

**FACTORS INFLUENCING FEMALE DROP OUTS IN PRIMARY
SCHOOLS IN GATANGA ZONE IN GATANGA DIVISION,
GATANGA DISTRICT OF MURANG'A COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The research topic was on the factors influencing girls' dropouts in primary schools. The research study specific objectives were: Identifying factors that influences primary school girls drop outs, to determine the effects experienced by girls who dropped out of primary schools, to examine the primary school girls' drop out prevalence rate and to identify the intervention measures in curbing primary schools girls' dropouts. The study adopted qualitative and quantitative research designs. The target populations in the research study were primary school head teachers', assistant chiefs, parents and pupils (girls who had dropped out of school).The research study was carried out in Gatanga zone of Gatanga District of Murang'a County. The research study used questionnaires for the head teachers and assistant chiefs and interviews for the parents and the girls who had dropped out of school in raw data collection. The pilot study was carried out in the pilot schools, Gatura and Elimambo primary schools. The researcher targeted primary schools, primary school parents, primary school head-teachers, Assistant chiefs and girls' who had dropped out of primary schools.

The researcher drew conclusions from the data like, Classes' repetition, gender status and lack of interest in learning were the main causes/factors that had influenced primary school girls' dropouts in Gatanga zone as evidenced in table 1 and figure 1, early marriages were the main effects experienced by girls who dropped out of primary schools in Gatanga zone as it was cited by the highest percentage of girls who had dropped out of school (62.5%), the researcher also noted that the prevalence rate of primary school girls' dropout was high. This was so because, 3 (60%) of the assistant chiefs reported that prevalence rate of girls dropouts was high in the zone.