

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL DEMAND AND ACTUAL SUPPLY OF
SECONDARY EDUCATION IN GILGIL SUB COUNTY, KENYA**

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Abstract

High population growth and increasing primary school completion rates has increased the number of children seeking opportunities for enrolment in secondary school education in Kenya. Yet, there are insufficient opportunities to enroll all eligible children leading to overcrowding in public secondary schools and exclusion of large number children. There is need to expand secondary school education in line with increasing potential demand. No study has been carried out to assess the extent of the mismatch between potential demand and actual supply of secondary school education to justify the need for construction of new schools and expansion of existing ones to increase opportunities for enrolment. This study assessed the potential demand and actual supply of secondary school education with the objective of determining whether there was a mismatch and the extent thereof in Gilgil Sub County, Kenya. Descriptive survey design was used to plan the structure of the study. The representative sample was 100 respondents selected using mixed method sampling from the forty two secondary schools and the Sub County Education Office. Purposive sampling was used to select the Sub County Education Officer, the Quality Assurance and Standards Officer, twenty six secondary school principals and ten private school proprietors. Sixty two teachers sampled from a population of 357 teachers in Gilgil Sub County based on a formula by Kathuri and Pals (1993) were selected from a public and private school quota of 3:1 then randomly within each school category. Data was collected using questionnaires with a reliability coefficient of 0.83 based on a reliability test using Cronbach's alpha coefficient, interview and observation schedules and document analysis. Data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17.0 and Microsoft excel 2010. Findings at the time of the study suggested that Gilgil sub county had 15, 943 children of secondary school going age. The potential demand for secondary school education was 11, 432 children out of which 9, 136 completed primary education in Gilgil Sub County. The actual supply of secondary school education in Gilgil Sub County was 16, 176 opportunities of which public and private schools had 9,168 and 7, 008 opportunities respectively. There were 3,354, 4, 620 and 8,202 opportunities in boys only, girls only and mixed schools respectively. In conclusion, there was a surplus of 6,067 opportunities for enrolment in the twenty six public (2, 128) and sixteen private (3, 939) schools. Boys only public schools were overcrowded, girls only public schools had a surplus of sixty nine opportunities while mixed public schools had a surplus of 2, 107 opportunities. There was surplus supply of opportunities in boys only (648), girls only (2, 833) and mixed (458) private schools. High infrastructure costs, low capitation per student, competition for students with high K.C.P.E. marks, and inability of parents to pay fees significantly affected how schools responded to the mismatch between demand and supply of secondary education. The study recommended for the construction of more boys' only and girls' only public secondary schools, the setting up of a public-private partnership mechanism to promote proper utilization of facilities in private schools. The study made significant contribution to how to rationally plan for supply of opportunities in secondary school education through an assessment of the potential demand and actual supply.