

**A STUDY OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TO
HEADTEACHERS' PARTICIPATORY LEADERSHIP STYLE IN PUBLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KIKUYU DIVISION, KIAMBU DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

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This study investigates students attitudes towards headteachers participatory leadership style in public secondary schools in Kikuyu Division, Kiambu District, Kenya. Participatory leadership has a role to play in administrative efficiency and effectiveness. Participation of students in school administration whatsoever should be determined by the relevance of the area of involvement to the student, the expertise or competence of students in the area of involvement and finally by the jurisdiction assigned to them either by decision or omission in the area of involvement.

This study was an attempt to establish what attitudes students have towards involvement of students in secondary school administration in Kikuyu division of Kiambu district. Several areas were identified from the literature review as task areas students could be involved in. For this study, the areas that were selected for investigation on what students felt about their participation included, the student personnel; staff personnel; curriculum and instructions; staff management and financial management and school community relations. The study also sought to establish if the attitude of the students towards headteachers participatory leadership style differed between gender; among the school categories, sizes of the school and class differences.

The study was designed as an ex-post-facto school study. The target population consisted of 6970 secondary students. A sample of 364 students was utilised in the study. The sample was selected through stratified random sampling to select samples in single sex and mixed secondary schools. Two research instruments were used. A three part

questionnaire for students and an observation schedule. Appendix A (part I and III) of the questionnaire and the observation schedule had the data analysed using frequencies and percentages. Part II on the Likert scale was analysed using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA), the T- test and single F-test.

The major finding from the analyses of the study objectives was that students had positive attitudes towards utilisation of headteachers participatory leadership style in public secondary schools.

The following were some of the recommendations made based on the of the findings of the study amongst others;

1. Students must be made aware on how to elect or to be elected to serve on various decisions making committees through sessions like the guidance and counseling and students participation manual to integrate students participation with a sense of responsibility.
2. Students groups elected such as prefects body and student council members must receive the training necessary to enable them to work for the common good of students and school.

Some recommendations were made for further research based on the findings of the study among them included:-

1. A study of the effects of students' attitudes towards utilisation of headteachers participatory leadership style on the academic performance of the school.
2. A study of the merits and demerits of students' involvement in participatory leadership style in higher education.