

**STRATEGIES USED BY SCHOOL MANAGERS TO
INVOLVE PARENTS IN THE GIRL CHILD EDUCATION
IN WAJIR COUNTY, KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT

Parental involvement in a child's education is a fundamental right and obligation. A girl child cannot develop optimally at school if the parents are not co-operating with the schools. The purpose of this study was to examine the strategies used by school managers to involve parents in educating the girl child in Wajir County in North-Eastern Region of Kenya. The study was based on the following objectives; i) To find out the strategies used by school managers to involve parents in girl child education. ii) To assess the contributions of parents level of education in handling or addressing the education of the girl-child. iii) To come up with workable recommendation strategies that school managers can use to improve and create awareness among the parents on their role in educating the girl child. A descriptive research survey design was used to gather information on peoples' attitude, opinions and habits. The study was based on parent investment theory by Fisher. The area of study was Wajir County, NEP. A pilot study was carried out in the neighboring Garrisa County after the items were discussed with the supervisor to rule out ambiguity in its measurement. Purposive sampling was used to select four secondary schools due to their accessibility. Simple random sampling was used to obtain 160 students respondents, out of a population of 5000, eight teachers, four principals and eight PTAs. Data from teachers and secondary school girls was collected using questionnaires. Interview guides were used for collecting data from principals and PTAs. An observation schedule was used in all cases to collect the researcher's observations. The correlation of 0.9 was attained using the Pearson Product Coefficient on the questionnaires used. Data collected was then analysed using SPSS (version 21.0). The qualitative data collected using inferential statistics was analysed using content analysis based on meanings and implications emanating from the responses. Data was represented using tables, bar graphs and pie charts. It was analysed using descriptive statistics. The study revealed strategies used by school managers to involve parents in girl child education are mobilization, sensitization of parents, dealing with disciplinary measures softly and meeting the daily needs of the girls. The study found out that some of these techniques are quite ineffective. The study found out girl child participation in education has been improving in Wajir County despite the fact that it's not supported by the parents. Most girls within the geographical area did not aspire for higher education due to lack of parental support and financial constraints. Most cultural practices were found not to be a threat to girl child education as they are dying off. The school managers try to involve parents in girl child education through mobilization and sensitization of the parents. The study recommended that school managers and community leaders put in place appropriate policies such as motivation and sponsorship to higher education for the development of girl child education. Others were chiefs and community leaders to be educated on importance of parental involvement in girl child education, setting up gender and education task forces to work in all nomadic places to empower the girl child and providing basic adult education for the parents and investing more in girl-child education in ASAL areas. This will widen the access to quality education for all girls in such areas.