FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEMAND FOR PRIVATE TUTORING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN NAIROBI.

KIMANTHI WAYUA MARGARET


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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out in Nairobi Province. The study aimed at finding out the factors that contribute to the demand for private tutoring in primary schools in Nairobi. The sample for the study included teachers in the primary schools selected at random, and parents of pupils in primary school. Data was collected through questionnaires that were administered on the teachers from selected schools and structured interviews were conducted by use of questionnaires with parents.

The study revealed that there is a substantial demand for tutoring services. Many parents are increasingly taking a proactive stance towards their children’s education. The study also reveled that parents are seeking private education in various forms as a strategy for their children. Private tutoring has been a welcome opportunity to increase the income of formal school teachers. The teachers also justified the practice on the ground that they are unable to cover the syllabus during official class hours. Demand and supply factors are thus reinforcing each other, creating a real market for student coaching.

In view of the findings the author recommends a review and possible reorganization of the education system at the primary level. There is need for policy makers to come up with a clearly defined policy on private tuition. Efforts are required to sustain the current enrolment and address the key issues of improved access, equity and quality.