BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
RESEARCH PROJECT
AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES OF SCHOOL DROPOUT IN RURAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS. A CASE OF WADZANAI COMMUNITY IN SHAMVA DISTRICT, MASHONALAND CENTRAL PROVINCE.

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Abstract

The ever increasing rate of dropouts in Zimbabwean secondary schools is a great concern. It has negatively impacted on the education system in Zimbabwe. The education system as well as the Zimbabwean society has over the years been affected in various ways. The study was carried out in Wadzanai community in Shamva District. The population under study included all school dropouts’ students both boys and girls and also key informants in form of headmasters, teachers and also education officials in Shamva District’s Wadzanai area. The main objective of the researcher was to investigate on the causes and reasons for school dropout in Wadzanai community in Shamva. To obtain the required information on causes and solutions for dropouts, the researcher used the descriptive quantitative research. Questionnaires were sent to 34 school dropouts and four key informants in form of education officials and headmasters. The study was analytic [qualitative] in that the researchers focus on the relationships between variables and further interpret the relationship. This method is the most suitable in this case where self-reported beliefs and opinions of the participants are sought. A literature review provided a theoretical base for the problem. The main findings indicated that female dropouts presented a greater percentage of 53% as compared to male dropouts who had 47%. Analysis by secondary school level of education proved that form 3 and 4 shows a greater number of dropouts as compared to other forms. Research also proved that big schools show a small percentage dropout rate and small schools present a bigger percentage of dropout rates. The reasons for these are provided in chapter 4.