DETERMINANTS OF DROPOUT AMONG STUDENTS FROM SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HOMA-BAY DISTRICT

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BY

QUINTER AKEYO MBAI

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ABSTRACT

The study endeavors to establish the causes of drop out among secondary school students in Homa-Bay district. The research tried to establish whether economic, household and school based factors significantly contribute to the problem of drop out. The extent, causes, effects and suitable policy options of the phenomena were sought.

Literature review was organized under various sub headings. These were: Effects of Economic factors; School based factors; Household and Community based factors and HIV/ AIDS on school drop out. From the literature review, a conceptual framework was designed describing the variables and their expected directional effect on the output (school drop out).

A questionnaire was used as a research instrument. It targeted secondary school head teachers and students as respondents. The selected design for the study was ex-post facto design. Random sampling consisted of 18 head teachers and 122 students. The questionnaire return rate was 55 percent and 100 percent for the head teachers and students respectively. Descriptive statistics accompanied by use of frequencies, percentages and means were the basis of data analysis. The major findings of the study included among others: Inability to pay school fees; Poverty; Pregnancies; Family problems; Poor performance; Indiscipline and distance to school as causes of drop out among secondary school students in the district. Strengthening guidance and Counseling, increasing bursary allocation in the district; Introducing sex education in the syllabus; Inservicing of teachers; Educating parents and providing adequate
facilities were among the measures indicated by the respondents to minimize the dropout phenomena in the district.

Recommendations for the study were suggestive and spelt out the need to: review the secondary education in terms of its curricular content; review the financial policy of the sub sector i.e. the cost sharing policy, and to strengthen guidance and counseling in schools. Significantly the GoK, it was recommended, should move towards incorporating secondary education into basic education to enable the sub sector to benefit from all funding sources targeting basic education.

Finally suggestions for further research included a need to replicate the study using a wider sample of secondary schools in order to elicit a more accurate national perspective on drop out phenomena and conducting a qualitative research involving the drop outs themselves.