

**CAUSES OF HIGH DROPOUT AND ITS IMPACT ON ACCESS
TO EDUCATION AT PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL IN
SAMBURU EAST DISTRICT, SAMBURU COUNTY,
KENYA**

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MED 110/01048

**A Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of
Education in Educational Planning, Management and
Administration of Mount Kenya University**

Mount Kenya University

November, 2011

ABSTRACT

Dropping out of school culminates a long-term process of disengagement from school and has profound social and economic consequences for students, their families and communities at large. Students who drop out of school are most likely to suffer from direct and indirect benefits of education and be on public assistance. Most likely these persons depend on casual wages, become public liabilities and in most situations end up in prison. This study was undertaken to critically investigate causes of high dropout rate and its impact on access to education in primary school level Samburu East, Samburu County. Through random sampling, the researcher selected eight schools from which one head teacher; eight (8) teachers and twenty five (25) pupils were sampled from each school. In addition five parents, two drop-outs and the chairperson of the Parents Teachers Association (PTA) were sampled and filled the interview schedule in order to enrich the data collected. Descriptive survey research design was used as a major research design. In addition quantitative and qualitative research designs were used to help the researcher gather information from the non-readers (Orodho, 2008). The researcher envisaged the use of questionnaires and interview schedule to enable adequate collection of data from the respondents. The locale of the study was Samburu East, Kenya. The locale was suitable for this study because the public primary schools in this area have been receiving enormous enrolment in the lower primary level and high dropout rate by standard four to standard eight. The study covered 17 public primary schools in Samburu East. Data was analyzed using themes, inferential and descriptive statistics to give the analysis an elaborate outcome. The findings were that poverty was envisioned by all respondents as the leading force behind pupils dropping out of school and therefore the government should start projects to enhance economical activities to enable the residents to generate income to alleviate the poverty level in the area. A comparative study on other communities with similar cultural activities should be made to investigate the long term impact of cultural, physical and food security on education and economic development of the regions.