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## **Relationship between Principals' Democratic Leadership Style and Students' Conformity to Rules in Public Secondary Schools in Nakuru County, Kenya**

Stakeholders in Education in Nakuru County, Kenya have expressed great concern over the high levels of students' non-conformity to school rules in secondary schools. There is a problem of students' non-conformity to school rules. This study sought to investigate the relationship between principals' democratic leadership style and students' conformity to rules in public secondary schools in Nakuru, Kenya. The objective of the study was to determine the relationship between principals' democratic leadership style and students' conformity to rules in Public Secondary Schools in Nakuru County, Kenya. The study was anchored on the Social Control Theory by Hirschi (1969). The study adopted a correlational research design. The target population was 338 Principals, 338 Deputy Principals, 3426 teachers and 116374 students in 338 public secondary schools in Nakuru County, Kenya. Stratified random sampling was used to select 100 schools. Purposive sampling was used to select 100 Principals, 34 Deputy Principals, 346 teachers and 383 students' councils. Questionnaires were used to collect data from Principals, Teachers and students, while interviews were used to collect data from Deputy Principals. Test – retest reliability revealed a coefficient above 0.70 indicating that the instruments were reliable. The finding showed that both teachers and principals responses indicate a high positive relationship between principals use of democratic leadership style to enhance students' conformity to school rules related to learning( $r=0.334; p < 0.05$ ). It was concluded that democratic leadership style when used by principals in public secondary schools in Nakuru County, Kenya has a significant positive relationship to students' conformity to school rules. This implies that when a principal uses democratic leadership style, students are likely to conform to school rules. The findings of the study will help education policy makers

to come up with strategies of enhancing students' conformity to school rules.

Key words: Democratic, leadership, style Conformity, school Rules

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