

**FACTORS LEADING TO LOW ENROLMENT OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS IN MANDERA WEST, NORTH EASTERN PROVINCE, KENYA.**

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**REG. NO. E35S/09/05946**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL  
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF ARTS  
EDUCATION OF MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY IN KENYA**

**AUGUST, 2012**

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## ABSTRACT

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.

The schools administration in conjunction with the ministry of education should improve on the conduciveness and accommodative nature of the school environment. Adequate learning materials and resources should be availed to improve on the attractive learning environment which enhances learners' interest, motivation and retention at schools.

The school administration should liaise with the local community and the ministry of education to create awareness and discourage early marriages and early pregnancies of school age girl children which impede their education hence leading to their drop out

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