

ABSTRACT

The aim of the study was to investigate the causes of primary school dropout by considering a number of factors. That is school based factors, home based factors or the in between factors. That is school based factors, home based factors or the in between factors. The researcher was guided by the following specific objectives; to find out what leads to primary school dropouts, to determine whether social, environmental or economic factors are to blame for primary school dropouts, to establish the effects of family background to the pupil's life in school to identify the reasons for increased dropout among the pupils in primary schools, investigate the effect of school dropout among the pupils on learning and examine the role played by the society in addressing the problem. Education plays an important role in socializing the individual to fit and participate adequately in development of the society. The study aims at investigating the causes of primary dropout in public primary schools in Kithyoko zone, Masinga Sub-County in Machakos County. The study was done due to allegations of increased pupil dropout rate causing wastage. It is opted that the result of the study will contribute immensely to better understanding of the causes of school dropout in primary schools. Knowledge of the causes will provide a frame work upon which the solutions to the problem of the learners dropping out of school will be provided. Concerted efforts from all stakeholders in the educational process of the learners, their parents, teachers as well as policy makers will be vital. The study will be conducted in Kithyoko Zone, Masinga Sub-County of Machakos County.

The descriptive survey research design was used in the research. An introductory letter was obtained from the DEO to enable the researcher carry out the research. Data collection tools consisted of questionnaires, observation checklist and interviews. The researcher administered questionnaires to parents, pupils, class teachers and school administrator's. Class registers were examined to check pupil's class attendance and dropouts. The sample consisted of 12 schools. Purposive sampling was employed to get the 12 schools. The data was analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods. This included statistics, percentages, frequencies and means.