

**FACTORS INFLUENCING WOMEN ENROLMENT
IN DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**A Case Study of The Open University of
Tanzania**

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ABSTRACT

Context The purpose of this research was to investigate the factors influencing women enrolment at the OUT. The study examined the unique factors and variables which were assumed to have influence on women participation in distance education programmes. The variables investigated were the extent to which women characteristics, programme, study materials, support services and attitude had influence on women enrolment at the OUT.

Method The study was a micro one carried out in Dar es Salaam City. Data were collected through questionnaires, observations, interviews and content/document review. Quantitative data were tabulated into tabular, frequency distribution and percentages. Qualitative data were subjected to content analysis.

Findings It was found that family responsibilities, particularly child bearing, are a unique factor influencing women enrolment at the OUT. Women characteristics, the programme and study materials, support services and attitudes were also found to have more influence on women enrolment than on men.

It was recommended that the OUT should prepare preparatory courses for the form four failures to improve their education qualifications. These could upgrade the majority of women's first minimum qualifications of joining the OUT and enable them to qualify for the OUT foundation courses.

It was suggested that a similar research be undertaken at other major towns or at the macro level.