

A Study on Girl Dropout in Community College of Kirtipur MunicipalityDOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/skmj.v2i2.62505>Babita Maharjan¹**Abstract**

College dropout is one of the big problems in community college of kirtipur. So, in this study, the researcher explores the social, financial and academic reasons of girls who quit their study at the college level. As education plays a vital role in holistic development of individual and nation, the issues of dropping out of students from educational program are crucial area of research. While social, economic and academic factors may affect the students' survival in the school, this study explores the particular reasons that cause girls college dropout at the undergraduate level. The research is based on constructive, interpretative qualitative ideas of mobile interview with open-ended questionnaires using purposive sampling methods with in-depth interviews using as tools to take the data. The findings of this study show that, social, economic and academic reasons influence the participants' college dropout in under graduate level.

Key Words: Dropout, community college, challenges, academic, policies,

Introduction

Education plays a vital role in shaping individual, societies and nations. Its importance cannot be overlooked as it has a significant impact on personal development, economic growth, social progress and well being. Here are some key reasons why education is important. It has fundamental significance in personal and career development, economical growth, building social relations, civic awareness, environmental awareness etc. In the context of our country, there seems a remarkable upgrade in the level of education quality and literacy rate since the couple of decades. However, the importance of education, especially that of higher secondary and graduate level has not yet been realized abundantly among the people. In general, students abandon their studies either by not realizing the importance of higher-level education in their lives or because of the influence of various factors. In short, most of the student's dropout from the college in different levels due to different reasons.

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College drops out, in general sense, refers to an unusual way of leaving college or university by the students before completing a degree or qualification. College dropout is a global phenomenon and it affects in all universities. The high college dropout rate, we now have will certainly leave negative impression for both students and colleges. That is why, college education institutions have been researching the kinds of dropouts, their causes and consequences ever since the early 20th century.

The setting of the research based is Kirtipur, a developing city located on south-western corner of the the Kathmandu Valley about 5 km south-west of Kathmandu central city. It is an ancient city which is rich in culture and history. With modernity, the education system is growing develop day by day in the respected setting. Even though there are several +2s and community colleges in Kirtipur, students are attracted towards private colleges outside Kirtipur. The trend was that many people enrolled in college level and half of them were dropout within these four years. In this research, I have tried to investigate the socio-cultural dimensions that affect girl college dropout of Kirtipur Municipality. The recognition of the college dropout as a problem and the best methods for creating a system can alert institutions for a chief need to control the dropout problem. On the other hand, the study is beneficial for students, guardians, college administration and policy makers to comprehend the internal and external causes of dropout and to provide them with ideas on their involvement in reducing dropout at various student levels (Subedi, 2022). Keeping focus upon the gender issues, this study aims to investigate how girls experience and perceive the elements that affect girls' dropout rates, including parents' and instructors' perspectives. In addition to focusing on how patriarchal socio-cultural practices affect the girls' involvement in and dropout from the secondary school system, this study identifies and explores the circumstances that cause the girls to stop their studies (Pritam, 2021).

As a teacher in community college from last 10 years, I have seen increasing dropout students in bachelor level. There are ups and down in education system where as college dropout is one of the burning issues which I have seen from last five years. Actually, this issue of college dropout is not unique to Nepal. It is a global phenomenon that affects many countries. However, there are some specific factors that contribute to college dropout rates in Nepal. This is one of the major challenges in community colleges of Kirtipur as well. Some efforts are being made to address these challenges. The government of Nepal, along with various Non-Government Organizations (NGOS) and educational institutions are working together to provide scholarship and financial aid to deserving students for the sake of encouraging them. Additionally, initiatives are being taken to improve career counselling services, enhance educational infrastructure and promote practical learning approaches to make educational efficiency more engaging and relevant. It is important to note that college

dropout rates are influenced by a combination of factors, and addressing them requires a comprehensive approach involving stakeholders from the government, educational institution and the wider community. Therefore, this research tries to explore the factors that affect in girls' college dropout. There are experienced and qualified teachers as well as the availability of infrastructures in community colleges in Kirtipur. The community colleges secure satisfactory result, qualitative faculty members and other academic facilities. Despite this, students, especially the girls' students' drop out rate seems to rise every year. Although, student enrollment is good in every first year, their presence become feeble within the remaining three years. The rise in college dropouts not only decreases the standard of higher education but also creates discontent among education consumers, which feeds a cycle of rising dropout rates (Kim, 2022).

College Dropout in Global context

College dropout is a major problem in the world. Despite this, it affects in all the universities of Nepal too. There are different reasons for college dropout. Many of the people, put their opinion on different factors influencing college dropout. The dropout rate is high in college level in Nepal. It creates a debate on this and some people argued that technical, family, environment factor, socio-cultural factor etc. So, this study will be focus on college girls' dropout in under graduate level in Kirtipur Municipality.

