

**CAUSES OF SCHOOL DROPOUT AMONG MALE STUDENTS
IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF EMBU COUNTY
KENYA**

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E55/CE/25290/2013

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT, POLICY AND
CURRICULUM STUDIES IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION, KENYATTA
UNIVERSITY**

JULY, 2016

DECLARATION

This is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

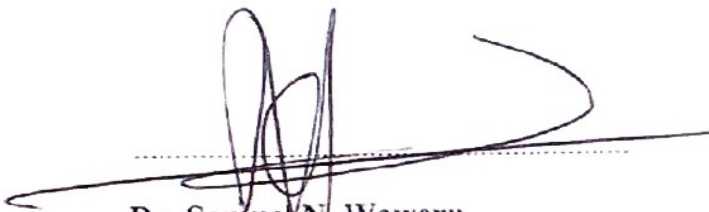


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27/10/2016

Date

This project has been submitted with our approval as university supervisors.

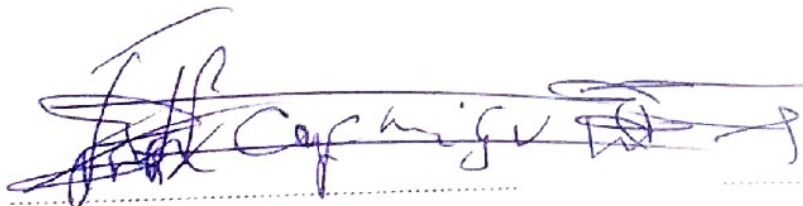


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ABSTRACT

Education is a very important aspect in the development of a complete human being. This is due to its whole process of empowering individuals in the improvement of their wellbeing. Additionally, it enables them to participate in national building of the country. However, student drop out is a great threat to the benefits of education in the country regardless of the government's stress on basic education for all children in the country. In Embu County, the problem is more pronounced among the boys than girls in secondary schools. Hence this study focuses on the factors that are affecting the boy child secondary education completion. The objectives of this study are: to interrogate the school based factors that cause boys to drop out of school in Embu County; to identify the family based factors that cause boys dropout of school in Embu County; to examine the community based factors that cause boys dropout of school in Embu County; to interrogate the student issues that cause the boys to drop out of school in Embu County and to examine the strategies used to combat the issue of dropout among boys in secondary schools of Embu County. The study adopted a descriptive survey design to collect data from a varied range of respondents on the causes of dropout among the boys in secondary schools of Embu County. The target population for this study was 47500 students attending 190 public secondary schools in Embu County, 663 students who have dropped out, 663 parents of the students who have dropped out, 760 class teachers, 190 head teachers and 5 education standards and quality assurance officers in Embu County were also targeted. The target population was sampled using simple random sampling, purposive sampling and convenient sampling. Random sampling was used to Select 350 students who are in school, 27 teachers and 20 parents of the students in school. Purposive sampling was used to select 19 head teachers and 5 ESQAS and convenient sampling for the 20 drop outs and their respective parents. The study employed questionnaires, interview schedule as the research instruments. The collected data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics and organized using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The analyzed data are presented in frequency distribution tables, pie charts, bar graphs and percentages. The study found that the boys were more affected by dropout in the county than the girls. The major causes of dropout were; drug and substances abuse, negative attitude to education by the parents, indiscipline among the students, the socioeconomic activities in the county, peer influence and poverty. As a strategy to curb dropout, the government, parents, the learners and key education stakeholders should all work together in order to ensure that the learners complete their education. The study recommends that, the education stakeholders, the parents and the religious community should embrace guidance and counseling of the boys in and out of school and act as good role model to be emulated by learners, the county administration to curb drug peddling to students and the government to sensitize the community members on the benefits of educating their children.