

**EFFECTS OF GIRLS SCHOOL DROP OUT ON ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE IN BOKHAYO CENTRAL ZONE, BUSIA
DISTRICT, KENYA**

BY

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE OF OPEN AND
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APRIL, 2010

DECLARATION

I, **MANYALA NYONGESA FESTUS**, declare that this research project is my original work. It has never been submitted for any academic award.

Signature 

MANYALA NYONGESA FESTUS

Date 22-04-10

APPROVAL

I declare that this research project has been under my supervision as the University supervisor.

Signature 

Mrs. Deborah Taligoola

Date 22/4/10

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my beloved wife Issabela Oloo, my dad Alphonse Manyala, my mum Hendrica Manyala, my sons Ian Manyala and Roy Oloo

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My heartfelt thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for the far I have come. I would not have made it without you Lord.

Special gratitudes to my supervisor and to my relatives and parents some whom need special consideration.

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ABSTRACT

The general objective of the study was to determine the causes of school drop out on girls in Bokhayo Central zone, Busia District, Kenya and come up with possible strategies to solve the problem. In the collection of data, all sources viewed relevant to this particular study were revisited and employed. This study used a descriptive cross sectional survey. The research used both the qualitative and quantitative analysis approaches in order to get a bigger picture both in number and data.

Since the main purpose of the study was to determine the factors that hindered girls' accessibility of education which was blamed more on socio-economic factors. Girls were found to perform as well as boys so performance does not contribute to girls dropping out school., It was established that nutrition was very important to the growth and development of a child and that poor nutrition led to diseases hence poor school attendance leading.

It was recommended that both the parents and the community should be sensitized on the importance of proper and stable family background and how they influence child development

Parents should make sure that they provide food for their children as they go to school so that they do

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground of the Study

As human beings, children are supposed to enjoy basic rights such as the right to education, social inclusion and recreation that need to be recognized in policies, programmes and legal frameworks. UNICEF (2000) Prioritizing children's needs pertaining to their survival and development is also a prerequisite to long-term national development.

Children have views and opinions that need to be taken into account in national planning and policies. If children play an active role in decisions affecting them they will learn the skills to become active members of society and thus productive citizens who are self-confident, self-reliant and enterprising rather than becoming a further drain on both household and national resources. UNESCO (2003)

Twenty years ago, little was said and even less was known about female schooling in Africa Joy C. Kwesiga (1990). Although it is no longer the case today, there are still important gaps in our knowledge base, particularly at the school level. Girls' enrollment, persistence, and success in school depend, of course, on many factors beyond the classroom and the school itself. Studies in a number of African countries demonstrate the critical importance of factors such as the local functions of marriage, mothers' and daughters' workloads, distance from home to school, discrimination against women in the job market, demand and supply issues as determined by established policies, the parents' level of education and their socio-economic status as well as political commitment.. UNICEF (2000) Globally, girls represent 60 percent of all out of schoolchildren (USAID, 1998). In most countries, girl's initial enrollment rates are lower than those of, boys, indicating barriers to access. In a country, such as Kenya, initial enrollment rates are roughly equal, but as girls enter their adolescent years, they drop out at faster rates than boys. Mukangara, F, and Koda, B (1997):

The problem of dropout has been continually troubling the primary education system developing countries. Dropout does not mean mere rejection of school by children.

UNICEF (2000) it leads to wastage of the funds invested in school buildings, teachers' salaries, equipment, textbooks and so on. It also means the existence of some deficiencies in the organization of the primary education system. It is upon this background that the study was undertaken.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

All over the world, the female gender from a tender age faces a lot of challenges. In Africa for instance, girls are subjected to various domestic chaos which hinders them from high demand of education. Among the Maasai in Kenya, some girls are forced to marry at a very tender age. Biologically girls are affected by the psychological of the age which to some extent leads to stigmatization making them less competent like their male counter parts.

There is no sufficient data to show the cause of school drop out on girls

1.3 Objectives of Study

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of the study was to determine the causes of school drop out on girls in Bokhayo Central zone, Busia District, Kenya and come up with possible strategies to solve the problem.

