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ABSTRACT

The problem on which the study focused is “Dropout of students in Universal Secondary Education (USE) schools in Rubabo County, Rukungiri District” The study intended to find out the influence of family and school environments on dropouts in USE schools. It further aimed at the ratio of girls to boys dropouts, and generate possible solutions to this problem. Questionnaires, interview guides and document analysis were the instruments used in collecting data. A survey research design was used to collect data using a sample of 94 respondents, of which 33 were students, 22 teachers, 11 head teachers, 16 parents, 4 local leaders and 4 dropout students. Findings revealed that both home and school environments have significant influence on dropping out of students, with the former, environment , contributing to a higher percentage. The aspects of poverty, forced early marriages, unstable families and ignorance of parents featured as common causes related to family environment of students. On the other hand, poor academic performance, poor structures and facilities and poor/student relationship were featured as the major school related causes of dropouts from schools. Findings further revealed that more girls drop out than boys but the difference is not so alarming it could be a result of higher enrollment of girls than that of boys in almost all the sampled schools. In view of the above findings, the researcher made several recommendations. Most of these recommendations suggest economic empowering of local parents, provision of scholastic materials, accommodation and lunch to students and enhancement of guidance and counseling by both parents and teachers. He further recommends stepping up of guidance and counseling by in schools and sensitization of parents on their cardinal role of taking and keeping their children in schools.