

ABSTRACT

Technical and Vocational (TV) subjects have remained an integral aspect of the educational sector and is seen as the pivot upon which economic growth and development lies. Owing to its importance, enrolment into these subjects is very crucial in measuring the pace at which skills, attitudes and knowledge are given to the students. However, in Kisumu East, North and West Districts, enrolment in these subjects has been low since they were introduced in large scale in secondary schools in 1985. This low enrolment may lead to underutilization of the available educational such as teachers, workshops, books and equipment. The purpose of this study was to investigate Stakeholders' perceptions on factors influencing students' enrolment in TV subjects in Public Secondary schools in Kisumu East, North and West Districts in Kisumu County. The study was undertaken from the perspectives of three key stakeholdersthe students who enrolled for TV subjects, Teachers teaching any of the TV subjects and Head Teachers from schools where the data was collected. Objectives of the study were to; establish students' perceptions on factors influencing their enrolment, establish their attitudes towards TV subjects and to find out the Head teachers and Teachers' perception on factors influencing students' enrolment TV Subjects. Descriptive survey design was adopted in this study. The study was based on Rational Choice Theory developed by George Homans in 1961. The study population consisted of 62 Head teachers, 150 teachers who teach any of the TV subjects and 5955 students who enrolled in the TV subjects at Form Four in 2009. Simple random sampling technique used was based on Educational and Psychological measurement formulae for estimating sample size. The sample consisted of 52 schools and their respective head teachers, 108 TV teachers and 361 form four students. Questionnaire and interview schedule were used to collect data. Face validity of the instruments was established by experts in Educational administration, whose input was incorporated. Reliability of the instrument was established through a pilot study in ten percent of the schools after which weaknesses and ambiguity of the instruments were corrected. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics in form of frequency counts, percentages and means. Spearman's rank co-efficient was used to rank perception of various factors. Qualitative data were transcribed and analyzed in emergent themes. The study established that; job prospect and Government policy were perceived by all the stake holders as factors that influence enrolment for TV subjects and were ranked first and second respectively. Contrary to previous studies, students have positive attitude towards TV subjects with mean of 3.008 on five point Likert scale. Perception on parental influence as an enrolment factor was ranked low among all the stakeholders. The study concluded that Job prospect influence students' enrolment in TV subjects and that student have positive attitudes towards the TV subjects and this is not tied to enrolment. The study recommended that Government should establish vocational centres attached to secondary schools to facilitate the professional orientation of students with a view of improving enrolment and focusing on both formal and informal employment. The findings of this research will be of great importance to the Education Policy makers in the Government and Researchers. By virtue of the findings, the Government and Policy makers will be able to asses enrolment status in TV subjects in relation to Students' and Teachers' Perception on the subjects. Researchers will equally find these findings useful as it will afford them with the opportunity to know the extent of work that has been done in the field and the gap to be filled.