

**IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY MEASURES IN PUBLIC SECONDARY
SCHOOLS IN KENYA: A CASE OF KITUI WEST DISTRICT, KITUI
COUNTY.**

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on the evaluation of safety measures policy and its implementation in public secondary schools in Kitui West District – Kitui County. The study gathered qualitative data about the safety measures policy in public secondary schools. The data was collected from Kitui West District from a representative sample of 10 public secondary schools out of the total 28 schools in the whole district. 10 principals from the selected schools and 50% of the total number of teachers from each school were subjected to the study. The number was 50 teachers and one quality assurance standards officer. The study used descriptive survey and it used four research questions to answer the objectives. The first research question seeks to get information on the safety measures that are required in the public secondary schools. The second one seeks to establish the safety measures have been put in place in the public secondary schools in Kitui West- District. The third research question seeks to establish the skills used to manage the safety measures in place, and the fourth one help to gather data on the challenges being by the schools in implementing the safety measures. Data analysis was done thematically. The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) programme was used to analyse the data. Data from open-ended questions was presented in descriptive narrative. The researcher then made recommendations and suggests on areas for further studies. The study articulated the above concern and the finding of the research was of great importance to the Ministry Of Education and policy makers in education. Based on the findings from this study, the first conclusion was that most schools were aware of the school safety measures. This was evidenced by the fact that in most schools the environment is safe (57%) and the community around their school was friendly. Also most schools have fire extinguishers (100%), safe play grounds (57%), and dormitories have outward swinging doors (57%). The second conclusion is that most schools (72%) under study had implemented the safety measures. These included well fenced schools, standard school toilets, well-structured kitchen adequate fire extinguisher and standard class rooms. The third conclusion is that, majority of the schools (69%) did not have the required skills to man the safety measures. Most of the schools lacked frequent training for fire drills sessions and school technicians for maintenance. The last conclusion for this study is that the challenges facing the schools in implementing the safety measures includes, in adequate school facilities, support staff inadequate skills to implement the safety measures, external threats and inadequacy of funds to implement the safety measures. Based on the findings from this study, recommended that the district education office should do frequent inspection of schools to assess the awareness and extent of schools implementation of safety measures, the schools should equip their personnel with the required skills for safety implementation through training, all members of the school community should be trained on how to use fire extinguishers and other safety facilities.