

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish the causes of school drop outs in selected UPE schools in Bwambara Sub County, Rukungiri District, its effects and the approaches that can be used to tackle the problem. The School drop out rate in Bwambara Sub County is very high and more girls than boys drop out of School. The high incidence of dropping out of School poses a serious problem to the social and economic health of the society. As the pool of drop out continues to grow, employment opportunities for them become more limited because today's economy requires the labour force that is literate and with enhanced technology. The study was conducted in selected UPE schools in Bwambara Sub County, Rukungiri District. It investigated the causes of pupil drop outs in the Sub County, its effects and approaches that can be used to tackle the problem. The subjects included pupils, teachers, school head teachers and selected parents. The subjects were guided to complete the questionnaire related to the cause of school drop outs, its effect and approaches that can be used to avert the situation. The study was guided by a descriptive explanation following both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The qualitative approach was used in the study to tap information that would not have been obtained through the use of quantitative approach only. The researcher guided the respondents on the meaning of the terms used in rating or taking the situation. The study concluded that all the causes of pupil drop outs in selected UPE schools in Bwambara Sub County are related with family background, and community influence. It further concluded that school drop outs in Bwambara Sub County, have negatively contributed to a number of problems in social, economic and political spheres hence a serious need for intervention. The study also concluded that, government and other stakeholders can intervene, through economic empowerment, community awareness campaign and economic improvement. From the conclusions of this study, the researcher wishes to recommend thus that, Key stakeholders in Education should carry out community awareness campaigns, guidance and counseling lessons in Schools to be emphasized and enhanced to create social awareness among both the pupils and their parents and that Government in partnership with other key stakeholders should review labour related laws to discourage child labour.