

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT ON  
PARENTS' DEVELOPMENT FUND MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS IN KITUI COUNTY, KENYA**

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## ABSTRACT

This study was guided by the following objectives; to determine the effects of planning on parents' development, to establish the effects of leading on parents' development fund to assess the effect of coordination on parents' development fund and to determine the effects of controlling on parents development fund management in public secondary schools in Kitui County. The research methodology which includes a target population for this study consisted of eight public secondary schools in each sub-county in Kitui County, one principal from each school in sub-county totaling to sixty-four (64) principals and one PTA Chairperson from every school in the sub-county totaling to sixty-four (64) PTA chairpersons. One auditor from every sub-county totaling to six auditors in the whole county. This study applied census sampling procedures to obtain the respondents for questionnaires and interviews. The study selected a sample of 134 respondents which is 100 percent of the targeted population. Descriptive research survey design was used. The study made use of the questionnaires and interview schedules to gather information from the respondents. This study was based on the multiple stakeholder theory proposed by Freeman (2004) and parents development theory proposed by Mowder in 1993. To establish the validity of research instruments, piloting was carried out by the researcher for the purpose of establishing the reliability and consistency of the data collection instruments. The Split-half method was used to establish reliability of the instruments. Interview schedules were used to collect qualitative data. The interview schedule enhanced the interaction with the respondents. Data was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics specifically Pearson's linear correlation coefficient. Data analysis was done using Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS) version 21. The study concluded the following; that effect of Planning on parents' development fund management in public secondary schools in Kitui County is more importance and should be given more attention to help in curbing mismanagement of parents' development funds. That when proper planning is done then cases of mismanagement of parents development fund shall not be experienced in the near future with the help of proper financial records; that leading and organizational policy in the institutions was part and good for the efficient running and management of school finances. The findings conclude that when there is proper co-ordination among the respondents namely: principals, PTA Chairpersons and School Sub-county auditor they tend to agree on one platform to manipulate the financial budget report hence mismanagement/misappropriation of funds are experienced. This further indicates that when there is proper controlling of parents' development fund there is progressive school development, quality social welfare and healthcare and adequate physical infrastructure. The study recommended the following; that access to finances is a factor which is integral to the successful implementation of strategic plans; that schools should strive to see to it that they allocate resources to the specific objectives at hand; the school funds should not be left for the school principals alone to do the budgeting and make appropriate use of money but instead a body should be formed to oversee the management of resources during purchase of materials and proper documentation should be done to check if there is any form of mismanagement of funds; that there should be parental involvement in case of money spent towards development to set financial records straight and clear without manipulating any financial documentation.