1.3 2 Specific Objectives

- 1) To assess the magnitude and impact of education inequality in Kenya's rural areas
- 2) To analyze the key economic and social – cultural features of the home environment that predisposes girls to premature termination of school.
- 3) To assess the relationship between poverty and drop out of girls

1.4 Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between poverty and school drop out of girls?
2. What is the relationship between parents' attitudes and drop out of girls?
3. What is the relationship between school environment and drop out of girls?
4. What is the relationship between traditional practices and school drop out of girls?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study was carried out in Bokhayo Central zone, Busia district. The study was limited to the objectives in regards to the causes of girls drop out of school.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study will help education planners to study the root cause of drop out of girls in Kenya. It is relevant in that girls have the right to be educated. They therefore regularly engage in drafting policies that will benefit girl's education.

Head teachers, teachers and parents will be sensitized in identifying the problem of school drop out and finding ways to solve the problem and also have particular interest in girl's especially adolescent girls.

The study will become an instrument of change in the ways in which people and communities think about the education of the girl child and their capabilities. With changed attitudes, an appropriate, relevant, affordable and effective education within the communities, the discrimination girls face for just being girls in the society could be countered.

1.7 Definition of terms

The following terms have been defined in the context of this research;

Adolescence: The period when girls develop from childhood to adulthood more especially when they start menstruating.

Drug abuse: the improper use of drugs or alcohol to the degree that the consequences are detrimental to the user in society.

Enrolment: When a school admits a new student or when a student joins a new school.

Sexualities: The differentiation between sexes.

School drop out: the number of pupils who enroll in a school during a year but leave the school before the end of the year. It does not include girls who transfer from one school to another.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature as an account of the knowledge and ideas that have been established by accredited scholars and experts in the field of factors that affect girls assessing education in rural areas. It is guided by the objectives of the study outlined in chapter one.

2.1.1. Magnitude and Impact of Education Inequality

For parents who are aware of the importance of and concerned about the education of girls, enrollment levels are still low and drop out high due to their inability to meet the costs of education World Bank (2000). The high cost of education coupled with the deteriorating economy, which has reduced the disposable income available to the families, has made it difficult to provide an education for all the children regardless of sex. In Kenya education is financed through cost sharing, with the parents bearing the bigger share of the burden.

Another issue that further aggravates this situation is the fact that, especially in the rural areas, families tend to have a fairly large number of children. The cumulative effect of the finances required for education often proves to be too much for many families, in communities where girls' education is not valued, the issue of poverty further aggravates the situation of girls' lack of access to education because in such areas parents when faced with scarce resources choose to educate boys rather than girls. Low economic status promotes gender discrimination of the girl child in education It creates a sense of dependence as always poor people seek for acceptance and recognition in a community through observing culture so as to be helped in social activities (funeral, wedding, Female Genital Mutilation,etc). Earthman, Glen I. (November 1998) It ignores girls' education to avoid costs. Parents seek simple alternatives for increasing their income by marrying off young girls. Some well off people take this advantage by deceiving pupils from poor families and engage them in sex with promises of material things and hence violate children's rights to education.

2.2 Parents Attitudes and Drop out of Girls

Parents' perceptions and society expectation, part of gendered sex role socialization affect how girls and boys participate in education. From tender age, the young children are socialized into "sex roles." UNESCO (2003) Thus learning "sex appropriate" behaviors and traits in childhood is one of the prerequisites for smooth functioning in society (common in rural areas).

In general most children, and girls in particular, especially those in rural areas, fail to enroll in or to complete primary schooling because their parents do not value education. In most cases because the parents themselves are uneducated / illiterate. There is also a 'myth' among most illiterate parents that "boys are generally clever and hard working in school. Their minds are always in school but girls like playing and when they mature they are difficult to deal with and they get pregnant" Joy C. Kwesiga (1990). The implication is that they should not be given the opportunity to go to school. Such 'messages' demotivating to girls, who internalize them and in return end up believing that school, is not for them.

