

**THE EXTENT OF STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING IN  
PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KALOLENI DISTRICT, KENYA**

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## ABSTRACT

Student participation refers to the process of incorporation/involvement of the ideas of students in crucial aspects of school administration decision making process. The purpose of this study was to investigate the extent of student participation in decision making in public secondary schools in Kaloleni district, Kilifi County. The study used descriptive survey research design to collect data. This design was found appropriate because it would allow for the collection of large amount of data relatively quickly and effectively. The target population comprised of 20 secondary schools out of which 10 schools in the district of study were selected. The schools were chosen using stratified sampling technique to cater for the various categories and type of schools which participated in the study. Similarly, it was used to get the sample of 10 principals, 40 teachers and 150 form three students. The respondents were issued with structured questionnaires containing both closed and open-ended items in order to obtain the data for the study as they were deemed knowledgeable on matters of decision making in the school. Data was gathered mainly by use of questionnaires and interview schedules, and analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods in frequencies, percentages and mean value tables and descriptive statistics. The responses from the open-ended questions were listed to obtain proportions appropriately. The data was then presented in tables, pie charts and bar graphs. The validity of the questionnaires was checked by the supervisors and the reliability of the instruments was checked during piloting. The split-half method was used to test the reliability of the content of the questionnaires. The results findings revealed that student participation is still insignificant especially on administrative decisions. The study therefore recommended that School Boards of Management should expand the opportunities for active student participation in decision making at an administrative level. Thus the outcomes of the study would empower school managers on the implications of increased student participation and its contribution to effective school decision making process.