

**ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES FACING IMPLEMENTATION OF  
STUDENT LEADERSHIP THROUGH ELECTION PROCESSES IN PUBLIC  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN UASIN GISHU COUNTY, KENYA.**

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**MEDS/1011/10**

**A Research Project Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirement of Award  
of the Degree of Master of Education in Educational Planning, Management and  
Administration of Mount Kenya University.**

**Mount Kenya University**

**November, 2011**

## ABSTRACT

Student leadership contributes a great deal to the administration and management of secondary schools in Kenya. However the student leadership has also been accused of causing strikes and riots resulting to premature closures. This has been attributed to the manner the Principals have been using to select the leaders by appointment. A new educational policy has recommended that students should be allowed to choose their leaders through democratically conducted elections. This policy is likely to experience challenges before it is fully implemented some of them being administrative in nature. The purpose of this study was to investigate those administrative challenges that student leadership were facing through the elections processes in Public Secondary Schools in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. The study was therefore, carried out amongst School Principals, Student leaders and Prefects of secondary schools in in Public Secondary Schools in Uasin Gishu County. The study objectives that guided the study included: identifying the administrative challenges facing student leadership in the implementation of student leaders elections in public secondary schools; comparing the different election processes used in choosing of student leaders in public secondary schools; and to offer strategies which may help to overcome the administrative challenges that face student leaders election processes in public secondary schools in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. The study adopted the *the expost facto* causal-comparative survey design. Purposive sampling technique and simple random sampling technique was used for the study. A study sample of 371 respondents comprising of 80 Principals and 291 student leaders and prefects was used for the study. Piloting was done to test the reliability and validity of the instruments. Cronbach alpha reliability co-efficient score of 0.7 and above was accepted. Data was collected by use of questionnaires, interview schedules with some Principals and Focus Group Discussions with student leaders . Data collected was analysed qualitatively and quantitatively for descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) and Chi-Square Tests with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 17. After data analysis, the results were presented in the form of charts and tables for interpretation. The findings showed that the administrative challenges facing student leadership in the implementation included: fear of uncertainty and consequences; lack of democratic traditions in the schools; lack of technical knowledge on elections; lack of technical knowledge on elections; and lack of information on how to hold elections. Students chose heroes who were naughty and indisciplined with no vision hence, creating administrative problems; teaching staff were interfering in the election of student leaders and students lacked guidance on how to come up with a proper choice of leaders. The findings also revealed that the process of student leaders elections in public secondary schools in Uasin Gishu County was still undemocratic; and that there was lack of information on election process and manner of voting in public secondary schools in Uasin Gishu County. Following this, the study recommended that the Ministry of Education should consider developing a favourable policy for the promotion of the student leaders election system, creating an office for the Dean of Students Affairs, organizing informative induction for the teachers and workshops for the students, mobilizing and allocating sufficient resources for funding of the election processes. The findings could be useful to