Many parents also have the attitude that educating girls is a waste of time and money, because they will eventually be married off and their education would therefore only benefit their husbands and the families they marry into. Money spent on the girls education would thus be considered lost to the girls' family. Girls are also considered a risk to educate because they were likely to get pregnant or married and drop out of school and any money spent on their education would therefore be wasted FAWE (2000)

Girls on the other hand drop out of school because of low status reasons. They may be made to remain at home doing some chores. Ministry of Education Science and technology (2001)

2.3 School Environment and Drop out of Girls.

The school is a very child unfriendly environment for girls in a way that they are abused and sexually harassed by male teachers and boys. Girls are often abused, beaten and humiliated in class. (Gupta N and M. Mahy, 2000) Because of this girls hate the school environment and therefore drop out of school. They also become pregnant and therefore have no choice that to drop out of school. (Eloundou-Enyegue, Parfait M.2000)

If Education For All (EPA) is to be achieved, then an empowering learning environment characterized by “ physical, emotional intellectual and sexual safety of girls” has to be created through an evolving process, an environment “in which girls are not merely protected and sheltered from danger of man kind, and their physical, emotional and intellectual growth is encouraged and nurtured, but also one in which they are supplied with the tools of knowledge, self confidence and assertiveness that will provide some measures of defense against abuse.” UNICEF (2000) Most of the schools in rural areas have classrooms that are dilapidated, with floors that are not cemented and thus dusty.

There are windows and doors with no shutters. Such classrooms have few desks for pupils and some of them seat on makeshift forms and/or stones. But the most worrying issue is the lack and/or poor state of toilet and sanitary facilities. Joy C. Kwesiga (1990) Sanitation provision can have a detrimental effect that can further contribute to low attendance and retention rates for girls. (Beusang 2004) Female students often missed classes during menstruation, or because cultural restrictions combined with poor hygiene and lack of privacy prevent them from using the school latrines at all. Studies show that girls’ performance, attendance and retention rates are lower than boys, and poor school sanitation is one of the multiple difficulties that girls have to struggle with. (UNICEF 2005)

2.4 Traditional Practices and Drop out of Girls

According to Ngugi Wa Thiong’o (1996) “harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation and other initiations rituals practice in some African societies are brutal and inhuman.

Cultural practices lead to despair in schools attendances on girls both in preparations and healing processes which some times lead to death. Gachiri, E. W. (2000). The ultimate lead to despair in school attendance and the performance ends up to girls with drawing from school (Okwach, 1997)

Many communities favor marrying off girls while still fairly young. In most cases, these girls drop out of school once they are married to start families. In some communities, especially in the Muslim communities, there is the practice of betrothing girls at a very young age, sometimes at birth and marrying them off in late adolescence. The practice of early marriage often therefore leads to the end of a girls' formal education. The Daily Nation. (2003)

In Ghana, girls and women cross over into neighboring countries to carry out trading which is often a lucrative activity. Their success has been found to lure other school girls to try this business, leading to school drop out.

In some areas of rural Tanzania, on reaching puberty (from upper primary), girls are expected to participate in initiation ceremonies aimed at preparing them for womanhood and marriage. Mbilinyi, M and Mascarenhas, O (1983): These ceremonies are often held during the school term and result in girls missing a considerable amount of school time. Participation in these ceremonies affect girls' participation in education in general in two particular ways. Mabala R. et al (1995): One is that the time spent at these ceremonies is at the expense of precious school time. When these girls eventually return to school, teachers find it difficult to find the time to give them the individual attention required to help them catch up with the others. Another effect of these ceremonies is that the girls who are initiated regard themselves as adults and ready for marriage and no longer see the need to concentrate on their school work as they feel that it would be of little use **tt**hem in their future roles as mothers and wives. Manlove, Jennifer. (1998).

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design

This study used a descriptive cross sectional survey. The research used both the qualitative and quantitative analysis approaches in order to get a bigger picture both in number and data.

3.2. Scope of the study

The scope of the study was. The respondents included Pupils, teachers and community member's teachers and pupils from Bokhayo Central zone, Busia district .

