

# **Risk factors contributing to primary school dropouts in central Siha-Kilimanjaro**

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## **Abstract**

Abstract: Education, which is an important component of human development, is faced with many challenges one being the fact that students drop out of school and do not complete their studies. This study was designed to provide current data on factors contributing to primary school dropout in Siha district that could be used for interventional programs aimed at monitoring school attendance and completion in School-going children. The objectives were to identify risk factors contributing to primary school dropouts and the opinions of teachers and students towards school dropout. The study used cross sectional descriptive survey. Cluster systematic random sampling was used to select the schools, teachers, and students to be involved in the study. A resultant sample of 232 participants (192 students and 40 teachers) were the respondents. Structured questionnaires were used as instruments for data collection. Data collected was coded, cleaned, and categorized by the researcher; it was entered in the computer and analyzed by use of SPSS version 13.0. The data was then analyzed using frequency distribution tables, percentages, and logistic multiple regression. The study established that poor general performance 146/232 (63%), poor family interest 128/232 (55%), poor attendance 77/232 (33%), failure to do assignments 65/232 (28%) and poor interests in studying 51/232 (22%) were the contributing factors for school dropouts. Regarding their opinions, both teachers and students stated that problems at home, poor academic performance, truancy, school fees, pregnancies and early marriages were the leading factors for school dropout. The conclusion is that there should be school restructuring programs that involve larger scale school restructuring activities aimed at reducing school dropouts.