



National University of Science and Technology

Think in Other Terms



FACULTY OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL TEACHER EDUCATION

**An investigation into the problems related to girl dropouts at
Secondary Schools of the Reigate District in the Bulawayo
Metropolitan Province**

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Abstract

This study was carried out to investigate the problem of girls dropping out of secondary education in Reigate District of the Bulawayo metropolitan province in Zimbabwe. Girls have been noted dropping out of secondary education in their great numbers, it was out of this concern that compelled the researcher to carry out the study with the hope of finding out the common causes, and how the problem could be minimised.

The study was conducted on a sample of four secondary schools out of a population of eight. The schools in the sample were namely Cowdray Park, Emakhandeni, Luveve and Sobukazi. Questionnaires were the major instruments for data collection. The research established that Heads of schools and senior masters/ mistresses, of the four schools, were quite aware of the problem of girls dropping out of secondary school. Records of 2010 to 2013 were used, and they indicate that there were more girl dropouts than there were boy dropouts.

The study indicated that common reasons for girl dropouts were lack of school fees, pregnancy, and in some cases the reasons were not known. Out of all the given reasons, the most prevalent one was pregnancy. This pointed out that girls were not well equipped to handle adolescent pressures; as a result they indulged in sexual activities prematurely. It was also established that most schools depended on the Guidance and Counselling teacher(s) to monitor all the students, including girls, clubs like Irls Empowerment Management (GEM) to get closer to girls through the inspiration of the patron, but this is not enough, as only club members would benefit. Schools should ensure that all their girls are empowered to reduce the number of girl dropouts in schools.