



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Causes of Students' Dropout in Public Secondary Schools of Balochistan, Pakistan**

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**ABSTRACT**

The study was determined to investigate the causes of secondary school dropouts in the district of Kech Balochistan. The main objective of the study was to find out the reasons behind the dropouts of secondary school students. A sample is taken from the population, of 30 teachers, 15 head teachers of public secondary schools, and 60 students with their parents were selected as a random sample for the research study. All the data were analysed by the use of SPSS. The findings of the study revealed that parents' weak monitoring, parents' socio-economic status, transportation problems, parents' migration, teachers' harsh behaviour, corporal punishment, and no preparation for exams, are the causes of students' dropout at the secondary school level. On the basis of the findings, it was recommended that the government should take an initiative to conduct awareness programme with help of electronic and print media to reduce the students' dropout rate in district Kech, Balochistan.

**Keywords:** Causes of Dropout, Dropout in Secondary School Level, Factors of Dropout

**Introduction**

Education is critical for any society or nation because it ensures human development, progress, and prosperity. It generates a strong basis for the education system. Both developing and developed countries are providing free and compulsory educational facilities to their inhabitants. It is a basic human right to provide education to every individual without any discrimination (United Nations, 1948). National Education Policy of Pakistan (2009) emphasises that education is the fundamental right of every child, and they are the future asset of the nation. They need quality education and opportunities to uplift the poor and deprived sectors of the society. Unfortunately, Pakistan ranks 102 out of 130 countries for spending 2.3 percent of its GDP on education (UNESCO, 2005). Ambition of Education for all cannot fulfil without addressing the students' dropout problem in the school, (Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability, 2005).

Balochistan is higher ranked (25.4 percent) (boys 15%, girls 19%) in dropout students at the secondary level as compared to the other provinces of Pakistan (ASER, 2017). Dropout is a concern for all nations around the world. All the developed and developing countries are vigilant about their country's future. Only education can ensure a country's prosperity and success. Illiterate and untrained residents cannot work in their full capacities everywhere in the country. Ignorance of the drop-out issue will create many other problems for the country in the future. Children who do not attend school will become a burden on the state as untrained citizens. It acts like a rock for the socioeconomic solidity of a nation or country. Many factors are contributing to the students' dropping out of their schools. The high dropout rate among students is exacerbated by poor educational quality. The main factors causing dropout are: low economic growth of the country and less income per capita of the people, the socio-economic problem of families, home environment; parents' attitude towards their children's education, transportation problem; corporal punishment, poverty, lack of coordination between teachers and students' parents; a lack of

awareness in parents, unattractive school atmosphere; and untrained teachers (Ministry of Education, 1992).

It is hard to find the leading factors that are caused the students' dropout because many factors are affecting their dropout. Keeping all aspects of the causes of dropout students in mind, this study was designed to investigate the primary factors causing dropouts at the secondary level.

### **Literature review**

Many research studies have been conducted in different countries on the student dropout rate at the secondary school level. A UNESCO report (2003) revealed that in developing countries, about 130 million children are deprived of the basic right to education by dropping out (Rumberger, 2011). The research found that factors linked to dropouts are caused by family, social, academic, and individual factors (Archambault, Bartholomew, & Mathwig, 2009). Similarly, academically poor students fail to fulfil the required performance, and those who tackle their academic problems in time are more likely to retain academic success (Hickman, Bartholomew, & Mathwig, 2008). Wells, Bechard, & Hambly (2001) research revealed, lack of parental support and home-related factors are important factors contributing to students' dropout. Furthermore, community-related factors contribute to students dropping out of school. In addition, poverty is another strong factor behind students dropping out.

The primary education dropout rate in Pakistan was 43 percent in 2001 and 41 percent during the years 2007–08 (Ministry of Education, 2009). Poor student supervision, poor family economic status, parents' disregard for their children's education, poor educational quality, and an unappealing school environment are all factors that contribute to dropout (Ministry of Education, 1992). According to Christle, (2007), low parental education, harsh behavior, a lack of coordination between parents and teachers, and indiscipline among friends are the factors causing student dropout. Another study revealed that family position, parents' education, and motivation caused dropout (Farooq, 2018). Different research findings linked to dropout causes—parental low economic situation and being unhappy with class in school—are the main reasons dropout students are in school (Bhatti, 2007; Malik, 2002).

