

**INFLUENCE OF HOME-BASED FACTORS ON DROPOUT RATES OF
STUDENTS IN CO-EDUCATIONAL PUBLIC DAY
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN RONGAI
DISTRICT, NAKURU
COUNTY, KENYA**

JACKLINE SIGEI

**A Research Project submitted in Partial Fulfillment for Master of Education Degree in
Educational Planning, Management and Administration of
MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

NOVEMBER, 2012

ABSTRACT

Education is the cornerstone of economic growth and social development. It also helps to reduce poverty by increasing the value of efficiency of labor offered by the poor and mitigating the population, health and nutritional consequences of poverty. Thus education is a very important part of human beings. This study was set to investigate the influence of home based factors on dropout rates of students in co- educational public- day secondary schools in Rongai District, Nakuru County, Kenya. The study was guided by Vroom's expectancy theory. The objectives of the study were; to identify the home based factors that cause dropouts, to establish whether there was any relationship between the respondents' sex and their responses on the causes of dropouts and finally to recommend ways that could be used to curb the dropouts. The study population consisted of 755 Form 3 students and 8 head teachers in 8 co educational public day secondary schools in Rongai District. The sample size consisted of 169 students which were randomly selected and 8 head teachers from all the selected schools respectively. The quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and was presented in the form of tables and pie charts respectively. The use of Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) was extensively used by the researcher in statistical analysis, data management (case selection, file reshaping, creating derived data) and data documentation. Descriptive statistics was attained through cross tabulation, frequencies, and descriptive ratio statistics. The highest causes of dropouts were identified as those caused by early marriages and teenage pregnancy respectively. On the ways that could be used to curb the dropouts, a high number of respondents identified parents being informed on the importance of education as the most effective. Several recommendations have been made in relation to the findings. For instance, the girls who get pregnant while in school should be monitored by the school administration to ensure that they are re admitted back to school. It is expected the findings of this study will help all the stake holders in the field of education to improve the dropout rates and consequently the quality of education in Kenyan secondary schools.