Dimensions and Dynamics of Dropout in Rural Ghana: is poverty enough explanation for school dropout?

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Key messages

- Why Poverty is not enough to explain dropout
- How drop out occurs
- Typologies of drop out
- Implications for Universal Basic Education policy in Ghana

DROP OUT?
How children become School Dropouts

CAUSE

Conditions Out side School
- Household poverty
- Poor Parenting
- Opportunity Cost of School
  1. Informal labour Market
  2. Household Chores
  3. Migration
- Informal Networks among children

Conditions within School
- Teacher factor
  1. availability,
  2. absenteeism
  3. attitude to at risk children
- Schools policy on:
  1. Repetition
  2. Readmission
- Children’s dislikes about School (Curriculum, Punishment & Child Labour)

PROCESS

- IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE
- POOR PERFORMANCE
- REPETITION (over aged children)

OUTPUT

Temporary Dropout

Permanent Dropout
Why poverty is not enough explanation of dropout

CONDITIONS WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Teacher Factor
• Availability
• Absenteeism
• Attitude towards children at risk

Administrative Factors
• Admission & Re-admission conditions
• Repetition

Children’s Dislikes About School
• Child work/labour
• Punishment
• Curriculum?

DROP OUT?
TYPOLOGIES OF DROPOUT: THE DIMENSIONS AND DYNAMICS

6-17 YEAR OLDS

BASIC SCHOOL GRADES 1–9
(Primary School Classes 1-6 and Junior High School Forms 1-3)

TEMPORARY DROP OUT
- SPORADIC DROPOUTS
- EVENT DROPOUTS
- COHORT DROPOUTS

PERMANENT DROP OUT
- UNSETTLED DROPOUTS
- SETTLED DROPOUTS

6-17 YEARS OLDS
Conclusion: Implications for Universal Basic Education Policy in Ghana

• **Teacher factor vital**
  - preventing dropout & encouraging drop-in

• **Policy Inputs to Prevent drop out (Macro, Meso, Micro levels)**
  - ‘Specific Targeting’ of Typologies needed
  - Especially Sporadic & Event due to re-occurrence
  - **Gender sensitive & critical stages** very important
  - Classes 1,2,3 & 6 for girls (temporary & permanent)
  - Classes 4,5 & 6, for boys (temporary)
THANK YOU