

**CAUSES OF LOW RETENTION OF GIRL CHILD IN PRIMARY SCHOOL; A  
CASE STUDY OF KIVINGONI PRIMARY SCHOOL IN YATTA SUB COUNTY OF  
MACHAKOS COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

Many governments have made commitment to expand educational opportunities for children by 2015. This is mainly in response to international conventions which recognize education as a necessity and a fundamental human right. Despite these efforts, wastage in form of drop outs and repetition inhibits the realization of the set goals particularly the Universal Primary Education. Implementation of Free Primary Education in Kenya in 2003 was a milestone but wastage is a challenge towards its achievement. The purpose of this study was to analyze low girl retention primary schools in Machakos County. The study employed Gender Reform Feminism Theory also referred to as Liberal Feminism Theory. The theory attempts to understand the pervasive and persistent gender inequality and women's oppression in society, (Hooks 2000). The study will adopt a descriptive survey design. The researcher selected one public primary school in Yatta Sub County. The target population of the study was two hundred girls, one hundred fifty parents, two hundred drop outs, ten teachers and one head teacher from Kivingoni primary school. Through purposive sampling technique the researcher sample for the study comprised of forty girls, one head teachers, five teachers, twenty drop outs and twenty parents. Thus, the sample size was eighty six. Data was collected by administering questionnaire schedules to girls, teachers and parents. Piloting of the research instruments was done by use of different people to check the validity and reliability of the instrument. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as means, percentages and frequencies. The research findings were presented using tables, figures and graphs. The researcher established that early pregnancies, child labour, early marriages, lack of interest in education, indiscipline and lack of parental concern are some of the causes of more retention of girls in public primary school.