- Pupils – 50 of the sample suffice.
- Teachers- 3 teachers from each school.
- Parents 20 of the sample size sufficed

3.3. Instruments of data collection

Questionnaires were used to extract information from pupils. Interviews were carried out with the teachers and focus group discussions held with the community members. Open ended questionnaires were most suitable for investigating deeper the subject matter. Library search was used to search for data related to the study and observation was done on the state of the children and the way they coped at school.

3.4. Reliability of instruments

Questionnaires helped the researcher to get a lot of information in a short period of time. With interviews, the researcher got all the required data since he was interacting with the respondents.

With library search, the researcher got all the necessary information related to the study through reading relevant books.

3.5. Data collection procedure

A letter of introduction from the Institute of Open and Distance Learning was sent to facilitate in the data collection exercise. The letter was handed to the head teacher before Questionnaires were be distributed to pupils and interviews with the teachers. Local council leaders were approached on how to organize the community members for focus group discussions The data collected was sorted and categorized after which it was analyzed. Conclusions and recommendations were made.

3.6. Statistical treatment of data

The frequencies and percentages was used to determine the number of sample respondents used in the research process and the number that participated positively in contribution to the research.

Formula;

$$\text{Percentage (\%)} = \frac{F}{T} \times 100$$

Total number of respondents

Where F = number of respondents

Observed

Qualitative analysis; Data from questionnaires was standardized hence requiring categorization. Such data was presented in a descriptive form above which was used to discuss the results of quantitative data.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS

4.1 Introduction

The chapter is a presentation; interpretation and discussion of the findings. The results are presented in form of tables and frequency counts and percentage.

4.2 Profile of the respondents

Table 1: Shows the profile of teachers respondents.

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Sex		
Male	11	55
Female	9	45
Total	20	100
Marital status		
Single	8	40
Married	12	60
Total	20	100
Age		
19-24 yrs	4	20
25-30yrs	10	50
31 and above	6	30
Educational level		
Diploma	9	45
Degree	5	25
Total	20	100

Source: field data (2010)

Twenty five (24) questionnaires were distributed to the teachers and 20 were filled and returned .This therefore represents 80% of the total number of questionnaires that were distributed.

The study covered 20 randomly selected teachers of whom 11 (55%) were male and 9 (45%) were female. Of the 20 respondents, 8 (40%) were single while 12 (60%) were married.

The age category of the respondents was divided in three groups that is 19-24 years were 4 which was 20%, 25-30 were 10 (50%) and 31 and above were 6 representing (30%) of the respondents.

The academic level of the respondents was divided in three categories that is certificate, diploma and degree. 6 (30%) of the respondents had certificates, 9 (45%) had diplomas and 5 (25%) had degrees.

Interviews were carried out with 18 parents both male and female. Eight 8 of the parents were male while ten 10 were female.

Focus group discussions were used to extract data from the students. 45 students were included in the discussion of which 24 were boys and 21 girls.

4.3 Parents level of education

The respondents were asked whether there was a relationship between parents level of education and their children’s academic performance.

Table 2: whether there was a relationship between parents’ level of education and their pupils dropout

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	13	65
No	7	35
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

The table show that 13 (65%) of the respondents agree that there exists a strong relationship between parents level of education and their pupils dropout and 7 (35%) disagree.

According to the parents their level of education mattered on how far they wished their children to pursue education. One parent was of the view that since she was a diploma holder she expected her children to surpass that level.

4.4 Social economic factors

Table 5 whether socio-economic factors leads to pupils dropping out of school.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	10	50
Agree	8	40
Strongly disagree	-	-
Disagree	2	10
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

