

**INFLUENCE OF CHILD LABOUR ON PUPILS ENROLMENT AND RETENTION
IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ESAGERI DIVISION, BARINGO
COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of child labour on pupil's enrolment and retention in public primary schools in Esageri Division, Baringo County. Despite the implementation of free primary education programme by the government of Kenya in January 2003, the rate of drop out among school going children especially girls has continued to rise. The study was guided by ERG Theory. The study employed a descriptive survey design. The study population comprised all standard seven pupils, teachers, head Teacher, Area Education Officers and School Management Committee in the Year 2012. The target population was 17 public primary schools, 165 teachers and 680 pupils in Esageri division. The researcher used purposive sampling and simple random sampling techniques to select five core educational public primary schools out of 17 schools. Piloting was done to test the reliability and validity of the instruments in order to improve the reliability. The researcher used test-retest techniques; where by the questionnaires were administered twice to the same group with a time span of one and a half weeks. The Cronbach Alpha reliability test would be performed on the undertaken questions at a reliability co-efficient of 0.7 and above. Data was analysed by use of descriptive statistics in form of percentage, frequency, mean and tables. From the findings in the Table 12, it shows that the pupils were send by their parents to work in other people's farm in order to get money to purchase food. This is because this region is found in ASAL area and the amount of rainfall experienced is below 500mm per year. The study findings indicated that, the objective of the study was achieved. Table 11 shows that, the girls were in class seven were in class at the beginning of the term and as the term ended, some girls had dropped out of school. This findings were found in class register of the previous term two 2012. In addition to these inferential statistics in form of t- test was also used. The study finding were beneficial to head teachers and the community at large because the cases of drop outs could be reduced. It also helps curriculum developers such as Kenya institute of education to come up with curriculum materials to be used in public primary schools. The research findings recommended that the government should fully offer free primary education and create awareness to the parents and all stakeholders. The study stimulated further research in the field.