

**ROLE OF PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF FREE
SECONDARY EDUCATION FUNDS IN SELECTED SCHOOLS IN IGEMBE SOUTH
DISTRICT, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the levels of participation of PTAs in the management of Free Secondary Education funds in selected schools in Igembe South District, Meru County, and suggest ways by which their participation can be improved in the various schools in order to tap into the benefits of the program and enhance the performance of the respective schools. The researcher obtained a permit as required by law to conduct the study, and then went to the selected schools to collect data. A descriptive survey research design was used in this study. The study population consisted of the school Principals, the school PTA chairs, and 2 BOG representatives from each of the ten randomly selected public secondary schools in Igembe South District, making a total of 40 respondents. Data was collected by use of questionnaires and interviews. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as means and percentages. The results obtained were expected to demonstrate the level of PTA involvement in the management of secondary schools and its effect on the performance of the schools in the study area, and the recommendations developed by the study help come up with ways of improving the situation in these schools and the country as a whole. The role played by the PTAs in the management of free secondary education funds in the study area found out that the PTAs are not actively involved while the main challenges facing effective management of free secondary education funds in schools shows that PTA disagree with there being effective management of FSE funds and the effects of the current state of management on the performance of the respective schools, the study found out that there is no effectiveness of PTAs in the management of FSE funds in the schools in the study area. On the role played by the PTAs in the management of free secondary education funds in the study area is effective. The study found that the current level of management and involvement of PTAs in FSE funds management is affecting the performance of the respective schools as they are not acting as a bridge between the school management and the parents, and they are not controlling school funds utilization by the school management committee. The study recommends further study in the relationship between parent's teachers association and board of governors in the management of free secondary school education funds. A second study is recommended on effectiveness of controlling the school funds by the school management committee.