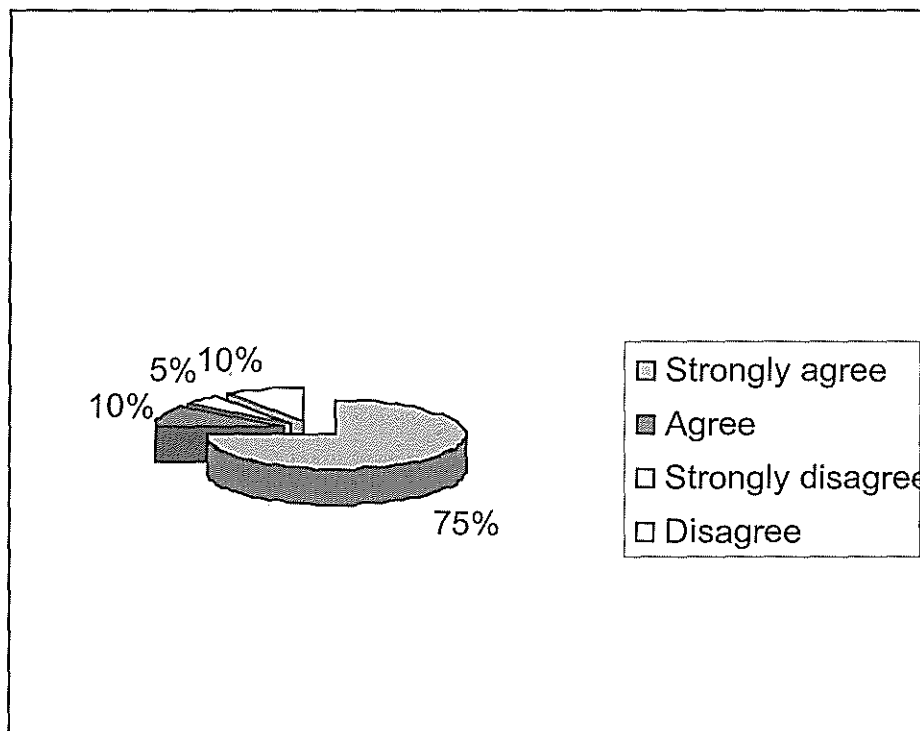
10 (50%) of the respondents strongly agree that socio economic factors leads to girls dropping out school 8(40%) agree and 2 (10%) disagree this leads to some dropping out. The parents agreed that socio-economic factors contributed girls dropping out of school because children who are healthy are capable to concentrate in class which leads to performing well hence staying in school.

Table 6 whether children affected by socio-economic factors concentrate in class

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	15	75
Agree	2	10
Strongly disagree	1	5
Disagree	2	10
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

Chart 3 Response on class concentration



Source: primary data (2009)

15(75%) of the respondents strongly agreed that pupils do not concentrate in class because of socio-economic factors, 2 (10%) agreed while 1(5%) strongly disagreed and 2(10%) disagreed. the parents said that it was obvious one could not concentrate on an

empty stomach especially children. Due to lack of continued concentration they tend to dropout of school.

The respondents were asked whether socio-economic factors contributes to low enrollment of pupils and this was their response

Table 7 whether socio-economic are main contributes to high cases of girls dropping

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	8	40
Agree	6	30
Strongly disagree	2	10
Disagree	4	20
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

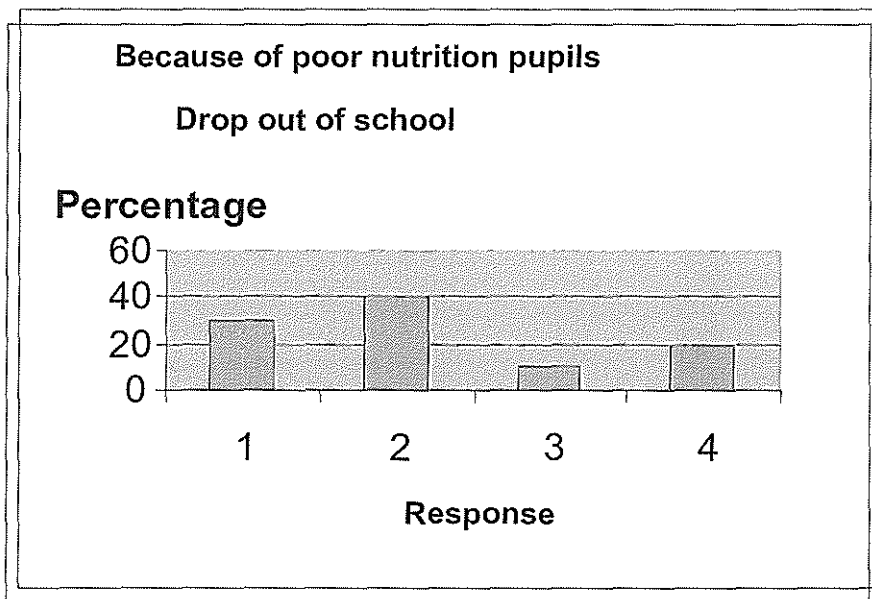
The table shows that 8 (40%) of the respondents strongly agree that socio-economic contributes to girls dropping, 6 (30%) agree while 2 (10%) strongly disagree and 4 (20%) disagree.