According to the 2017 Annual Status of Education Report, ASER (2017), Balochistan has a high ranking of 25.4 percent secondary dropouts when compared to other regions of Pakistan: Punjab at 18.9 percent, Sindh at 14.6%, and KP at 11.5%. Duckenfield (1998), on the other hand, identified the different factors affecting students' dropout from a school: school-related factors, family-related factors, student-related factors, and community-related factors that are causing students' dropout at the school level.

### **Material and Methods**

#### **Population**

The population of the study consisted of secondary school head teachers, teachers, dropout students, and their parents. Kech district had 74 secondary schools, with 44 boys and 30 girls, (BEMIS, 2021).

#### **Delimitation of the study**

The research study was delimited to secondary schools in district Kech Balochistan.

### Sample of the study

The random sampling technique was used for selecting the sample. 20 Secondary Schools were selected from the population through random sample technique, 30 Secondary School Teachers, 15 head teachers and, 60 secondary drop-out students and their parents were taken as simple through purposive sampling.

### Research Design

The design of the research was descriptive in nature. According to the objective of the study, the Likert scale questionnaires were constructed for the study. The questionnaire was used to collect quantities of data, and the interview was used to collect qualitative data.

### Pilot Testing

Before the data collection, a pilot study was arranged in 4 secondary schools, and a pilot study was not included in the sample to achieve a more authentic and accurate outcome. Data was collected and corrections were made necessary changes in the questionnaire with help of expert suggestions.

### Validity and Reliability of the study

Validity and reliability are requirements of the questionnaire for an accurate result. The research tools were checked by the professional and well experienced in the relevant field. Reliability of the questionnaire were checked by using of (Cronbach's alpha), which is shown in the table below.

**Table 1**  
**Reliability Statistics of the Questionnaires**

| Items   | Number of items | Cronbach's Alpha |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
| School related factors causes of dropout          | 08              | .709             |
| Teachers related factors causes of dropout        | 07              | .770             |
| Students related factors causes of dropout        | 08              | .762             |
| Society and home related factors cause of dropout | 10              | .975             |

### Data Collection and Analysis

Data was collected by the personal visit of the researcher to the respondents. Before the data collection, researcher explained the purpose of the study and also define all the difficult terms in the study. After the collecting data, raw data was organized, tabulated, and analysed using the descriptive statistics mean and standard deviation through SPSS software.

### Result and Discussion

The purpose of the study was to find out the causes of dropout students at the secondary level of district Kech Balochistan. A sample taken from the population included 15 head teachers, 30 teachers from secondary schools, and 60 dropout students and their parents, who were also part of the study as respondents. A questionnaire was used for data collection by the head teacher and teachers, and an interview was conducted with the students and their parents for data collection. The following table shows the detailed results:

**Table 2**  
**Responses of Head Teachers Regarding School Related Factors Causing of Students' Dropout**

| S/N | Statement   | N  | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|-----|---|----|------|----------------|
| 1   | Lack of proper basic physical and educational facilities in school.           | 15 | 3.27 | .961           |
| 2   | Students' dropout is caused by unfavourable school environment.               | 15 | 3.67 | .976           |
| 3   | Lack of counselling with students at schools causes students' dropout.        | 15 | 3.53 | .990           |
| 4   | Lack of motivation caused students to dropout.                                | 15 | 3.20 | .775           |
| 5   | Lack of sufficient teaching staff.  | 15 | 3.27 | .961           |
| 6   | Strict discipline and regulations cause students' dropout in the school.      | 15 | 3.93 | 1.033          |
| 7   | Unfavourable classroom environment causes students' to dropout in the school. | 15 | 3.73 | 1.100          |
| 8   | Lack of transportation for the students is causing dropout in the school.     | 15 | 3.27 | .961           |

Table 2, shows that head teacher responses about dropout at the secondary school students. The result revealed that basic physical and educational facilities mean score (mean=3.27, SD=.961); unfavorable school environment (mean=3.67, SD=.976); Lack of counselling with students (mean=3.53, SD=.990); Lack of motivation (mean=3.20, SD=.775); Lack of sufficient teaching staff (mean=3.27, SD=.961); Strict discipline (mean=3.93, SD=1.033); with high mean score, harsh classroom environment (mean=3.73, SD=1.100); Lack of transportation for the students (mean=3.27, SD=.961); are the school-related factors which are causes the students' dropout at secondary school level.

