

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CONTRIBUTION OF TOURISM IN GIRL-CHILD
EDUCATION. A CASE STUDY OF MALINDI DISTRICT, KILIFI COUNTY- KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Studies done in Kenya and elsewhere have identified the problem of neglect shown to the girl-child in equal access and opportunity provision in the job market. Dropout rates among the girl-child still remains a major problem facing education system in Kenya and while some advancement have been made, the gap to be covered to realize the ideal is still very long and demanding. Kilifi County is 30% as compared to male that enjoy the higher rate of 70%. This low literacy rate when compared to the national literacy rate of 42% of female and male at 58% shows that a higher number of illiteracy mothers of the 21st century will be from the area. With tourism and many organizations both governmental and non-governmental fighting so hard to bridge this gap, there is tremendous improvement and we hope in the future, we shall not have only men as the bread winners which is now the case in the region. Tourism has given a priority of the girl-child education through fees provision and scholarships to the needy and bright girls in the society. However, despite its tremendous contribution towards the realization of girl-child education in the region, we cannot forget the evils that the tourism sector has done to our girls before the injuries pending that affect their education negatively. Many studies done before show that tourism did a lot in pushing girls out of their school system. Girls believed that an engagement with a European was a direct way to success. The specific objectives of the study was to find out the contribution of the tourism sector in impacting the girl child education and also rebuke the evils associated with tourism activities that undermine the girl child from accessing education. The study adopted the ex post facto research design that was convenient to the research and assisted the researcher in showing how the above factors explain the topic under research. The target population of the study was the 7200 secondary school girls, head teachers in the 45 schools found in the district, 30 executive managers from the Tourism Board of Kenya. Probability sampling technique and random sampling were to select 150(2.083%) girls, the study also sampled 24(2.66%) of teachers, 5(11.11%) head teachers, and 5(16.67%) of executive managers. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, percentages were calculated and data presented in form of tables, bar graphs and charts. The study found out that there are a number of tourism factors affecting the girl child both positively and negatively. The study thus recommends the County government of Kilifi and Kenya as a whole to monitor tourist's activities in place.