Table 8 response on whether pupils miss classes because of poor nutrition

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	6	30
Agree	8	40
Strongly disagree	2	10
Disagree	4	20
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

Chart 4 Response on whether poor nutrition makes pupils miss classes



6 (30%) of the respondents strongly agreed that because of poor nutrition pupils miss dropout of school, 8(40%) agreed while 2 (10%) strongly disagreed and 4 (20%) disagreed.

The pupils revealed that they could not attend classes when they were hungry and sometimes they missed classes because of sickness which could be caused by poor nutrition for example diarrhea and stomachache.

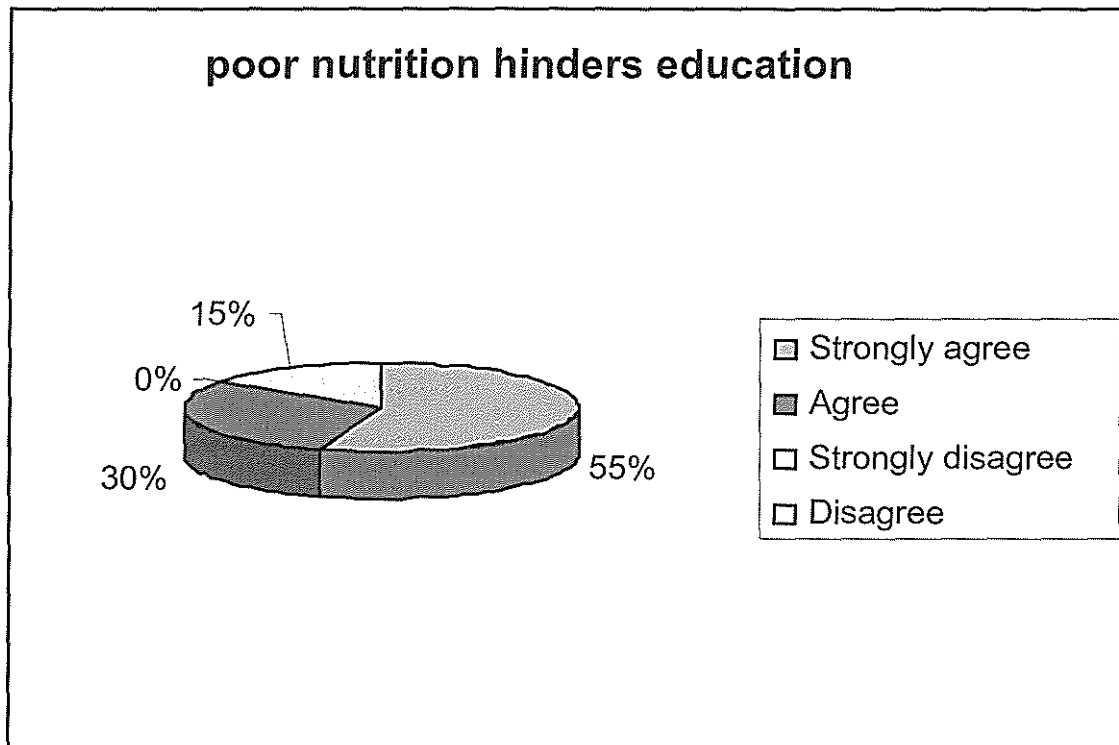
The respondents were asked whether poor nutrition hinders the achievement of education and this was their response.

Table 9 poor nutrition hinders the achievement of education.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	11	55
Agree	6	30
Strongly disagree	-	-
Disagree	3	15
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

Chart 5 Response on whether poor nutrition hinders education



Source: primary data (2009)

The table shows that 11(55%) of the respondents strongly agreed that poor nutrition hinders the achievement of education, 6 (30%) agreed and 3 (15%) disagree.

