

**LEGAL AND POLICY ISSUES AFFECTING THE FUNCTIONS OF
PARENT- TEACHER ASSOCIATION IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS
IN MOGOTIO DISTRICT, BARINGO COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to analyze the legal and policy issues affecting the functions of parent teacher association in public secondary schools in Mogotio district, Baringo County. Three research objectives guided the study. The study was based on Mintzberg Theory of management. The study would therefore stimulate further research on the community participation in education management. Descriptive survey research design was used. A target population of 20 headteachers, 320 teachers and 60 parents from which a sample of 8 head teachers, 32 class teachers and 32 parents were selected. Data were collected by user of questionnaires. Data were analysed by use of qualitative and quantitative means. Data analysis was done with the use of descriptive statistics. The findings revealed that parents elected PTA members in the school as indicated by headteachers in the schools. PTA members were involved more in the endorsement of any sum of money withdrawn for development of the school however they were less involved in the management of staffing and academic affairs. Majority PTA members were aware of their roles as a PTA member and were taken through the guidelines by the headteacher, there were no structured programmes for the induction of Parents and teachers appointed to spearhead the PTA. Findings on the challenges faced by PTA members in performing their functions in public secondary schools revealed that that use of school funds was a minor challenge, organizing motivational trips for teachers and students, fundraising for infrastructure development, organizing meetings between teachers and parents, school meetings attendance and representation of PTA in BOM meetings was a major challenge in representation of PTA in BOM meetings. Data also revealed that there were also challenges such as communication barrier and sourcing of funds for development and challenges related to monitoring quality education. Based on the findings, the study concluded that a number of legal and policy issues affect parents PTA members performance in secondary schools. First PTA members were charged with various key roles and responsibilities in their schools such as involvement in fundraising for development and the endorsement of any sum of money withdrawn for development of the school. The level of awareness of the PTA members on the operational guidelines for the PTA was low. There were poorly structured mechanisms for induction training of newly appointed PTA committee members in secondary schools. Limited knowledge on operations of PTA and the lack of induction training for new members on their expectations were key challenges facing the PTA committees. The study therefore recommended that the ministry of education in conjunction with the school management to devise an induction program for both new and existing PTA members in order to familiarize them with the legal and policy issues and improve their efficiency in conducting their duties.