

**ROLE OF ECONOMIC STATUS IN ENHANCING ACCESS TO  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS EDUCATION: A CASE OF MBOONI WEST  
SUB COUNTY, MAKUENI COUNTY**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

The study aimed at determining the role of economic status in enhancing access to secondary school education. It also determined the effects of low levels of income, established the effect of high levels of illiteracy among parents and find out how prolonged drought spells affected the attendance of secondary school education in Mbooni West sub-county, Makueni County.

The study aimed at providing information and insight to future educationist who might need to research in the same area and to help the government and the NGOs working in the area to develop policies that can ensure that the attendance of secondary school is not affected by economic status in the area and the stakeholders.

Font should be the same

The study focused on the relevant activities of Mbooni West Sub- County, Makueni County and it included the residents, teaching staff, head teachers and education officers. Through random stratified sampling method the researcher selected 110 respondents. Data was collected through the administering of questionnaire to the respondents. Quantitative and qualitative techniques of data analysis were used to collect data and the findings were presented through charts, tables and graphs for simple understanding of the findings. The study tried to find out; low levels of income, level of illiteracy, large extent prolonged spells of drought spell and availability of schools whether they affected attendance of secondary school education or not.

The study found out that low levels of income affect attendance of secondary school education to a large extent. Most of the respondents felt that a low level of income among parents was responsible for the low rates of attendance in secondary schools because most of the parents cannot afford to pay school fees for their children.

Most of the respondents felt that high level of illiteracy affect attendance of secondary school education to a large extent.

The study concluded that; there is need for the government and the leadership in the area to raise the income of the residents in order for them to be economically productive and raise their levels of income so that they can afford the required school fees that is needed for their children in the secondary schools. The local leadership needs to sensitise the communities on the importance of taking their children to school and explain the residence on the importance of education and how it is going to improve their lives.

There is need for the government to build as many secondary schools in order for the schools to be available to all children in the area in order to reduce the long distances that the children travel to school.