

**Relationship Between Principals' Integration of Students' Councils, Open Forums' Change Strategy In School Management And Students' Academic Performance As Perceived By The Teachers In Public Secondary Schools In Nairobi County, Kenya**

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**Abstract**

In a rapidly changing era, educational change management has become one of the crucial tasks for better students' academic performance. Globally and regionally, educational changes are made in partnership with teachers and students so as to foster holistic changes. Principals are charged with the responsibility of creating an environment for students' academic success. School-wide change is comprehensive change in the curriculum, change in departments and teachers' modern methods of teaching and un-expected change. The purpose of this study was to examine principals' use of students' council and open forums in educational management for academic success during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study used cross-sectional descriptive survey designs to collect data using teachers' questionnaires. The target population comprised of public secondary schools in Nairobi County. The schools were stratified to categories; national, extra-county, and county schools to ensure equal representation during sampling. Stratified simple random sampling methods were used to select schools, principals and teachers. The study found that teachers' perceptions towards principals' management by use of students' councils and open forum strategy was significantly related to academic performance. Moreover, use of ICT in teaching and learning contributed to students' motivation as teachers improved methods of teaching. The study concluded that when students' councils and open forum change strategy is used, students' academic performance improves greatly. The study recommends that principals in schools should incorporate the students' governance as part of the school-wide change since it influences students' improved academic performance.

**Keywords:** teachers' perceptions, students' council, open forums, academic performance, and public secondary schools.