhance a smooth transition rate in school there are still some students who withdraw from school prematurely.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26, for instance states categorically that every one has the right to education (UNESCO, 1998).
- To achieve this, the Kenya government laid down policies and allocated money in the National budget to provision of education to her people (MOEST, 2005).

Introduction continuation

- Internationally, there is considerable variation in dropout rates, because different nations are in different stages of extending universal secondary education (UNESCO, 2010).
- Among developed countries the high school completion rates are generally as high, though the nature of the secondary programs varies considerably (Harrow, Caroline 2003).
- Rates in other countries lag behind those in developed countries, but secondary enrollments and graduation rates have been increasing worldwide (UNESCO, 2010).

Introduction continuation

- According to MOE (2007) completion rates in 2004 in secondary schools registered 91.5% for boys and 87.5% for girls.
- The girls registered 12.5% drop out.
- In spite of the government policies to enhance enrolments in secondary sub sector, the girl's participation, retention, transition and completion at secondary school education level are lower than boys.
- In 2004 the national Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) was 31.7% for boys and 27.3% for girls (MOE, 2007).

Introduction continuation

- According to Famba (2010) who is Nyandarua County Commissioner, school drop out rates had reached “alarming levels” in the district as a result of girls who had to leave school once they got into the family way prematurely (Famba, 2010).
- Specifically, singled out Ngano Secondary School where he said 14 girls in Form three and Form four had dropped out due to early pregnancies this year.

Statement of the Problem

- Education is a critical issue in a country's development process.
- This however can only be achieved when quality is offered to all citizens.
- Concerns, as has been shown in the introduction, have been raised in regards to the drop out rates at secondary school level.
- Therefore, The purpose of this study is to investigate factors leading to drop out among female students in secondary schools in Kinangop District, Kenya

Purpose of Study

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Objectives of the Study

- To determine the school based factors that lead to drop out of female students in secondary schools.
- (ii) To establish socio cultural factors that leads to drop out of female students in secondary schools.
- (iii) To establish student's personal factors that leads to drop out from secondary schools.
- (iv) To suggest possible ways of enhancing retention of female students in schools.
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Research Design

- This study employed a descriptive survey research design

Target Population

- The target population for this study consisted of all the 40 head teachers and 487 teachers from the 40 public secondary schools in Kinangop District.
- The District Education officer and the eight (8) Zonal Quality Assurance and Standards Officers (ZQASOs) in the district were also targeted.
- Therefore the total population for the study was 536 subjects.

Sampling Procedures and Sample Size

- From the 536 members of the target population, the researcher used proportionate sampling to select 126 participants.
- This formed 23.5% of the target population, which is in line with Gay's (1992) recommendation.
- Using proportionate sampling, there were 9 head teachers and 114 teachers. The 2 ZQASOs and one DEO were purposively selected.

Results and discussion

- The study established that there were students who drop out of secondary school due to:
 - pregnancy 51%
 - lack of school fees 40%
 - mistreatment by teacher 5%.
- The form 2 class registered the highest number of drop out of 60%.

Conclusion

- The conclusion from the findings is that female drop out from school is a reality in Kinangop District, Nyandarua county

Recommendations

- Provision of bursaries to girls
- community sensitization on the importance of girl child education
- girls encouraged to enroll back to school after delivery
- capacity building for the head teachers and teachers
- provision of bursaries and proper monitoring of schools by all stake holders.

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AND
GOODBYE