**Table 3**  
**Responses from Teachers Regarding Teacher Related Factors Causing Students' Dropout**

| S/N | Statement   | N  | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|-----|---|----|------|----------------|
| 1   | Lack of motivation and encouragement to the students contribute dropout in the school.              | 30 | 3.27 | 1.205          |
| 2   | Teachers' harsh and despotic attitudes cause students to leave the school.                          | 30 | 3.47 | .999           |
| 3   | Teachers' absenteeism causes students' dropout.   | 30 | 3.22 | 1.290          |
| 4   | Due to extra work from the teacher, some students drop out.   | 30 | 3.15 | 1.147          |
| 5   | Misuse of students for personal reasons during school time, one of the reason of students' dropout. | 30 | 3.32 | 1.186          |
| 6   | Students drop out as a result of poor teacher performance and incompetence.                         | 30 | 3.43 | 1.079          |
| 7   | Students' dropout is caused by the corporal punishment.   | 30 | 3.85 | 1.287          |

Table 3 shows that teacher responses about the teacher-related factors cause the student to drop out at the secondary level. The finding revealed that lack of motivation and

encouragement to the students mean score (mean=3.27, SD=1.205); teachers' harsh and despotic attitudes (mean=3.47, SD=.999); Teachers' absenteeism (mean=3.22, SD=1.290); due to extra works from the teacher (mean=3.15, SD=1.147); Misuse of students for personal reasons in during school time (mean=3.32, SD=1.186); Teacher poor performance and incompetency (mean=3.43, SD=1.079); corporal punishment (mean=3.85, SD=1.287); are teachers related factors causes of students drop out at secondary level. The table shows that corporal punishment and teacher harsh and despotic attitude high mean score (mean=3.85, SD=1.287) and extra work to the teacher is a lowest mean score above table.

**Table 4**  
**Responses from Student regarding Factors related to Students' Dropout**

| S/N | Statement   | N  | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|-----|---|----|------|----------------|
| 1   | Weak students in learning, contribute to students' dropout.                     | 60 | 3.25 | 1.129          |
| 2   | Students' indiscipline attitude caused the students' dropout.                   | 60 | 3.70 | 1.394          |
| 3   | Students' admission into good schools also causes student dropouts.             | 60 | 2.95 | .946           |
| 4   | Poor attendance of the Students' caused dropout.                                | 60 | 3.33 | .986           |
| 5   | Children interest to earn rather than school caused dropout.                    | 60 | 3.63 | 1.041          |
| 6   | No preparation for class or failure of exam causes students' dropout            | 60 | 3.23 | 1.345          |
| 7   | Poor grades of the students caused the dropout in the school.                   | 60 | 3.33 | 1.036          |
| 8   | Early marriage of the students contributes the students drop out in the school. | 60 | 3.00 | 1.221          |

Students remarked about causes the students drop out students related factors at secondary school District Kech Balochistan. The results revealed that the descriptive analysis shows that weak students in learning (mean=3.25, SD=1.129); students' indiscipline attitude (mean=3.70, SD=1.394); students' get admission in good schools (mean=2.95, SD=.946); poor attendance of the students (mean=3.33, SD=.986); children interest to earn rather than school (mean=3.63, SD=1.041); no preparation for class or exam (mean=3.23, SD=1.345); poor grade of the students (mean=3.33, SD=1.036); early marriage of the students (mean=3.00, SD=1.221); are the students related factors which are causing students dropout. Finding of the data in the table showed that students' indiscipline attitude high mean score (mean=3.70, SD=1.394) and students get admission in a good school is the lowest mean score of the table.

