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**FACTORS LEADING TO DROP OUT AMONG FEMALE STUDENTS IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MATUNGULU ZONE OF MATUNGULU DISTRICT,
MACHAKOS COUNTY**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Students are important in any education system. They are the basic component for any school to be registered by the Ministry of Education. However the retention of these students within the education system is a great challenge. Female students face a lot of challenges within the school and outside the school such as lack of school fees, examination pass marks and discrimination at home and in school, which lead to drop out from school. The study therefore sought to establish the factors leading to drop out among female students in Matungulu Zone of Matungulu District. The objectives of the study were to estimate the independent and dependent factors leading to students drop out of school. The study employed descriptive survey research design. Stratified random sampling was used to select the boarding and mixed day schools where the girls sample came from. A sample of 78 form four girls, 5 class teachers and 5 head teachers formed the respondent in this study. The Area Education Officer was purposefully sampled. The study employed questionnaires and interview schedule as instruments for data collection. The validity and of the questionnaires was enhanced through pilot study in two schools outside Zone. Validity of the instrument was done by supervisors and examiners in Department of curriculum and instruction permit was sought from area education officer and the principals of the sampled school to carry out the study. Data collected was coded cleaned and categorized manually by researcher transferred to computer sheet and processed by use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences. The data was then analyzed using frequency distribution tables and percentages, for all items.