

FREE DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION: FACTORS CAUSING HIGH DROPOUT RATES OF STUDENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KIPKELION SUB-COUNTY, KERICHO COUNTY, KENYA.

BY

JOHANNES KIPKEMOI KOECH,

*T.M.O AYODO AND

**NELSON NYANGÁU NGARE

Author: Johannes Kipkemoi Koech, PHD student, Kabarak university and member of education management, Society of Kenya, P.O Box 001, Chesinende, tel no: 0722842694, email address: johanness.koech@gmail.com

CORRESPONDING AUTHORS:

*Professor T.M.O Ayodo, Dean of students, school of education, Kabarak University, P.O Box Private bag – 20157, Kabarak, tel no:0733793483

**Nelson Nyang'au Ngare, PHD student, Kabarak University, and member of education management, Society of Kenya, tel no: 0722810109, email address:nelngash@gmail.com

B ACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

- Education is a key pillar for development of any society.
- Apart from promoting national development, education also plays a key role in promoting national unity, equality, social justice and international consciousness.
- It has been established that there is a positive correlation between enrolment ratios and Gross National products (Harbinson and Myers, 1963). The higher the enrolment ratio a country has the higher the Gross national products (GNP) and vice versa and that is why most countries invest heavily in education.

B ACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM CONT...

- Bishop G.(1989), supported the idea of giving everybody their basic rights, essential rights to education which must be relevant because this is the main task confronting developing countries.
- In spite of free education poor families always find it difficult to meet out of pocket expenses, uniform, transport, books and earnings foregone and many other indirect costs for their children and this view is supported by UNICEF (1989).
- Transition rate from primary to secondary school has surpassed the projected 70% according to Republic of Kenya (2005). However, of this 30% of the students who enrol in secondary schools drop out before completing secondary cycle (Republic of Kenya 2005).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

- In spite of various efforts made by the government of Kenya so far to strengthen enrolment at various levels of education, the situation is still wanting.
- Although the response has been commendable, children who are out of school at the moment, comprise a very big percentage and one of the main reasons is high dropout rate
- In kipkelion sub county the dropout rate in secondary school varies between ten and fifteen percent.
- This study, therefore, was set to find out why dropout of students in kipkelion sub county is still a big challenge.

Objective of the study

- To Investigate causes of high dropout rates in secondary schools of kipkelion sub county.

Research question

- Which are the causes of high dropout rates in secondary schools of Kipkelion sub county?.

Significance of the study

- Assist the government and policy makers:
 - Establish alternative ways of increasing gross enrolment of students and ensure that enrolment growth rate is in phase with increasing population.
 - Assist the ministry of education in coming up with strategies required in the achievement of full enrolment of students in secondary school level.
 - Plan for education in future.

Methodology

Research design

- The study used *Ex post facto* research design
- In this design Events that have happened cannot be engineered nor manipulated (Kothari,2008).
- Events such as the number of students enrolled and those who have dropped out cannot be manipulated as they have already occurred.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

- Target population of 1600 F4 students, 25 head teachers from 25 secondary schools education officials.
- Sample 343 students from 19 secondary schools, 19 head teachers and education officials.

Results and discussion

Factors that contributed most to dropouts

- Unwanted pregnancies 78%
- Early marriages 69%
- Retrogressive cultural values 66%
- Poverty and lack of funds 61.5%

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- From the findings the greatest factors were:
 - early marriages,
 - teenage pregnancies
 - poverty.

Recommendations

- Full cooperation and concerted effort among key stakeholders such as head teachers, education officials and provincial administrators together with village elders to make sure no school going child roams in the villages instead of being in school.
- Student mothers encouraged to resume studies after delivery and culprits to face full force of the law.
- Government to increase amount of capitation for FDSE and do it on time to avoid delay.
- Sensitization of community on the importance of children education and avoid retrogressive cultures.

The end

- Thank you.