

**ANALYSIS OF FACTORS LEADING TO LOW ENROLMENT OF GIRLS IN
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KIVINGONI ZONE OF MACHAKOS COUNTY**

BY

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IN
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ABSTRACT

The governments of Kenya have made commitment to expand education for children by 2030. This is mainly in response to international conventions which recognize education as a necessity and a fundamental human right. Despite these efforts, wastage in form of drop outs and repetition inhibits the realization of the set goals particularly the Universal Secondary Education. Implementation of Free Secondary Education in Kenya in 2003 was a milestone but wastage is a challenge towards its achievement. The purpose of this study was to analyze the causes of low girl's enrolment in Secondary Schools in Machakos County. To look in to social issues that may contribute to girls low enrolment in Schools, the researcher analyzed Schools based behavior as a cause of girl's low enrolment. Finally the measures to curb low rate of enrolment among girls in Kivingoni Zone, Yatta Sub County. The study employed Gender Reform Feminism Theory also referred to as Liberal Feminism Theory. The theory attempts to understand the pervasive and persistent gender inequality and women's oppression in society (Hooks 200). The study adopted a descriptive survey study. The researcher selected five public Secondary Schools in Kivingoni Zone, Yatta Sub County. The target population of the study was 2000 girls, 1500 parents, 200 drop outs, 100 teachers and five principal. Through purposive sampling technique the researcher sample for the study comprised of 40 girls, 1 principal, 5 teachers, 20 drop outs and 20 parents. Thus, the sample size was 86 respondents. Data was collected by administering questionnaire schedules to girls, teachers and parents. Piloting of the research instruments was done by use of different people to check the validity and reliability of the instrument. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as means, percentages and frequencies. The research findings were presented using tables, figures and graphs. The study found that although the government provides free secondary education, some girls were forced to drop out of school due to various reasons. These reasons include pregnancies, labour (sand harvesting and house hold chores), early marriages, lack of interest in education, indiscipline and lack of parental concern. If these problems are not addressed, free secondary education introduced by the government may not achieve its intended goal of achieving literacy for all.