

# Blurred Image of Children in The Rural Area: A Case Study of School Dropout and Its Causing Factors

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## ABSTRACT

Elementary school graduates have the intelligence, knowledge, personality, good character, and skills to live independently and attend further education. Following further education means that elementary school graduates should continue their education to a higher level. But the opposite is the case in some communities in the Saptosari sub-district. Many school-aged children do not pass Junior and Senior High School levels of study. This research aims to explain the situation of children who have dropped out of school, and its reasons. A qualitative technique was applied in the research. Informants, primarily facilitators (teachers), parents of students and school principals provided descriptive data. This research also use direct observation. The findings showed that the number of students in Saptosari that dropping out of school remained high. The economics, environmental variables, and parents' lack of understanding about education are some of the factors.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Everyone should prioritize their education. A child can realize his potential and work through any issues he may have with the help of education. For the sake of their future, it is expected of every children to have a good education. Therefore, the goal of every parent is to send their children to school so that they can think more clearly, conduct morally, and achieve success in the future. Aiming to develop students' potential to become human beings who believe in and fear God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, are knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become a member of society, the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System states that the purpose of education in Indonesia is to develop capabilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the nation's life. This objective leads to the conclusion that every child should pursue education in order to eventually grow up to be educated adults.

Inside the field of education, dropping out of school is a problem that always occurs. The state and country's way of life will be greatly affected by school abandonment. Children who stop attending school will cause future social, economic, and moral upheaval. The rising unemployment rate contributes to social instability and occasionally leads to criminal issues, naughty kids who engage in bad behaviors like stealing, doing drugs, getting wasted, and so forth. Due to the lack of a diploma or the lack of skills programs for those who drop out of school, it is also difficult for the children to obtain employment.

This research, which focuses on dropouts in the Kapanewon Saptosari area of the Gunungkidul Regency, examines the causes that motivate kids to leave school. The majority of the population of the villages that make up Kapanewon Saptosari are farmers. Farmers must put forth a lot of labor to support their families. On average, those who are farmers have only enough money to cover their basic requirements. Children have less incentive to finish their education as a result. Children underperform, making them reluctant to attend school and frequently dropping out.

Children do not, however, only leave school for financial reasons. The time the Covid-19 pandemic had just passed was another reason for students in Kapanewon Saptosari to stop attending school. Those who work at tourist sites that were forced to close owing to the pandemic, employees/laborers who were laid off,

proprietors of small stalls who sustained losses due to fewer customers, and other inhabitants also face difficulties in their livelihoods. The health of the family is significantly impacted, and the children are directly affected. Some families have chosen to forgo sending their children to school in order to obtain employment or just get married in order to alleviate the uncertainty of their financial condition.

Student-to-student interactions were only possible via digital means during the Covid-19 pandemic, which hindered children's interaction, motivation, development, and socializing and lowered their interest in school. During the pandemic, socializing is difficult for everyone, and children who are prohibited from leaving the house and online learning have additional challenges. Due to the inability to play and study with friends, which is one of the reasons why kids are passionate about learning because of friends, learning online causes kids' interest to decline. Their mentalities are also impacted by this because of socialization obstacles, which cause children to grow bored, lazy, and even not understand what their teachers have taught them. The fact that children of school age now play a lot of video games on mobile devices is another factor. Children play this game uncontrollably primarily because parents aren't watching them. Some kids are so addicted as a result of this that stopping them can be quite challenging. Games have made daily regular activities for them so much enjoyable that they forget the primary goal of learning. Children eventually become too lethargic to learn, which leads them to decide to stop going to school.

Given that the village is removed from the bustle of the city and that the children there are still unfamiliar with the different factors that contribute to children being lazy or missing school, it can be said that the interest in learning among the local children is sufficient. These kids can only look for work or money in the village after dropping out of school, and the majority of them are unemployed. This is a result of their lack of education, which prevents them from competing in other fields and the urban industry. In addition to unemployment, they frequently engage in social vices like drinking, smoking, and other vices, which creates further problems.

Based on the background that has been described, specifically the causes of children dropping out of school and the effects of children dropping out of school, specifically the rising unemployment rate and the rising incidence of social deviations, Because of this, the author is very interested in investigating this issue and this phenomenon further by conducting a case study that the title is Blurred Image of Children in Rural Area, especially in Saptosari, Gunungkidul. So that this article aims to describe the portrait of children in rural areas, especially in Kapanewon Saptosari where there are still junior and senior high school age children who are not in school as well as to explain the factors that cause it.

When students enter an institution at the elementary, junior high, or high school levels to learn and receive instruction but do not finish their education or do not graduate, they are said to have dropped out. Children who are momentarily absent from school in order to stop or not continue their education to a higher degree are also referred to as dropouts.

There are three categories of dropouts, according to Djumhur and Surya (1975); (1) quit school or stop at a given level; that is, if a student or students quit school while remaining in a certain level, (2) drop out at the conclusion of a level, that is, if a student does not have enough time to complete all of the lessons in a level of study or stops at the last level, (3) leaving school early or quitting in between levels, meaning a child does not continue on to a higher level of study. In order to prevent former students from continuing their study at the next level of schooling, Gunawan (2010) claims that dropping out of school is a predicate given to them.