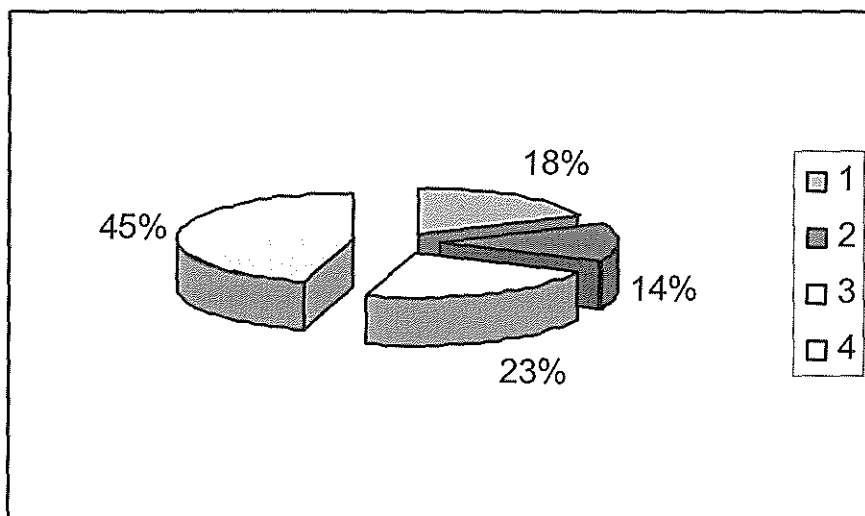
The parents agreed that poor nutrition hindered academic achievement in a way that if pupils cannot concentrate in class then the performance will not be good which leads to repetition and hence school dropout. This means that the goal of government is not realized that is achieving education for all.

Table 12 whether poverty contributes to girls dropping out of school?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	2	20
Agree	3	15
Strongly disagree	5	25
Disagree	10	50
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

Chart 6 responses on whether there is a relationship between poverty and girls dropping out



Source: primary data (2009)

The table and chart show that 2 (10%) of the respondents strongly agree that children from poor families are likely to drop out of school, 3(25%) agree while 5 (25%) strongly disagree and 10 (50%) disagree.

Most parents interviewed agreed that they did not have enough money to buy school necessities and mostly for girls like pads.

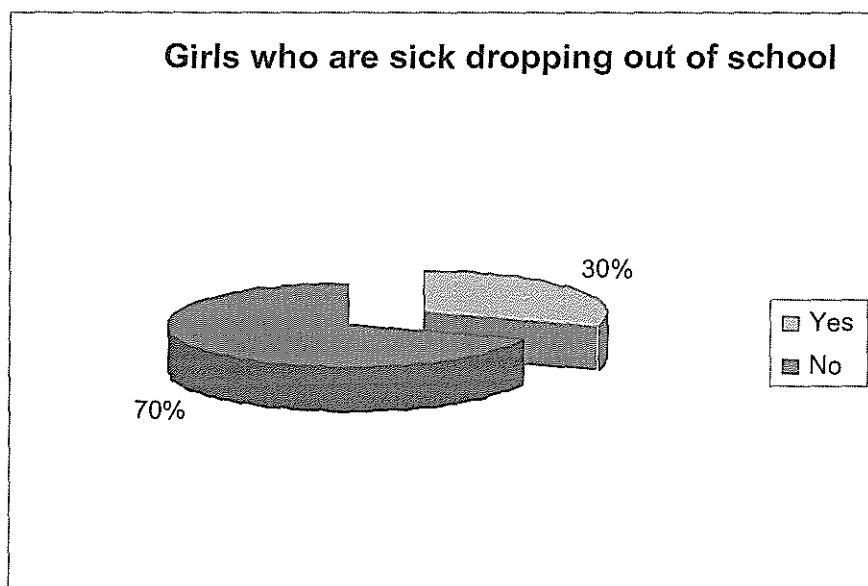
4.5 Health

Table 13: girls who are sick may drop out of school

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	6	30
No	14	70
Total	20	100

Source: primary data (2010)

Chart 7 responses on the whether girls who fall sick dropout of school



Source: primary data (2010)

6 (30%) of the respondents agree that girls who fall sick dropout of school while 14 (70%) disagree.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Introduction

The major purpose of the study was to what are causes of dropout. This chapter focuses on the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. Finally the chapter ends with suggestions for further research.

