

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HIGH DROP OUT RATE IN PUBLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOLS IN ICHAGAKI ZONE, MURANG'A COUNTY.**

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ABSTRACT

Education plays an important role in socializing the individual to fit and participate adequately in development of the society. The study aimed at investigating on the factors contributing to high dropout of pupil in public primary schools in ichagaki zone of Murang'a County. The study was reckoned due to the allegations of increased pupil dropout rate in public primary schools causing wastage and affecting the quality of the school curriculum implementation. To carry out that study, research objectives were developed basing on:-The extent to which school environmental factors influenced primary school dropout rate, the rate on gender dropout, the influence of social cultural related factors on school dropout and the influence of parents' socio-economic status on school dropout in ichagaki zone of Murang'a County. The study adopted descriptive survey design. The study targeted 9 head teachers, 133 class teachers and 108 school committee members from nine schools. Andrew fisher's method (1994) was used to determine the sample size. Out of this target population, a sample size of 5 head teachers 85 class teachers, and 60 Committee members were selected. Data were collected using head teachers', class teachers' and school committees' questionnaires to gather information on the causes of school dropout. Data were analyzed by use of descriptive statistics and the findings presented inform of figures and tables. The study findings indicated that poor performance, forced class repetition, indiscipline, influence of drug abuse, marriage and pregnancy were the main causes of school dropout. It further pointed out that the factors leading to the dropout of girls are different from those for boys. The study therefore recommend that the government and other stakeholders should address the issue of school dropout rate and come up with measures to curb it to avoid wastage of school curriculum resources and facilities and above all, wastage of them would be future leaders full of discovery knowledge for this current era of information and technology.