

**STUDENTS' LEADERSHIP AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY
SCHOOLS IN RWANDA
A CASE STUDY OF RUHANGO DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

This study intended to investigate the relationship between students' leadership and effective management in Rwandan secondary schools. It was a mixed study that used both the qualitative and quantitative methods. Data for this study was collected on the independent variable, which is students' leadership, and that of the dependent variable, which is effective management. The research was guided by the overall objective which is to determine the relationships between the aspects of students' leadership in Rwandan Secondary Schools with effective management of these schools. The framework that guided this study was based on the assumption that the kind of leadership style adopted by head teachers regarding students' involvement would have an impact on the management of their schools. The population of this study was composed of 5623 students and 9 head teachers of public boarding secondary schools in Ruhango District. A sample obtained from this population using the Slovin's formula was composed of 937 people distributed in 9 secondary schools of Ruhango District. Information was obtained on the basis of questionnaire given to students and school head teachers, and interview which was given especially to head teachers. Descriptive statistical tools were employed to measure the research variables. The findings of the study were therefore analyzed and interpreted in light of previous research in order to reach the conclusions and make recommendations for improvement and further research to be done. For the purposes of this investigation, the researcher examined the relationship between students' leadership in general and effective management of schools. The study established that effective school management requires visionary leadership involving students, and that there is a strong relationship between students' leadership and effective management of schools. Finally, there is a positive impact of students' leadership in secondary schools in Rwanda on their effective management.