

The factors influencing dropping out of school in universal secondary schools in Kyegegwa District

Kemigisa Rosemary

Keywords: *School Dropout, Universal secondary education*

Introduction

In 2007, Uganda became the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to introduce Universal Secondary Education (USE) 10 years after the introduction of Universal Primary Education. Although the government of Uganda has made enormous effort to provide free, the rate of dropout is high in Uganda and Kyegegwa district in particular (MOES 2013). The study was about establishing the factors influencing dropping out of school in universal secondary schools in Kyegegwa District. The study took place in 5 selected USE schools.

Objectives

The specific objectives were;

1. to establish the economic factors responsible for dropping out of secondary school in Kyegegwa District,
2. to examine the socio-cultural factors responsible for dropping out of secondary school in Kyegegwa District, and
3. to ascertain the school factors responsible for dropping out of secondary school in Kyegegwa District

Methodology

The study adopted a cross-sectional research design, which employed both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The data were obtained from school administrators, teachers, students, schools dropout and parents of school dropout. A sample size of 215 respondents was taken for the study. The

sample targeted those who were familiar with the topic under study. The researcher used primary and secondary approaches of data collection and data were collected purposively using interview, questionnaires and observation methods as well as the document review method.

Key findings

The study revealed that early marriages/pregnancies, corporal punishments, lack of enough facilities were the major factors contributing to school dropout in universal secondary schools in Kyegegwa District.

Key recommendations

The study recommended that:

1. The government should focus more resources at the secondary school level,
2. the government should also make realistic policies to re-adjust the wages for secondary school teachers and promote rural economic investment to alleviate rural unemployment and poverty,
3. the ministry of education and sports should scrap cost-sharing in USE schools,
4. the Parents-Teachers Associations and other stakeholders should be strengthened to contribute to the provision of physical facilities in USE Schools, and
5. parents should be sensitized on the importance of educating their children.

Key references

US Government accounting office. (2012). School Dropout: Education could play a Stronger Role in Identifying and disseminating promising Prevention Strategies. Washington, DC: US Government Accountability Office. GAO-02-240

School Dropouts: Education Could Play a Stronger Role in Identifying and Disseminating Promising Prevention Strategies

Ministry of Education and Sports. (2013). National strategy for Girls Education in Uganda (2015-2019). Kampala: Ministry of Education and Sports. National-Strategy-for-Girls'-Education-in-Uganda-2015-2019.pdf (prb.org)

Ministry of Education and Sports (March 2010). The Development of Education in Uganda, A paper presented at the World Conference on Education for all, Bangkok, Thailand.