

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE COMPLETION
RATE OF BOYS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN IGEMBE SOUTH DISTRICT
MERU COUNTY KENYA**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Provision of education for all worldwide has not met its target due to dropping out of pupils from primary schools. Globally 64.5 million boys under the age of 10 years which is a primary school age are not in the school organization indicated that 58 million boys around the world are not in school. This indicates that boys' education is lagging behind to an extent that it is a justifiable cause for concern, leading to; dropping out of school. This calls for education researchers to investigate on the causes of boy child dropout which have affected the masculine education. It is due to this boys drop outs that this study has focused attention on the study, to investigate on the factors influencing completion rate of boys in primary schools in Igembe South District in Meru County Kenya. A population of 67200 pupils and heads of schools were targeted. Sample size of 336 subjects was used. Descriptive survey research was used in carrying out the study, with the help of the SPSS computer soft ware. Questionnaires were used to gather data for the study. Pilot study was conducted before the actual study in order to determine the quality of the instruments, using both quantitative and qualitative methods. After the data analysis and interpretations it was concluded that, the social factors especially circumcision of boys while in primary school were significant in affecting boys primary school completion in Igembe South District, the family background contributed to success and its outcome. The structural characteristics of families; the social economic status such as parental education and income predicted the school dropout behavior, Thus stable families, children were retained in school and vice versa. Poverty exposed the boy child to more risk of dropping out of school since they were used as supplementary bread winners. The boys who abused drugs (miraa) were unlikely to complete school. Miraa and substance abuse was a disease passed on from peer influence which automatically resulted into dropping out of school. Retention greatly increased the likely hood of dropping out, and thus no repetition should be encouraged. These findings are to benefit the education policy makers when setting the education policies. Teachers are also to benefit since they will understand the factors influencing completion rate of boys in primary schools in Igembe South District Meru County Kenya and therefore enhance counseling programmes in schools so as to reduce and eliminate dropping out of schools. Recommendations emanating from the study were that, the community should discourage initiation of boys while they are in primary school. Boys access to education should not be compromised with despite all financial constrains .The District Officer (DO) in conjunction with education officers should bring children back to school and deal with parents who are ignorant in supporting their children's education. All the education stake holders should Curb Child labor in the miraa zones and address the issue of drug abuse through taking legal action. Guidance and counseling services should be encouraged. Boys child access to education should be encouraged and addressed by all education stakeholders Finally very body and all education stakeholders in the district should be sensitized on the importance of boys' school completion. Boys dropping out of school should be considered fatal and therefore dropping out should be discouraged with all means.