

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POOR ENROLLMENT OF GIRLS IN
TECHNICAL ENGINEERING COURSES IN TECHNICAL INSTITUTES
AND YOUTH POLYTECHNICS IN TAITA TAVETA COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

This research was a comparative study of factors that cause poor enrolment of girls in technical engineering courses in Taita Taveta County, their effects and the possible solutions to the problems. The topic was chosen since there are very few girls who are enrolled to study technical engineering courses in technical institutes and youth polytechnics leading to very few qualified women in the sector and thus bringing about gender disparity in the country. This has to be worked on in order to bring gender parity everywhere in the country be it in institutions or places of work. The researcher analyzed the research into five distinctive chapters. The researcher adopted Ruth Pearson's theoretical frame work of thinking on gender relations in her research. The research was a descriptive and it involved a targeted population of four technical institutions and the local people in Taita Taveta County. Data collection methods involved issuance of questionnaires and interview guide. The questionnaires used were open ended and close ended. The simple random sampling was the method used to analyze the data whereby a sample of four colleges was selected. Data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively in form of tables. The findings of this research are useful to the managers of institutions who are involved in admission of qualified learners in their institutions, parents or guardians whose children are eager to study technical engineering courses, institutions that offer employment to qualified personnel in engineering courses, the government and other researchers as well. The findings showed that there were major factors contributing to poor enrolment of girls in technical engineering courses. The researcher will give some recommendations to that effect to curb this menace. The education implementers will also benefit from this information as they may use it to ensure that there is gender parity in technical engineering sector which is dominated by male in the institutions as students and at the places of work. As a matter of fact Technology education policy-makers and implementers need to examine ways of increasing enrolment in their programmes in order to avoid future breakdowns.