

**Parents' attitudes towards financing education as an investment for girls in rural
community secondary schools in Tarime District**

Nyamhanga Mtundi Aldo

Master of Arts (Education)

University of Dar es Salaam, School of Education, 2012

The study sought to assess parents' attitudes towards financing education as an investment for girls in rural community secondary schools in Tarime District, Mara region. Specifically, the study examined how girls access secondary education in rural areas compared to boys. The study employed a qualitative approach with a case study design. Data were collected through documentary review, interviews and focus group discussions. Qualitative data were subjected to thematic analysis, complemented by few tables and graphs. The results show that smaller number of girls compared to boys completed standard seven, joined Form One and completed Form Four. The results have also shown both positive and negative attitudes from parents in educating their daughters in secondary schools. The parents' preferences in educating their children were also shown. Lastly, the results reveal the obstacles encountered by parents in providing education to their daughters. These include poverty, inter-clan war, early marriages and home responsibilities. The study concludes that parents fail to send their children to secondary schools mainly due to poverty. However, those who send their daughters to secondary schools know the advantage of girls' education in their future life. In light of the results, various ways to overcome the obstacles have been proposed such as provision of support to girls from poverty stricken families by educational stakeholders like the government and NGOs, as well as sensitising parents on the importance of financing girls' education.