The primary causes of dropout as determined by student-related indicators include their poor academic performance on examinations and irregular attendance; as determined by campus-related indicators, they included a lack of academic support, feedback from teachers, motivation from them, and issues with the institution's information system; and as determined by family-related indicators, they included a lack of financial support from home and various family issues (Subedi, 2022). Dropout intentions are highly influenced by a number of information behavior, justice perception, and social integration aspects (Hillmert, 2017). The male students were more likely to drop out of school than female students and the physical therapy department had a comparatively high dropout rate in comparison to other departments (kim, 2022).

The Dalit girl students are struggling with dropout issues before finishing undergraduate level. The Dalits are seen as one of Nepalese society's marginalized groups and as being backward in terms of socio-economic level and education. Discrimination based on gender and caste has also significantly contributed to a rise in Dalit pupils dropping out of college (Mishra, 2023). Because of lack of motivation from the family, feeling of discrimination between high and low caste, no feedback from teachers and giving more preference to son for education are main reasons for dropping out from college. Focusing upon

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the girl students, they dropout the college in running second, third and fourth year in general. Thus, this study examines the factors influencing girl college dropout. This study can help college management committee, academicians and researchers that are related to education directly and indirectly. Therefore, this research tries to explore the girls' college dropout from under graduate level. This may help them as a sample to analyze problems related to college dropout. It helps to make policies to policy maker. Researchers will know the condition or situation of dropout girl students. This will be as motivational factor for researchers, college management, students etc. This reseach will motivate to the students to continue their studies. It minimizes the large gap in our knowledge of what causes students dropout mean that conditions for reducing dropout rates are not good.

Due to early marriages, the majority of girls were dropping out of school. Students in Form I–II, the lowest secondary school level, are primarily impacted by this cultural practice. The researcher suggests that Community-Based Organizations and the government set up timetables for educating the locals about the detrimental effects of cultural practices, beginning with early marriage, in order to eradicate them and ensure that they never again stand in the way of girls' education. The value of education to general development should come first, and then the right to education for all genders should be clarified (Mohamud, 2024).

The study was carried out in a qualitative research design. This study is analytical and descriptive and the data based on primary sources. The purposive sampling with 8 participants interviewees from different background, culture, ecological belt and profession were selected. The researcher took consent with them before interview and used the open-ended questions in interview and narrative form. The narrative and descriptive data are explained and anlyzed in MS Words with the help of theoretical insights of sociologist Emile Durkheim to substantiate my claims as per the necessity.

Dropout and Community College

The major challenges of college dropout are based on social, financial and academic field. According to French sociologist Emile Durkheim's functionalist theory (1858-1917) individual behavior is not only influenced by internal factors but also by external societal factors. Based upon his theoretical insigts, this study arrived at the findings which are categorizred and discussed under the following headings.

Social Challenges.

During the interview, the researcher mainly asked the selected girls to explain the reasons for dropout the college. According to them, social challenges are the major reason for

college dropout. Researcher was able to understand the individuals' experiences and perspectives within a society marked by conflict and power struggles. Researcher conducted interviews to explore how individuals perceive and navigate social inequalities and power dynamics. This helped the researcher to understand how individuals perceive and contribute to the functioning of societal structures. By interviewing people, researchers were largely able to gain insights into how individuals view their roles within the larger social system.

Marriage is one of the social challenges to hinder education in college level. Marriage is a union of two opposite sexes. Marriage comes with its set of responsibilities, such as household routines, childcare, and spending quality time together. Balancing these responsibilities with the time required for studying or attending classes can be a challenge for married individuals, especially if both partners are pursuing education simultaneously. One of the participants said:

I am unable to continue my study. I got married at the age of 21 years. The main reason of my dropout from the college in third year was marriage. After marriage, many responsibilities are added. I had to look after my house and new family. After 7 months of marriage, my old mother-in-law was unwell. But again, I continued the second year. I did not do better in the exam. I was frustrated and I dropped out the college in third year. (Interview, 2023)

It shows that getting married, adding responsibilities are great challenges for girls. In the context of Nepal, girls are deprived from many facilities. Still there is patriarchal society where women are dominated by men. Due to this, girls are backward. She cannot put her views regarding her education. The The participants get married and move to husband's house far from the college. Due to the far from college, they dropout. Married individuals who become parents must manage the demands of childcare with their educational goals. Finding affordable and reliable childcare can be a significant challenge, which can hinder parents' ability to attend classes or focus on their studies. So, the participant feels that social challenges in education are complex issues that can make significant impact upon the learning experience, student outcomes, and the overall educational system. These challenges can stem from various sources, including societal norms, economic variances, cultural differences, systemic inequalities and geographical location.

