

Empowering the next generation:

Kenyan citizens' views and experiences of education policy reforms

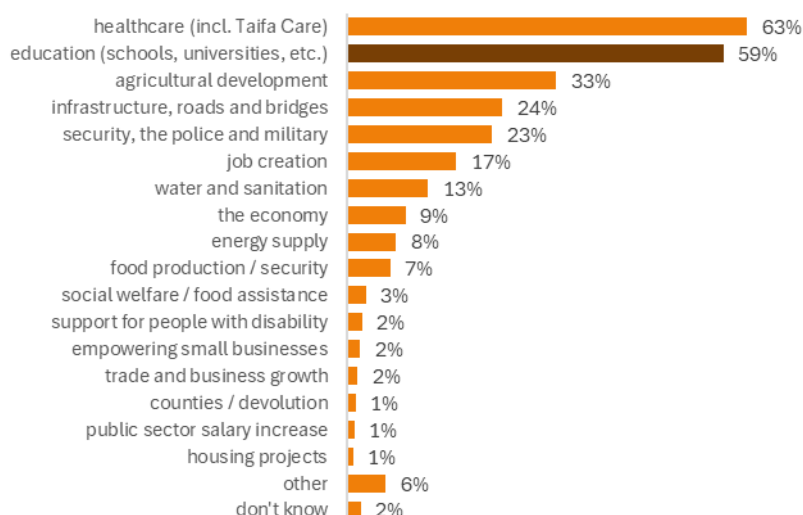
This brief explores the issue of recent education policy reforms, including the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), from the perspective of citizens. The data comes from Twaweza's *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens' experiences. Further details are available from www.twaweza.org/sauti.

Insight 1. Citizens rank education as a high priority for public spending

Asked what the government should prioritise if it had money available to spend, education ranks close to the top of citizens' list of suggestions.

Six out of ten citizens (59%) put education as a priority area for increased public spending, only slightly fewer than prioritise healthcare (63%).

If the government could increase its spending, which areas do you think should be high priority?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 13, March-April 2025

Insight 2. Citizens with a child in education under CBC are split on whether this is a good thing or not

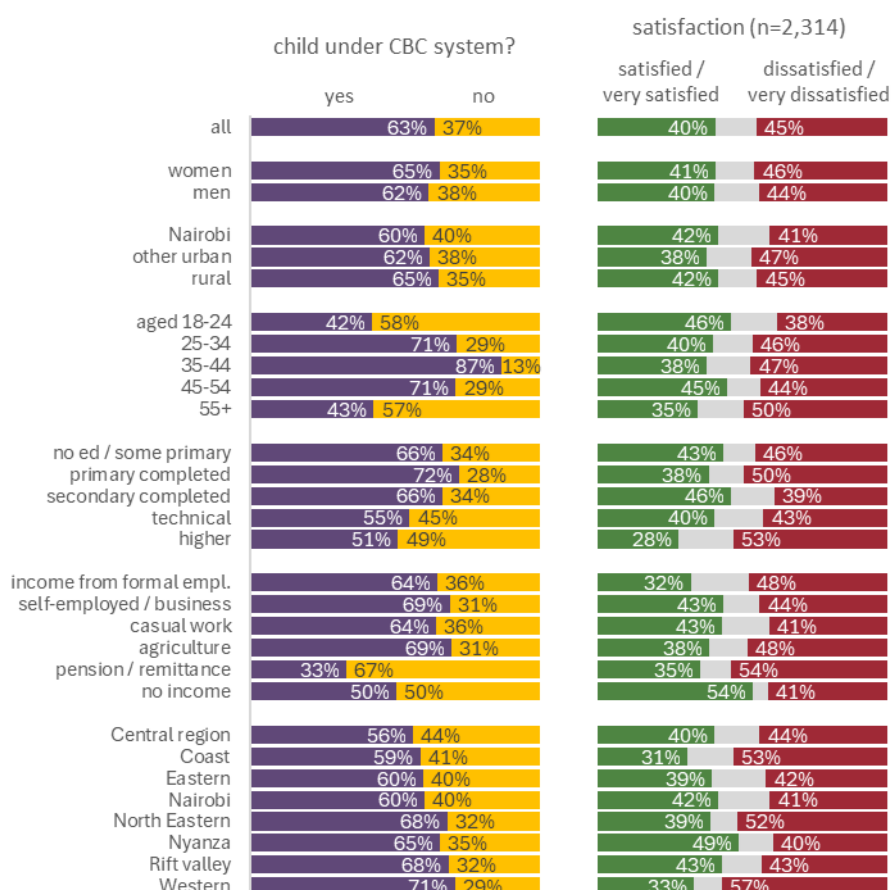
Most households (63%) have a child in education under the recently-introduced Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

This figure is - for understandable reasons - higher among citizens aged 35-44 and lower among those aged under 25 or 55 and above, as well as among pensioners. It is also higher among citizens with lower levels of education.

Among those with a child in CBC schooling, slightly more citizens are dissatisfied (45%) than satisfied (40%) with the CBC system.

There are no clear demographic patterns when it comes to satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the CBC, though citizens with higher education are less likely than others to be satisfied.

Do you have a child under the CBC system of education?
If so, how satisfied are you with this?