## 2. METHODS

This is a case study research methodology. To get to the heart of the concerns raised, this qualitative research methodology is used. Additionally, this method is utilized to look at natural objects (Faiz, 2019; Sugiyono; 2007). A sort of research known as qualitative or qualitative research became more that cannot be reached by statistical methods or other quantitative techniques. Nograhani Farida (2014: 07) This qualitative research can be used to study kinship, social movements, organizational functionalism, organizational functionalism, and people's lives. A case study is a current empirical examination that takes place in the setting of real life; this particular case study is an example of a problem that happens in the research environment. Data collecting methods were interview and observation forms.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Numerous studies have identified a variety of reasons that contribute to students dropping out of school, which often fall into two groups (internal and external factors). Consider some research, such as that by Latief et al. (2009), which stated that one internal issue is a lack of desire to attend school. The public is dominated by the Madurese ethnic group, who would rather recite the Koran than attend school, and these external factors: poor parental education, low family income, and cultural environment, were what set it off. So long as you continue reading, it won't be an issue if you stop going to school.

Another finding from the research of Dewi, Zukhri, & Dunia (2014) and Saputro is that parents had poor incomes and a low level of education (2009). Numerous causes of school abandonment have been identified. Another finding from the research of Dewi, Zukhri, & Dunia (2014) and Saputro is that parents had poor incomes and a low level of education (2009). Even so, 78.84 percent of parents of young children believe that schools are not very necessary, according to research by Sudiyono (2010). Additionally, Yuda's research (2012) demonstrates that external influences can also result from the absence of suitable infrastructure and services, as well as from physical or mental impairment.

Incomplete high school study or the discontinuation of education in the middle of a course still require investigation into the causes and potential remedies. This stands in stark contrast to Indonesia's 12-year compulsory education program (WAJAR), which is in place, as well as several free school initiatives and other forms of tuition aid. Although there are dropouts in urban regions as well, dropouts mostly occur in rural areas (APS). In Kapanewon Saptosari, an interesting phenomena was seen to analyze the variables causing children to drop out of school. The analysis research of out-of-school children in rural communities at the age of WAJAR took place there.

According to observations made of the environment of Kapanewon Saptosari, it is quite a distance from urban centers. Farmers and fishermen make up the majority of the workforce. The bulk of the population owns a private car in the form of a motorbike or matic, and transit options are limited but accessible. For junior high and similar levels, there are 4 schools in Kapanewon Saptosari, but there is only 1 high school.

A fascinating occurrence is the high number of young people in Kapanewon Saptosari who leave school in their teens and begin working, getting married, and living independently. According to research data analysis, there are various variables that contribute to kids leaving school in Kapanewon Saptosari between the ages of Wajar 12 years, including the following: the influences of the family the child's closest friends are his or her family members. School dropouts' families in Kapanewon Saptosari are entire families with a full set of parents, including a father, mother, and siblings (brother and sister). Every family's situation is different. There are wealthy families, less fortunate families, large families, tiny families, and families with a small number of individuals.

According to the findings of interviews with various instructors and parents, the following are some of the reasons why children drop out of school:

a. Financial situation of the family

The community's economic position has changed slightly, particularly for those living in the Kapanewon Saptosari area, especially since the Covid-19 pandemic, which has recently passed. Those who work as staff at tourist sites that were forced to close owing to the pandemic, employees/laborers who were laid off, owners of small stalls who sustained losses due to less purchasers, and others are among those who face challenges. This has a tremendous impact on the family's well-being and has a direct impact on the

b. Low interest in learning

During the pandemic, student meetings are limited to digital access, limiting interaction, motivation for development, and socialization, all of which impacts children's learning interest.

c. Obsession to online game

School-aged youngsters increasingly spend a significant amount of time playing video games on their mobile devices. The lack of parental supervision is the primary reason why children play this game without control. Some children become so addicted as a result of this that it is quite difficult to convince them to stop. Games are a lot of fun for them, and they've turned them into daily routine activities, so they've forgotten about the core purpose of learning. Children will eventually get too lazy to study.

#### 4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The findings of this research can be deduced from the data collected. The four most significant variables affecting Saptosari's high rate of school dropouts are as follows:

1. Children's social surroundings.
2. Challenges participating in classroom instruction.
3. Economic considerations.
4. Parents' lack of support.

Regarding what can be recommended based on research findings, see the list below:

1. Gunungkidul District Education Office is anticipated to participate in more intensive socialization and communication to the local population, and informing parents in particular about the importance of formal education in schools. It also education authorities has to help maximally the programs that has stood to minimize dropouts school in Saptosari wrong the only one providing support in the form of facilities and funds for institutions PKBM Ngudi Ngelmu which specifically handles dropout case in Saptosari through the package chase program.
2. The village government and village representatives are expected to create programs that directly benefit school-age dropouts.
3. For children who have dropped out of school, the school is expected to take a more intense approach; parents of dropouts are anticipated to be closely monitored later on if there is a local government initiative to reduce the number of dropouts from school.

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