

**FACTORS INFLUENCING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS'  
UNREST IN KATULANI DISTRICT, KITUI COUNTY.**

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**REG. NO.: BEDA/2013/45815**

**A Research Project Submitted In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Award of a Bachelor of Education (Arts) Degree of Mount Kenya  
University.**

**MARCH, 2016**

## ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate the factors influencing secondary school students' unrest in Katulani District, Kitui County. The study was guided by the following objectives; to determine how drug abuse influences secondary school students' unrest in Katulani District, Kitui County, Kenya; to establish the influence of school administration on secondary school students' unrest in Katulani District, Kitui County, Kenya; to establish the influence of parents on secondary school students' unrest in Katulani District, Kitui County, Kenya; to establish the influence of guidance and counseling on secondary school students' unrest in Katulani District, Kitui County, Kenya and to determine the influence of peer pressure on secondary school students' unrest in Katulani District, Kitui County, Kenya. This study was based on cognitive-behavioral theory. In this study, descriptive research design approach was used. The population of interest was all the 20 registered public secondary schools located in Katulani District, Kitui County. From the population of 20 registered public secondary schools, a random sample of 357 students, 20 teacher counselors and 40 principal's and deputy principals was selected. Out of 417 respondents that included 357 students, 20 teacher counselors and 20 principal's and 20 deputy principals, 340 responded, of which 20 principal, 20 deputy principals, 20 teacher counselors. Primary data was collected using a structured questionnaire, which was presented to the principal, deputy principal and the guidance and counseling teacher. In addition, Responses were also collected from a random sample of students in form three. Reliability of the research instruments was achieved by ensuring that the same questionnaire was utilised so as to attain consistency. Quantitative analysis was utilised to evaluate the reliability of the research study by attempting to determine if any statistically significant differences indicate the existence of a causal relationship between the factors influencing secondary school students' unrest. Validity of the research instruments was achieved by carrying out a pilot study for the questionnaire. Secondary data was obtained from journals and schools data base. Data collected was analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Descriptive statistics and thematic analysis were used. The findings showed that the public schools that were effective in the management of access to drugs and substance abuse in terms of principals' management had fewer cases of school unrests compared to five for those schools that were not effective in managing drugs and substances. The study also found out that the schools which had teachers' practice better guidance and counselling among the students had fewer cases of school unrests compared to those schools that did not have better guidance and counselling. The findings also show that the schools that were effective in using various discipline approaches and the teachers complied with children's rights had fewer cases of students' unrest compared to those schools that lacked. The study recommends that government initiate programmes that enhance principal's management of access to drugs and substance since the current methods being applied seem not to be effective. This is because the teachers highlighted lack of proper practices to check on drugs and substance abuse in the public secondary schools. This can be done through the DEOs and principals in the public secondary schools. Further research should be undertaken on the influence of head teachers' leadership styles on students' unrest in public secondary schools; the effect of teacher – students' ratio on student unrest in public secondary schools; the influence of school environment on student unrest in public secondary schools in Kenya and the influence of subordinate staff on students' unrest in public secondary schools in Kenya.