

**The influence of indigenous attitudes towards secondary education as an investment: A
Case of Bagamoyo District in Tanzania**

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This research aimed at examining the attitudes of indigenous people in Bagamoyo District and the extent to which these attitudes have contributed to the prevailing trend of secondary education. Two wards namely Mwambao and Miono were used as case studies. The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative approaches and used questionnaires, interviews, observation and documentary review as methods for data collection. It was guided by four research questions and the sample was formed by parents, students, education managers/administrators, government leaders and teachers. The literatures reviewed show that the indigenous along the coast have been left behind in schooling simply because, the majority of them concentrate on religious education instead of secular education. Contrary to this, the research findings reveal that the contribution of religious belief towards the prevailing trend of secondary education is very negligible. Large numbers of the indigenous are Muslims by names but practically are traditionalists. Their response in religious affairs are observed in burial ceremony, month of Ramadhan and during the Islamic holidays. The number of children who attend Islamic schools (Madrassa) are relatively small compared to the actual population particularly in Bagamoyo rural. Therefore problems that contribute towards the prevailing trend of participation in Secondary education can be associated with historical background, traditions, economic problem as well as lack of motivation and poor teaching — learning environment. For better trend of secondary education, a shared commitment is needed from all stakeholders notably government leaders, education officers, parents, teachers and students themselves in playing their specific roles.