

**AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT DISCIPLINARY MEASURES ON
STUDENTS' DISCIPLINE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MATUNGU
SUB-COUNTY, KENYA.**

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ABSTRACT.

There has been an increase in the number of indiscipline cases in public secondary schools since the abolition of corporal punishment. This study was triggered by the escalation of cases of learner indiscipline in schools, which now raises safety and security concerns. The study sought to assess current disciplinary measures on students' discipline in secondary schools in Matungu sub-county in order to address the problem. The objectives of the study were to: establish the current disciplinary cases affecting discipline; evaluate the current disciplinary measures in relation to school discipline; and, to determine challenges affecting students' discipline in secondary schools in Matungu sub-county. The study adopted descriptive survey research design to obtain data on the current disciplinary measures on students' discipline in secondary schools. The population comprised of 26 principals, 234 teachers, 11,500 students, 338 B.O.M, 260 P.T.A and 1 educational officer (quality assurance and standard officer). The total population targeted was 12,359. The study employed multistage sampling which used a sample size of 384 respondents. Multistage random sampling was used to select students, with the sub-location being used as a sampling unit. For key informants, purposive sampling was employed. The key informants included the members of BOM and the Education officer. The research utilized questionnaires for teachers, BOM, PTA, students and used interview schedules for principals and education officer. Observation was also used in the collection of data. The data obtained was analyzed and presented using narratives, tables, charts and graphs where appropriate. The study established that the most common discipline cases in order of magnitude were theft, lateness to school, cheating in exams, sneaking, damage to school property, wearing civilian clothes, fighting, disrespecting teachers, shaggy dressing, immorality, rioting, drug abuse and bullying. Disciplinary measures used to curb indiscipline were amicable procedural grievance handling, guiding and counseling, manual punishment, extra academic assignment, suspension, detention, community work, paying fines and expulsion. Challenges affecting student discipline are school culture, effectiveness of guidance and counseling department, effectiveness of students' council and the school management leadership styles. The study recommends that there is need for schools to put serious measures in place that will help curb cases of theft, lateness to school, cheating in exams, sneaking which are rampant in schools. To curb indiscipline, schools need to embrace effective methods such as amicable procedural grievance handling, guiding and counseling and extra academic assignments. School managements should strive to promote school cultures that positively influences discipline.

Guidance and counseling departments as well as student councils should be strengthened since they play a significant role in enhancing student discipline.