

GENDER DISPARITY AND STUDENT ENROLMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
KAJIADO WEST SUB COUNTY, KAJIADO COUNTY

GIKINYA FLORENCE WARUINU

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Abstract

Kenya has shown considerable improvement towards the permanent removal of gender disparities since becoming a signatory to the Jomtein Declaration on Education For All. Kenya is also among the few countries in sub Saharan Africa that is on track in the elimination of gender disparities in education. Primary school enrolment is near parity, however, the case is not the same with secondary school enrolment despite the role this level of education has to the social and economic development. The purpose of this research was geared toward determination of factors that contribute to gender disparity in schools in Kajiando west in Kajiando county. This study considers education equity and the milestones reached with regard to secondary education in Kenya. Using school enrolment and examination statistics from 2004 to 2014, the study traces education trends and patterns for a cohort of boys and girls from primary school (standard one/ grade one) to the end of secondary school (form four/ grade twelve). The study undertakes parity trends analysis of access, survival and transition from primary to secondary. More specifically, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Examination (KCSE) for trends and patterns in education output. The study attempts to illustrate that substantive issues crucial to educational equity which are masked beneath portrayals of gender parity in school enrolment statistics. The study was conducted in 20 secondary schools in Kajiando County. A questionnaire was administered to 81 teachers. To supplement the questionnaire, focus group discussions that was conducted to 180 Maasai students and an interview for 20 Principals. The study adopts mixed methods design and pragmatic philosophical paradigm. Data analysis utilizes descriptive and non parametric statistics. The research findings were of great use to policy makers in Kajiando county and education stakeholders in the region. Furthermore, scholars may find an interesting concern in the same issue.