

“It Makes More Sense to Educate a Boy”: Girls ‘Against the Odds’ in Kajiado, Kenya

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Abstract

Within a conceptual framework of Sen's capability approach, the paper explores aspects of girls' retention in Kajiado schools, Kenya. Drawing on a qualitative study involving in-depth interviews with 24 girls in four schools, the paper discusses the 'unfreedoms' the girls experience in relation to environmental, infrastructural and economic constraints, as well as the personal unfreedoms they experience in relation to their gender. The study found that despite these constraints, girls' retention was linked to their zeal for education and to the part played by key people, supporting and encouraging them and sometimes acting as catalysts for change.

Keywords: International education; Kenya; Capability approach; Girls' retention

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