

**CAUSES OF HIGH DROP OUT RATE AMONG FEMALE
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KITUI WEST
DISTRICT**

NAME: ONESMUS MWENDWA NGILE

REGISTRATION NO: BEDA/000513/1122/06131

**RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE IN
EDUCAITON IN MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 2015

Abstract

Education is a critical issue in any country's development process. This, however can only be achieved when quality education is offered to all citizens. Despite many policies and strategies developed to enhance smooth transition rate in schools, there are still some students who withdraw from schools pre-maturely, hence, this proposal examines the state of female student's enrollment in secondary schools and the major factors that contribute to drop-out rates of these female students before completion of the course. The objectives of this study was to determine the school based factors that lead to drop out of female students from secondary schools, to establish socio-cultural factors that lead to drop out of female students in these secondary schools and the possible ways of enhancing retention of female students increases from time to time, there is a wide gap between the two sexes. Different factors were found to contribute to the high drop-out rate among these female students including socio-cultural factors, school based factors and personal factors which include absenteeism, poor performance, pregnancies among others. Moreover, the dismissal rates of female students are greater than males. However, various intervention measures can be put in place to ensure that these students stay in school including, taking affirmative action across various ministries and all levels of education, and conducting assertiveness training which is a behavior technique to help students develop necessary social skills to manage interpersonal and academic situations more effectively. This study employed descriptive survey method and used data collection tools including questionnaires, interview schedules and observation. The researcher distributed and collected questionnaires, interview schedules and observation. The researcher distributed and collected questionnaires upon completion by respondents where closed-ended and open ended questions were asked. The qualitative and quantitative data was presented through table, charts, histograms and discussions. After collecting and analyzing data it was concluded that the major school based factors that lead to dropout among female students was unavailability of learning resources which scooped 40%, also the major socio economic factors which was found to contribute to dropout of female students was poverty with 40% followed by gender equality and economic down turn and drought with and 30% and 20% respectively. Furthermore the major personal factor found to contribute to dropout among female students was pregnancy with 50% followed by financial difficulties and academic failures with 30% and 10% respectively. One of the main ways used in enhancing retention of females' students in schools was found to be establishing guidance and