

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTORS LEADING TO HIGH RATE OF EARLY
SCHOOL DROPOUT IN PRIMARY EDUCATION WITHIN MAARA DISTRICT
MERU COUNTY.**

BY

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Abstract

Despite the many efforts put in place by the government to ensure efficient learning in schools, there are many factors that may have led to increased rate of school dropout in primary school education. Early primary education is recognized as critical stage in laying firm foundation of human life. Many studies by child development psychologists reveal that quality care and education during early childhood sets the stage for later success and character development which can last for life time (Ngome 2002). To this end, the purpose of this study was to investigate factors leading to increased rate of school dropout in primary school education in Maara district. Some of these factors that have led to increased rate of school dropout are HIV/AIDS, free primary education (FPE), negative parental attitude towards Education and poverty status. The study will adopt a descriptive design while collecting the data. The target population that will be involved will be 300 individuals. The researcher will sample schools using purposive sampling techniques using the criteria of public day schools. From the sampled schools an equal number of pupils (80) per school, 10 teachers per school, 5 parents and 5 caregivers will be selected using simple random sampling techniques.

Questionnaires will be administered to the various groupings so as to collect data. Finally, both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used to analyze the information obtained from the field and the findings communicated accordingly to the interested parties.