

ABSTRACT

Education has been earmarked as a priority area to stimulate socio-economic development in Tanzania. However, statistics show a higher rate of school dropouts in the country and a total of 5.1 million children aged 7 to 17 were estimated to be out of school. The current study assessed the impact of school dropout on national security. A cross-sectional study design was conducted in one primary and one secondary school owned by the government in Kisarawe District, Pwani Region. The study population included primary and secondary school students and teachers for each selected school. Data collection was done using a structured questionnaire and in-depth interview. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics with the help of a statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 20 software. Qualitative data was analyzed using the content analysis method. The study presents a less number of student dropouts in both primary and secondary school. Truancy was the mostly mentioned reason for dropout by both primary and secondary students. Overall, 100% of the participants agreed that school dropout has an impact on national security as linked with drug abuse, increased rape cases, street beggars and gangs of thieves and robbery actions. In general, school dropout was linked with having an impact on national security such that dropouts have higher risks to engage in drug abuse, increased rape cases, increased street beggars and gangs of thieves and robbery actions in the street. Based on these findings, it is recommended that the government should find a means to support students from poor families who cannot afford school basic needs.

