

**CAUSES OF LOW ENROLMENT OF GIRL CHILD IN SECONDARY
SCHOOLS OF MANDERA WEST SUB-COUNTY IN MANDERA
COUNTY-KENYA**

BY

MR MOHAMED ABDIKADIR HAJI

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ABSTRACT

The overall policy goal of education for the Kenyan Government is the provision of education and training to all Kenyans as it is fundamental to the Government's overall development strategy. This emphasis means that every Kenyan has the right to education and training no matter his/her socio-economic status. The Government has therefore allocated substantial resources and there has been notable achievements attained, but the sector still faces major challenges related to access, equity, and quality amongst others (Session paper no. 1 2005:2). One of these major challenges to access is the existence and persistence of retrogressive traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM).

The first concern of this study is that despite the immense awareness of the dangers on the victims in many aspects in life, and efforts to stamp it out, FGM still persists and thrives in many parts of the country to date.

Secondly, there is an ever growing gender disparity in Mandera west sub-county, whereby women professionals are hard to come by. In fact transition of girls to higher learning institution such as college and university is hardly seen since in this part of arid and semi arid area (ASAL) where girls are value of dowry she bring thus subjected to early marriage.

The study was carried out to analyze the specific factors that are responsible for the low enrolment of the female students at 'O' Level secondary schools in Mandera West District. The study indicated that the enrolment of female students at 'O' level secondary schools is still poor. This was found to be due to the following; negative attitudes of the parents towards girl child education, low income level of the families (poverty), internal and external school environments, negative attitude of learners towards education, early marriages, peer influence among others.

These causes were discussed and a conclusion arrived at and the recommendations made towards improvement of the sorry situation in schools within the district. Some of the recommendations include; sensitizing parents about the importance of educating girls. This can be done through workshops and seminars organized by the schools in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, subsidizing the school fees especially in the rural areas where the effect of poverty is largely adverse. Also schools should solicit funds from donors, well wishers and NGOs so as to relieve the poor parents of the burden of fees.