

## MANAGING STUDENT DISCIPLINE THROUGH STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN KENYAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Onditi Kennedy**

Moi University

**KENYA**

[kennedy.onditi@yahoo.com](mailto:kennedy.onditi@yahoo.com)

### ABSTRACT

Student leaders are supposed to act as a vital link between the school administration and fellow students in the managing school affairs. However, the exact role of student leaders in managing the discipline of their fellow students has remained unclear in most schools, especially in the Kenyan context. This study aimed at investigating the role of student leaders in managing student discipline in secondary schools in Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were: to examine the role of student leaders in the formulation of school rules and regulations, to examine the role of student leaders in meting out punishment for infringing on school rules and regulations, and to examine the role of student leaders in resolving disputes among students in secondary schools in Kenya. The study was based on the Progressive Education Theory by Dewey. The study adopted a mixed method research design whereby data that could be presented both qualitatively and quantitatively was collected using questionnaires and interview schedules. The study targeted secondary school head teachers, deputy head teachers and student leaders from public secondary schools in Nakuru County, Kenya. The total sample size was 339 respondents, comprising of 113 principals, 113 deputy principals and 113 student leaders who were from the schools that were randomly selected for the sample. The sample was selected using stratified and simple random sampling techniques. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and themes developed from the qualitative data. The findings of the study showed that student leaders play a significant role in managing student discipline. These findings will be useful in helping secondary school administrators and managers, the Ministry of Education, and other key education stakeholders in coming up with ways of strengthening, re-defining and training student leaders in their role of managing student discipline in secondary schools in Kenya.

**Keywords:** Student discipline; Student leadership; Rules.