

**Modes Of Financing Higher Education and Their Implications On Students' Performance, Quality Of Education And Completion Rates: An Experience Shared From Maasai Mara University, Kenya Florence Osiri Mobegi**

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**Abstract**

The Kenyan Government has put into place methods of financing higher education with the intentions of improving on access, quality, equity and completion rates of students. In the face of increased poverty and vulnerability and with inter-sectored competition for national financing, there is need to rethink on the sustainability of methods of funding higher education. The government provides student loans, bursaries and meets all development expenditures as well as capitation for wage rates. The parents/ household are expected to contribute towards tuition and upkeep of students while in the universities. The issue of accommodation is challenging as increased number of student's enrolments has forced university management to ask students to make private arrangements towards the same. A good numbers of students both regular and privately sponsored do get loans from HELB. However, at the end of each semester fifty percent of students defer their studies as well as examinations. There is need to find out how sustainable methods of financing education are and their implications on the quality of education received by students, access, and completion rates in higher education institutions with a shared experience from Maasai Mara University, Kenya. The study objectives were to; establish sources of funding higher education in Maasai Mara University, establish the implications of modes of funding higher Education on students' access to education, quality of education received, performance and completion rates. The study employed descriptive survey design. The target population was 500 fourth year and 450 third year students. The sampling method employed was stratified random technique and the sample size was 150 fourth year students and 150 third year students. Findings revealed that 80% of the students involved in the study depended on funding from the government; Higher Education Loans and support from the family households. Results further revealed that this mode of funding affected students' performance, completion rates and access to education. The study concluded that, the current modes of funding higher education were not reliable as students were barred from taking exams or even deferred their studies, which resulted to poor performance and cases of missing marks as well taking too long to complete their studies. The study recommended that the management of Maasai Mara university should look for alternative modes of funding higher education to support students from poor families to complete their studies in time.

**Key words:** Quality education, Access to education, Completion rates, educational equity.