**Table 5**  
**Responses of Parents, regarding home and Society Factors Causing Students' Dropout**

| Items S/N | Statement   | Yes       |      | No        |      |
|-----------|---|-----------|------|-----------|------|
|           |   | Frequency | %    | Frequency | %    |
| 1         | Lack of parental support in education child leave the school. | 46        | 76.7 | 14        | 23.3 |
| 2         | Parents poor socioeconomic status causes students' dropout.   | 38        | 63.3 | 22        | 36.7 |
| 3         | Due to child labour students leave the school.                | 39        | 65   | 21        | 35   |

|    |   |    |      |    |      |
|----|---|----|------|----|------|
| 4  | Parents unawareness to their children education caused dropout of the students in school. | 40 | 66.7 | 20 | 33.3 |
| 5  | Lack of financial support to students contribute dropout.                                 | 48 | 80   | 12 | 20   |
| 6  | Uneducated parents cause students' dropout.   | 45 | 75   | 15 | 25   |
| 7  | Free hand given to the children is a reason of students' dropout.                         | 41 | 68.3 | 19 | 31.7 |
| 8  | Parent strict behaviour contributes to students' dropout.                                 | 38 | 63.3 | 22 | 36.7 |
| 9  | Domestic issues cause students' dropout   | 44 | 73.3 | 16 | 26.7 |
| 10 | Migration of the families with children contributes the students drop out in the school.  | 32 | 53.3 | 28 | 46.7 |

The question was asked to the 30 parent respondents regarding their children's dropout in secondary school. Parents point of view, 76 %, respondents were agreed that lack of parental support, students leave the school and 20% did not agree with the statement. Similarly, 63.3 % of respondents believed that parents' socio-economic status caused the students to remain in school. Furthermore, 80 % of respondents were agreed that lack of financial support to their children also caused students' dropout and, 75% of respondents were agreed that uneducated parents, 73.3 % domestic issues, 63.3% strict behaviour of parents, 53.3% migration of the families with students, 65% child labour are causing dropout and 68% respondents were agreed that too much freedom to the students is key factors dropout students at the secondary level.

## Conclusions

This research study was conducted to find out the necessary factors which contribute towards the causes of dropout in secondary school student. Teachers, head teachers, parents, and students were considered stakeholders to find the certain factors with reference prescribed by the teachers, head teacher, dropout students, and their parents provide information as antecedent students' dropout. All the respondents are agreed that there are many factors related to students' dropout particularly, school-related factors, students related factors, teacher-related factors, society, and home-related factors are dominant points to the students' dropout at the secondary level. Head teacher responses regarding school-related factors, physical and educational facilities, unfavorable school environment, Lack of motivation, Lack of counselling with students, insufficient staff, strict discipline, classroom environment, lack of transportation for the students' factors appeared as strong components of the students dropping out. Furthermore, teacher-related factors regarding dropout, lack of motivation, teacher harsh and despotic attitude, teacher absenteeism, and extra work, misuse of students for personal reasons, teacher poor performance, and corporal punishment of the students were main factors of the students' dropout. Similarly, student-related factors, indicated that, weak students in learning, students' indiscipline attitude, take admission in good schools, poor attendance of the students, poor grade, not preparation for test or exams, and early marriage of the students are related factors considered the students' dropout. Parents were asked about the causes the dropout of their children in school, 76 % of respondents agreed that lack of parental support, students leave the school, and 63.3 % parents remarked that poor socio-economic status of the parents, 80% parents believe that lack of financial support to their children are the causes of the students drop out in the school. Similarly, 75% respondents agreed that uneducated parents, 73% domestic issues, 63% strict behaviour of the school administration, 53.3% migration of the family, 65% child labour and 68% respondents were remarks that too much freedom to the students are key factors dropout students at the secondary level.

**Recommendations**

Based on the data findings and conclusion, the following recommendations were made:

- 1 Parents are advised to pay attention to their children's educational and financial needs, ensure a suitable environment, and closely monitor the children's daily activities.
- 2 Students with a poor socioeconomic background may be provided with special assistance by the government to sustain their education. Child labour should be strictly forbidden by the government through the required measures.
- 3 An awareness programme should be organized on an educational basis by the government in society, and the dropout rate can be reduced with the help of electronic and print media.
- 4 Head teachers and teachers are recommended to create a frank environment inside and outside of the school for the learner. Furthermore, school administration should properly connect with parents and update them about their children's educational activities and performance. The teacher should use attractive techniques to retain the students in school.
- 5 The parents should be provided with proper counselling about the importance of providing their children with the necessary education. Parents and teachers should communicate on a regular basis in order to provide children with the necessary education.
- 6 It is recommended that this form of research should be conducted in other districts of Balochistan.

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