5.1. Summary

The first objective was to determine the effects of social economic factors and how they affect girls' dropping out of school. The study revealed that education and girl's access to education is adversely affected by different social economic factors such as food , shelter and clothing which all comes down to poverty. They also agreed that nutrition is very important in the growth and development of children and this is supported by Levinger Beryl (2000) that nutritional programs facilitate the growth of a child in all dimensions and have considerable long lasting effects on a child's life. Hence it avails ample time top girls to concentrate in their studies and stay in school.

Therefore it focused on poor nutrition and school achievement and 50% of the respondents strongly agreed that poor nutrition leads to poor performance of pupils in class. According to Grantham McGregor (1991) school attendance and achievement are affected by a host of variables including the capacity of a child as a biosocial organism to process and respond to stimuli. The study also revealed that children from poor families did not perform well in class because of hunger and therefore did not perform well and this is supported by FAO (2000) hunger hinders school achievement.

The third objective focused on the relationship between social economic factors such as family background and the heath of pupils and how they affect the dropout rates of girls from school 30% of the respondents agreed that they had girls who had dropped out of school due to health. According to WHO (2000) failure to attend school due to sickness eventually lead to pupils' dropping out.

5.2. Conclusion

The main purpose of the study was to determine the factors that hindered girls' accessibility of education which was blamed more on socio-economic factors. Girls were found to perform as well as boys so performance does not contribute to girls dropping out school., It was established that nutrition was very important to the growth and development of a child and that poor nutrition led to diseases hence poor school attendance leading.

The study found out that poor nutrition led to diseases and therefore because of diseases girls drooped out of school. The study also found out that nutrition was very important and that for a country to develop it had to focus on nutritional programs.

5.3. Recommendations

The government should make sure that it focuses on nutritional and feeding programs in schools.

The parents and the community should be sensitized on the importance of proper and stable family background and how they influence child development

Parents should make sure that they provide food for their children as they go to school so that they do not go hungry and fail to concentrate in class.

A topic or subject on nutrition should be taught to the students so that as they grow up they know the importance of nutrition and how to eat right.

5.4 Suggestions for further research

More research should be done on the effect of nutrition on early childhood primary education.

Research should also be done on sanitation and clean environment of schools because it is important.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE TEACHERS

Dear Respondent,

I am student of Kampala International University carrying out an academic research on the topic “causes of school drop out on girls in Bokhayo Central zone, Busia district. You have been randomly selected to participate in the study and you are therefore kindly requested to provide an appropriate answer by either ticking the best option or give explanation where applicable. The answers provided will only be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

NB: Do not write your name anywhere on this paper.

Personal Information:

Sex

Male [] Female []

Age

18-25 [] 26-35 years [] 36 and above []

Poverty and drop out of girls

1. girls drop out of school because they cannot afford to pay for school fees

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

2. because of poverty girls have to sell produces in the market

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

3. Because of poverty girls are married off

Strongly agree [] Agree [1]

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

4. Girls engage in sexual activities because of poverty.

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

Parents' attitudes and drop out of girls

5. girls drop out of school because parents do not value their education

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

6. Parents think girls should get married

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

7. Because of negative attitudes girls are not encouraged to continue in school.

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

School environment and drop out of girls

8. The school environment is not safe for girls

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

9. girls are sexually harassed at school

Strongly agree [1] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

10. The infrastructure of the school is not conducive

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

11. the sanitation of the school discourages girls to continue in school

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

12. teachers do not encourage girls to study

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

Traditional practices and drop out of girls

13. female genital mutilation hinders girls education

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

14. Girls are married off because of culture

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []

15. Girls have to do all the chores at home

Strongly agree [] Agree []

Strongly disagree [] Disagree []