

INVESTIGATION OF FACTORS LEADING TO PRIMARY SCHOOL
GIRLS' DROP-OUT IN NDITHINI DIVISION, MASINGA DISTRICT,
MACHAKOS COUNTY: A CASE STUDY OF MATEMA PRIMARY
SCHOOL,

KAMAU P. MAINA
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Abstract.

The issue of gender equality in Kenya has become a paramount topic of discussion in many circles. The implementation of the new constitution (August 2010) has raised this topic a notch higher and the country is grappling with the 1/3 requirement in the constitution. This makes it ultimately important to research on the gender parity in the country. With education being a major ladder for both intellectual and financial development it is important to look at factors that hinder the development of female gender in education.

This study was to investigate the factors leading to high cases of dropout among girls in Ndithini Division of Masinga District. The study was a case study of Matema Primary School. Documents available reveal that the issue of Dropout among girls has been prevalent in the school and even after the introduction of the Free Primary Education (FPE) the situation on the ground remained the same. The study was exploratory in nature and used a descriptive survey design. The target population of the study was parents, teachers and learners of Matema Primary School of Ndithini Division in Masinga District. From this population the researcher randomly selected five teachers, 40 pupils, and twenty parents to take part in the study. The school headteacher was also included. Five sets of questionnaires were used for data collection. Descriptive statistics including frequencies and percentages were used for data analysis and the results summarised in pie charts, bar charts and tables. The study found that the girl child is disadvantaged as she is forced to dropout of school due to pregnancies, child labour, early marriages, lack of interest in education, indiscipline and lack of parental concern. These problems must be addressed if we are to achieve literacy for all.