

EXPANDING ACCESS OF EDUCATION TO PRIMARY SCHOOL DROPOUTS THROUGH DISTANCE EDUCATION

Demand for education in Kenya exceeds supply. Educational facilities are not enough to cater for the needs of all the clients. This has led to competition and many youths have no opportunity to access post primary education. During the release of the 2014 Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) results, at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) in Nairobi, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Professor Jacob Kaimenyi indicated that of the 880,486 candidates who sat the examination, 607,000 would get Form One places in the various secondary schools around the country. This translates to 78 per cent of the total candidature. 280,000 candidates would not have vacancies (DN, December 30, 2014). This is repeated every year. This is wastage of students, young people at the onset of their informative age, when they require basic skills for survival. Dropping out means that they are disorientated and in most instances may never pick up their lives. Their fate is sealed. The United States Bureau of Statistics in a survey carried out in 2006 reported that 81 per cent of drop out students surveyed said they believed that graduating from high school is important for success in life. (UCBS, 2007) The survey demonstrated that the drop out students had strong and thoughtful opinions on what kept them in school. The projection by the United Nations to achieve the Education for All by 2015 clarion may be hampered by primary school drop outs. Participants in the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in 2009 endorsed a comprehensive vision of education anchored in human rights affirming the importance of learning at all ages and emphasizing the need for special measures to reach the poorest, most vulnerable and most disadvantaged groups in society. This paper will look into ways of expansion of education through Distance and Open Learning as a measure to curb the lack of access to education and therefore ensuring that beyond 2015, Education reaches all.