

Factors influencing dropout rates of students in Butula District Secondary schools

Abstract:

Education like other forms of investment in human capital, can contribute to economic development and social progress. The justification for this investment is that education is not only a basic right, but also a component of social and economic development. The Kenya government has placed certain measures to give education to its citizen for instance the introduction of free primary education (FPE). However, these efforts are undermined by internal inefficiency which finds expression in the wastage in form of drop out. It has been observed that despite increased expenditure in education and introduction of free primary education and subsidized secondary education, millions of children still have limited or no access to education and majority of those who join secondary school fail to complete. It was therefore necessary to carry out a study on internal inefficiency of secondary school system of education in order to establish factors that lead to drop out of students in Butula District. The objectives of the study were to determine the impact of parental support on students drop out, to investigate the effect of drug and substance abuse on students drop out and to investigate measures that can be used to control the dropout rate among others. Stratified random sampling techniques were used to select 15 schools out of 31 schools. Again stratified random sampling technique was used to draw 73 teachers from a population of 740, which is 10% of the study population according to Mugenda (1999). Data was collected using questionnaire for head teachers and teachers. The interview schedule was used to supplement information left out by questionnaire. Data from school records were analyzed to provide additional information. Data obtained was coded and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentage and then presented in form of frequency distribution tables and graphs. The study revealed the factors to be responsible for drop out of students in secondary schools to be-lack of parental support, school culture among others. The researcher recommends other studies to be carried out in purely boys and girls boarding schools. The findings from this study may provide reference material to educational administrators in Butula District and policy makers in ministry of education on how to curb the problem of drop out.