

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO BOYS DROP OUT IN PUBLIC SECONDARY
SCHOOLS IN MUTHAMBI DIVISION, MAARA DISTRICT, THARAKA NITHI
COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

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ABSTRACT

There are a number of challenges that face the delivery of secondary education in Kenya, and some of them have led to wastage. This is in form of declining completion rates, repetition and drop out of school. If the dropout rates goes unchecked, the problem will hinder the attainment of Education for All (EFA) goals which the government aims at meeting by the year 2015. The purpose of this study was to establish the factors responsible for the dropout problem among boys in public secondary schools in Muthambi Division, Maara District, and assessed the measures that have been adopted to curb the problem. The focus was on the boys in secondary schools which is terminal to many students and which can provide good employment opportunities especially with addition of further training. In chapter two of this study, the researcher reviewed previous studies on dropouts, which were conducted in both rural and urban areas. These studies included Wandera (2004), in Nairobi Province, Nzuki (2004), in Kibwezi Division, Gachungi (2005) in Nyeri District and Rono 1990 in Nandi District. Their findings showed presence of dropouts in their areas. These findings could not be generalized to apply to schools in Maara District which is in a different geographical location and also has different cultural/ socio-economic dynamics. This study also focuses on the boys' dropout unlike other researchers who looked at dropout rates in general. Descriptive survey research design was used to gather facts about the subject. The study was carried out in the 10 secondary schools within the division. The target population was 10 head teachers and 40 class teachers, 10 households' heads and 10 dropouts who were selected through simple random sampling. The main data collection instruments were questionnaires, which were administered on the principals and class teachers. The questionnaire sought to establish the presence and the causes of the dropout phenomenon and also the measures taken to curb the problem. Document analysis was done to corroborate the information provided by the head teachers and the number of the school dropouts.