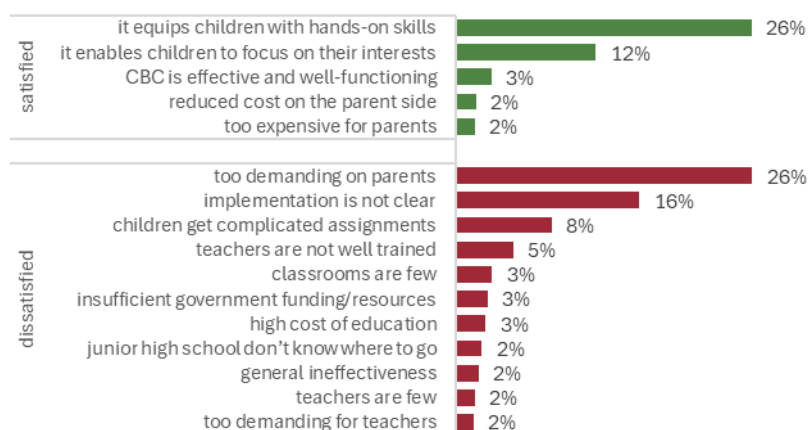
Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 13, March-April 2025

Insight 3. Citizens like that the CBC equips children with practical skills, dislike how demanding it can be on parents

The main reasons given for satisfaction with the CBC are that it equips children with hands-on skills (26%) and that it enables children to focus on their interests (12%).

The main reasons for dissatisfaction are that it can be too demanding on parents (26%), that implementation is not yet clear (16%) and that children get complicated assignments (8%).

Why do you say you are satisfied / dissatisfied with the CBC system? (among those with children learning under CBC; n=2,314)



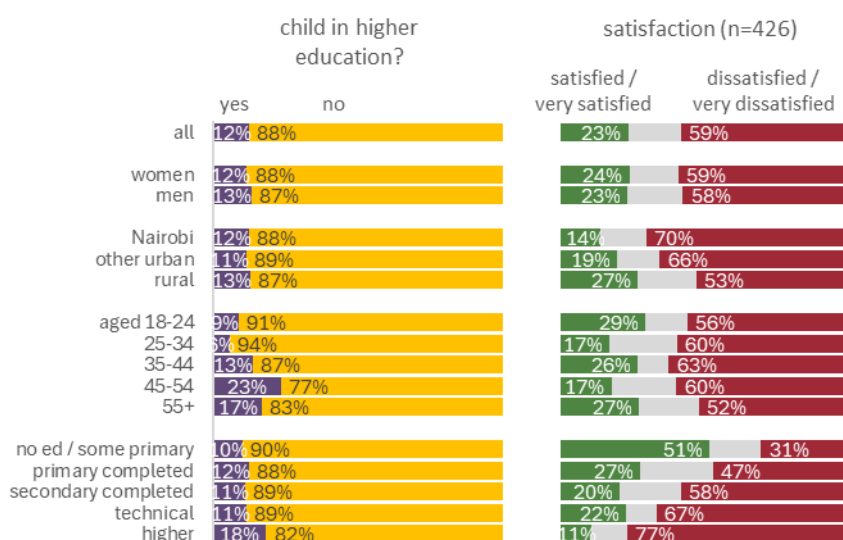
Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 13, March-April 2025

Insight 4. Among households with a child in higher education, most are dissatisfied with the new funding model

Not many households (12%) have a child in higher education. Among those that do, most (59%) are dissatisfied with the new funding model for higher education.

Dissatisfaction is higher among residents of Nairobi and other urban areas. It is also strongly linked to level of education: citizens with higher levels are much more likely to be dissatisfied with the new funding model.

Do you have a child in higher education under the new funding model? If so, how satisfied are you with implementation of this model?



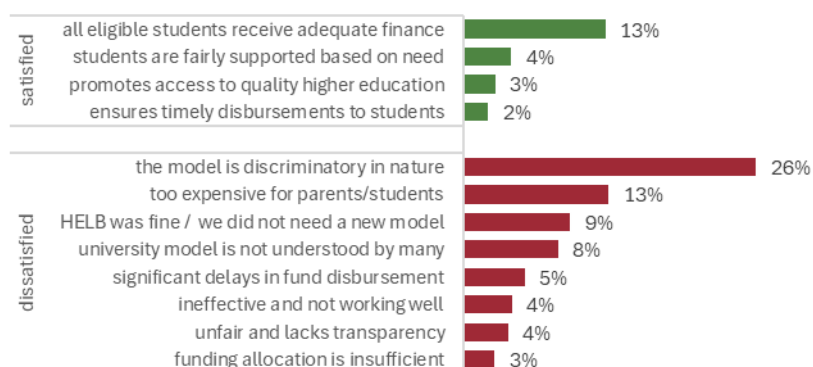
Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 13, March-April 2025

Insight 5. The main reason for dissatisfaction is that the model is seen as discriminatory in nature

The main reason given for dissatisfaction with the new funding model for higher education is that it is seen as discriminatory in nature (26%), well ahead of any other reason. Other reasons include that it can be too expensive for parents or students (13%), that the previous system was fine (9%) and that the new model is not well understood by many (8%).

The main reason given for satisfaction is that it enables all eligible students to receive adequate finance.

Why do you say you are satisfied / dissatisfied? (among those with direct experience; n=1,936)



Source: Sauti za Wananchi special panel round 13, March-April 2025

This factsheet was written and produced by Twaweza East Africa.

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Sauti za Wananchi

