

ABSTRACT

Secondary level of education has been reviewed as a fundamental stage for education progression where learners acquire basic skills in their future areas of specialization. At this level, students participate in educational activities that pertain to secondary school education. However, in Baringo County there is high prevalence of teenage pregnancies due to high poverty levels, high illiteracy rates among parents and retrogressive cultural beliefs that may have influenced the educational participation of student mothers. The purpose of the study was therefore to establish the influence of family factors on educational participation of student mothers in public secondary schools in Baringo County, Kenya. This study was ex-post facto in approach and utilized correlational research design. The target population for the study was 1277 student mothers. The sample size of the student mothers in this study was 296 and was selected using stratified random sampling. The study collected data from student mothers using questionnaires. Validity of the questionnaires was ascertained through developing the research instruments in line with the research objectives and also consulting the supervisors and lecturers in educational foundations. A pilot study was done among 30 student mothers to ascertain the reliability of the questionnaires. Based on the pilot data, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the family factors questionnaires was 0.870 and 0.885 for educational participation. The data was analysed using SPSS version 24. The study found that there was a significant relationship between family factors and educational participation of student mothers in secondary schools in Baringo County at 5% significance level. The study concluded that family factors significantly influenced educational participation of student mothers. The study findings would benefit many educational stakeholders, policymakers, and scholars in increasing the educational participation of student mothers through enhanced family support.

Keywords Educational Participation, Family Factors, Student Mothers