

**Financial Management for Effective Schools: Bridging Theory and Practice  
through Competency Development among Secondary School Principals in  
Kitui County, Kenya**

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# **Financial Management for Effective Schools: Bridging Theory and Practice through Competency Development among Secondary School Principals in Kitui County, Kenya**

**By**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This paper calls for an urgent action to ensure effective and sound financial management in public Secondary schools in Kenya. It is based on a study carried out in Kitui County on the factors influencing effectiveness of financial management in public secondary schools. The study investigated on three key characteristics of secondary school principals which influenced their financial management. Specifically the study focused on; the influence of principals' training on effectiveness of financial management in secondary schools, the influence of principals' experience on effectiveness of financial management in secondary schools and the influence of principals' education level on effectiveness of financial management in secondary schools in Kitui central District. The study adopted descriptive survey design with both qualitative and quantitative data analysis approaches. It involved a census of the principals of the 25 public day secondary schools in Kitui central district Kitui County. Questionnaires were used as the main research instruments. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used in data analysis. The mean, median, mode and percentages were used to analyze the data in order to meet the objectives of the study. Frequency tables were used to present the data followed by data interpretation and findings. Correlations and Analysis of variance was used to test the relationship between independent and dependent variables. The findings shows that the principals' training influences financial management to a very large extent and there is a very strong relationship between financial management training and effectiveness of financial management in secondary schools; the experience of a principal is very necessary in financial effectiveness of management and to a large extent the principals' education level influences effectiveness of financial management the influence of Principals' financial management on school physical facilities. The study recommended that School principals should be trained on financial management so that they can be effective in their financial management. This can be done by holding regular capacity building workshops and seminars which will keep them updated on any emerging issues. Teachers service commission should fix certain experience requirements for promoting teachers to be principals. Before one is appointed to be a principal, they should have served as Head of Department for at least two years then as a Deputy principal for at least one year.*

**KEY WORDS: Financial management, secondary schools, principals**