

**CAUSES OF DROP-OUT RATE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL GIRLS:
THE CASE OF WAJIR EAST DISTRICT, KENYA**



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ABSTRACT

Studies done in Kenya and elsewhere have identified the problem of premature withdrawals from school and especially for the girls and the trend still continues. Dropout rates among the girl-child still remain a major problem in the Kenyan education system and while some achievements have been made, the distance to be covered to realize the ideal is long. The female literacy rate in pastoralist and arid areas is 18% whereas that of male is 52% compared to 42% of female literacy nationally. As such, the purpose of the study was to investigate the causes dropout rate among girls in public primary schools in Wajir East district. The specific objectives were to find out the contribution of parental attitude, parental level of education, cultural beliefs, teacher characteristics, and distance from home to school on the dropout rate of girls in the district. The study adopted ex post facto research design that assisted the researcher in showing how the above factors explain the drop out rate. The target population of this study was comprised of standard seven pupils and head teachers in the 52 public primary schools comprising of 6330 population and 52 head teachers in Wajir East District. Through simple random sampling technique, 20% of all the schools were selected. The study sampled 20% of the target population. In total 10 Head teachers were purposively sampled and 150 pupils were randomly sampled for the study. The snow ball network technique was used to identify the girls who had dropped out of school for more in-depth study. The main instruments for data collection were questionnaires. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, percentages, means and standard deviations were calculated and data presented in form of tables, graphs and charts. The study found out that there are a number of factors that lead to the high drop out rate in primary school girls in Wajir east. The factors included; distance from home to school, parents' level of education, parents' attitude towards education, teachers' characteristics and behaviour e.t.c. it was concluded that these factors had a lot of influence on the high rate of drop out girls. The study recommends that the government should invest in educating parents on the importance of girl-child education.