

# **STUDENT COUNCILS AND MANAGEMENT OF DISCIPLINE IN SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KAMWENGE DISTRICT.**

**BY**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study investigated the influence of student councils in the management of discipline in selected secondary schools in Kamwenge District. The study was guided by three objectives which included how students council leadership selection criteria affects student discipline in selected secondary schools, the influence of students councils involvement in decision making on management of students discipline in selected secondary schools as well as the effect of the student councils leadership strategies on student discipline management in selected secondary schools. The study adopted a cross sectional research design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches of data collection and analysis. With a target population of 981 and a sample size of 169, respondents were subjected to both questionnaire and interview methods of data collection. Collected data was sorted, coded and entered into SPSS for analysis. Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic content analysis and narrative reasoning. Data analyzed quantitatively was presented using frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviations. The present study found out that the leadership roles of the student council in secondary schools were influencing others to achieve agreed upon goals in the school. The student council also represented the needs of all the students. However, inability to disseminate information correctly by the student council caused misinformation, confusion and frustration. It was also found out that the discipline roles of the student council included helping to shape the identity of students by insistence on certain modes of behavior expected to be adhered to, being close to the students and therefore dealt with discipline cases at the grassroots level and thwarting any planned strikes. The student council also ensured that there was classroom discipline and students maintained silence while in class. It was revealed that student councils were involved in decision making and were also recognized by seeking their views in decision making thus making a positive contribution in the management of discipline in schools. The researcher recommended that teachers in charge of students' Council should ensure that there is effective flow of information between administration and students; school councils should also be empowered with skills that will enable them to thwart any planned strikes and the Ministry of Education should come up with a policy framework for training of student leaders which will lead to improvement of discipline in Ugandan secondary schools.