

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SCHOOL DROP OUT AMONG
PRIMARY SCHOOL GIRLS IN KILIFI COUNTY: A CASE
STUDY OF MTWAPA LOCATION**

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ABSTRACT

When children are enrolled in primary schools they are almost at par in terms of numbers but as they progress with their studies girls seem to drop out of school than their male counterpart. This tendency has been there for many years therefore there was need for carrying out a research to find out what factors may be contributing to girls dropping out of school. The general objective of the study was to establish factors leading to school dropouts among primary school girls the case study being Kilifi County, Mtwapa Location. The three variables tested were; cultural practices, parent/guardian level of income and adolescence challenges. Functionalism and psychosocial development theories were used in the study to explain the variables. Descriptive research design was used to correct data from the existing sources. Simple random and snow ball sampling procedure was used in the study to sample the primary and secondary respondents who included parents of girls who had dropped out of school and guidance and counseling teachers who were selected purposively. Data was collected through questionnaires where both closed and open ended questions were asked to the respondents to solicit information. The findings revealed that all the three variables tested contribute in girls dropping out of school in primary schools. Cultural practices especially low value placed on girls' education played a significant role in girls dropping out of school. Many parents attached greater significance to boys education as compared to that of girls. Parents' level of income also played a great role since most parents of the interviewed girls earned little making it difficult to make ends meet hence many girls were expected to undertake income generating activities especially over the weekend this denied them ample chance to carry out their studies. Adolescence challenges where girls would lack decent sanitarians led to many failing to attend their classes opting to remain at home during their monthly menses every month hence them lagging behind in their academic performance and finally dropping out of school.