

**CONTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS' COUNCILS TO STUDENT DISCIPLINE IN
PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HAMISI SUB-COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The Contribution of students councils in promoting student discipline in Kenya and other parts of the world is increasingly becoming more complex because of changes in technology, culture, encroachment of democracy and emerging issues such as child rights. This has caused schools to embrace participatory role in the school management and administration involving all stakeholders like parents, Board of Management, administration and students to ensure effective discipline in the school. However, the increase in the number of cases of indiscipline among students in public secondary schools in Kenya manifested in both violent and non-violent acts raises the question of the contribution of student councils in enhancement of student discipline in public secondary schools. It was in this light that the researcher sought to evaluate the contribution of student councils in promoting student discipline in public secondary schools in Hamisi sub-county. Specific objectives of the study were: to assess the involvement of students' councils in school decision making in promoting student discipline ; to determine the role of students' councils in promoting student discipline in co-curricular activities ;to find out the contribution of students' councils in promoting student discipline in academic discipline ;to assess the contribution of students' councils in enhancing student discipline in utilization of school and to find out the challenges faced in maintaining students discipline in public secondary schools in Hamisi sub-county. The study employed the survey research design. The methodology used was a mixed methodology, involving qualitative and quantitative methods. The target population was forty seven (47) public secondary schools in Hamisi sub-county. A sample size of fourteen (14) schools was randomly selected through stratified sampling to ensure fair representation of various categories of schools found in the sub-county. The respondents were fourteen (14) principals, fourteen (14) deputy principals, forty three (43) Heads of Departments and Forty seven (47) student councilors, giving a total of one hundred and eighteen (118) respondents. Two schools from the target population were selected for a pilot study. The researcher developed one questionnaire for principals, deputy principals and Heads of Departments and one for student councilors and administered them personally with the help of research assistants. The content and face validity of the research instrument was established by seeking opinions of experts in the field of study. A test-retest technique was used to establish reliability of the questionnaire. For qualitative data, descriptive analysis comprising of frequencies, percentages and other measures of dispersion and variability were used. Inferential statistics used in the study included Pearson

Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, chi-square and Multinomial regression. The study findings revealed that student councils have a statistically significant positive effect on decision making, in Co-curricular activities, on academic discipline and in utilization of school infrastructure. School academic culture, school size, school type and school rules were the identified factors. The study concluded that student councils have a statistically significant effect on students discipline in co-curricular activities, academic discipline and utilization of school infrastructure. The study therefore makes recommendations that if implemented would be beneficial to education managers, administrators and education policy makers in identifying strategies of promoting student discipline in public secondary schools.