The main reason for college dropout is getting child, I think, my baby is the first responsibility to take care. There are no one at home, to care of my baby. Even my husband gives pressure not to go to college, so, I dropped out the college. (Interview, 2023)

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Bullying and harassment within educational settings can create unfriendly environments that hamper participants' emotional well-being and their ability to learn. Most of the students are from different background. Because of different language, culture, ecology etc. they may feel uncomfot to adjust in college environment. Married students get uneasy feeling with other students. Due to this, students' dropout the college.

Once more, it has been suggested that a girl student's far from school affects her attendance, which leads to dropout rates. This is because female students are more likely than male students to be exposed to risky activities, and most community schools do not have dormitories. This suggests that because there are no secure on-campus housing choices for college students who live near to their college, they are lucky to live with their parents. This viewpoint holds that female students are particularly helpless since many of them lack self-control when they are enjoying their independence from parental supervision and end up engaging in inappropriate contacts with males, which often leads to unwanted pregnancies. These pregnancies encourage students to quit out before finishing their education level. The girl who was living in rent, said that, "College is far from my room. It takes 30 minutes to reach the college. I feel unsafe while walking alone early in the morning. There are not bus facilities. Even some boys may bull" (Interview, 2023). It indicates that the dropout girls are facing challenges while studying in college.

Financial Challenges

Financial challenges in the academic sector are general and can affect various aspects of education, from early childhood education to university education. These challenges can have far-reaching consequences for both institutions and students. The participant said some common financial challenges in the academic sector are less job opportunities, and no financial support. The one of the participants told me that:

My economical condition was poor. I had to continued my job. But the office was far from the college in which I could not reach on time. If it is so, my salary will be cut. I may not get job. There were not any family members to support financially. I am the elder one. I have to support my family. Without job, it may creats great problems. Even, I am tring to abroad (Arabian country). So, I doped out. (Interview, 2023)

The above statement shows that most of the people have less job opportunities in Nepal. They are financily backward. Alternatively, they choose abroad to earn mony. People are frustrated in Nepal to get job. Many educational institutions, especially community colleges, often face funding shortages. The participants are claimed that they do not get

scholarship in community college. Only the local people are getting. The rising cost of tuition at colleges can be a significant financial burden on students and their families. They should depend financially to their family.

Academic challenge

Academic challenges in education refer to the difficulties, obstacles, or issues that participants face in the pursuit of effective teaching and learning. These challenges can manifest at various levels of the education system and can impact the quality of education. The participants also said that, four years curriculum is also difficult for them. During the interview she said that:

The four years of curriculum is long. So, I dropped out the college in second year and I am trying to go abroad (Arabian country). I think by staying in Nepal, I would not do anything in my life. After complete SEE, my friends went abroad and their life is looking better than me. (Interview, 2023)

Four years of curriculum is challenging for them. They suggest to the curriculum development center to revise the curriculum. College admin gives pressure for regularity for internal marking. Practical or field visit is also burden for them. There are different categories for intermarking like field visit, attendance, field report, and viva. It makes them as challenge to attend the college.

The importance on standardized testing can create stress and anxiety for students. By doing job can not make balance in education. It can also lead to a focus on test preparation at the expense of a broader, more holistic education. So, the students' dropout out college and its being great challenge for students.

Conclusion

In this research, the participants have argued about social, financial and academic challenges. Even though, they studied two years in college level. Education plays vital role in the holistic development. Addressing issues such as stress, anxiety, and depression requires college to offer adequate counseling and support services. Social, financial and academic challenges in education require a complicated approach that involves collaboration among educators, administrators, policymakers, parents, and the broader community. By recognizing and actively working to overcome these challenges, we can create a more equitable and inclusive educational system that benefits all students. It also involves finding ways to make education more affordable, accessible, and inclusive for all students while ensuring that

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educators are adequately compensated and supported in their work. Dropout rates are regarded as a significant loss of both national and personal resources and as a complicated social issue. The primary school dropout rate cannot be reduced by providing free education alone. Therefore, the government cannot resolve the issue on its own. Parents should be encouraged to take their children to college, and the community should be made aware of these issues surrounding dropout rates.

This may help them as a sample to analyze the problem related to college dropout. It helps to make policies to policy maker. Researchers will know the condition or situation of dropout girl students. This will be as motivational factor for researchers, college management, students etc. This research will motivate the students to continue their study. It minimizes the large gap in our knowledge of what causes students dropout means that conditions for reducing dropout rates are not good.

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