FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO INCREASED INDISCIPLINE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KENYA

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Introduction and Background

Education forms the backbone of every society and civilization.

✓It is for this reason that many households in many countries spend more resources in education. Their expectation is that the education being offered will transform the learners to be productive citizens in their countries. Schools are not just concerned with developing skills, but "...are intended to alter behaviour" (Cronback 1954)

✓Indiscipline in schools is seen from "protests, demonstrations, strikes and riots" (Datta 1984). This may go further than this to cover gross misconduct and flouting of school rules and regulations. The aspect in question among students may be mild, but when it reaches chronic levels, it is expressed outwardly through violence.

✓Despite all these, there have been more unrests and indiscipline. It was discovered that there has been a steady rise of indiscipline from 7% in 1974 (Kinyanjui, 1976 in Kiumi, Bosire

Introduction & Background Continued...

- ✓ and Sang) to 10% between 1986-1991 (Nasibi, 2003 cited in Kiumi, Bosire and Sang 2009).

- ✓ The percentage could be even higher if statistics of 1992-2008 were computed. Therefore, the issue of indiscipline in Kenyan secondary schools is a phenomenon that has been increasing every year despite several measures put in place to address it.

- ✓ Some unrests in secondary Schools which ended tragically:
  - Saint Kizito Mixed Secondary School where 19 female students died after the boys went on rampage raping and maiming the female students in 1991.(Kenya Times, 16 June, 1991 in Kindiki, 2009)
  - Bombolulu Girls Secondary where 57 students perished in dormitory following an arson attack by other students in 1997.
  - Kyanguli Boys Secondary school in Machakos (2001) , where 67 students perished in an inferno which was started by other students in the school in bid to force the administration to close the school earlier than expected

Introduction & Background Continued...

- ✓ However, as recent as 2008, schools were hit by a wave of unrests where over "300 secondary schools were hit by unrests that saw students disrupt learning, besides destroying property worth of millions of shillings" (Daily Nation, July 14, 2008).

- ✓ Events such as these and many others which go on undocumented show us how our schools are facing a great challenge. It seems that there is a big problem in our schools in terms of discipline.

Statement of the Problem

✓ When events like these occur, one cannot help but wonder and ask:

- What has gone wrong in our schools?
- Why are students behaving in such a manner?
- Have the teachers failed in their responsibility of ensuring that discipline has been adhered to?
- Or have parents left their key parental role of upbringing of children?

Statement of the Problem...

- ✓ All these questions give us an indication that there is a need to find out what is happening in our schools especially the ever rising cases of unrests and mass indiscipline in order to find a solution before schooling totally looses its value.

- ✓ Every stakeholder is concerned as the morals and values in schools are loosing credibility.

- ✓ The study therefore tried to answer the question, "What are the factors contributing to increased indiscipline of students in secondary schools in Kenya as seen in Eldoret Municipality?"

Objectives

- ✓ The study tried to address the following specific objectives:
  - To establish how social issues contribute to increase of indiscipline in schools.
  - To investigate how legal issues inhibits teachers' endeavor to discipline students.
  - To establish how Information Communication Technology contributes to increased indiscipline of students in schools.
  - To find out how administration of schools contribute to indiscipline.
  - To provide recommendations on strategies for improving discipline of students in schools.

Literature Review:
Social Factors and Indiscipline

✓ Social factor=influences on individual behaviour attributable to the social values and/or behaviour of the groups to which an individual belongs or aspires to belong.

- parents have in some way relaxed or neglected their responsibility and left it to the teachers.
- indiscipline among school children has been encouraged by parents who put effort to 'buy' their children's affections and as a result are afraid to set firm "guidelines for their kids or discipline them when rules are broken."
- Another aspect categorized as a social factor which is thought to be a contributor to indiscipline in schools is drug abuse.

Literature Review: Social Factors and Indiscipline......

- Drugs alter moods of the users (Abudu 2008; Ngesu, Ndiku and Masese 2008) and in most cases it makes them unstable.

- Escandon and Galvez (2005) observes that few minutes after smoking marijuana, the individuals "feel powerful surge of vitality, energy, enthusiasm and satisfaction" which later turns to loss of psychomotor abilities and engagement in risky ventures.

- Due to this, students make wrong judgments; their decisions are no longer rational.

- The burning and destruction of school property, murder, rape and other anti-social incidences recorded in Kenyan schools can cannot be attributed to sober minds, but ones that have been messed up with drugs.

Literature Review: Legal Factors and Indiscipline

- ✓ Legal factors refer to the contributions of indiscipline stemming from issues established under the law.

- ✓ The deteriorating discipline in schools in Kenya has a bearing on some past legislation by parliament and courts of law which have stopped, prevented or regulated the teachers' efforts to handle errant students.

- ✓ The Children's Act was passed in 2001, which outlawed canning (Daily Nation, July 14, 2008).

- ✓ Students who have faced disciplinary action in some schools are known to have filed law suits to have the action taken against them reversed.

- ✓ The result was a court order that the student be re-admitted. Such court rulings make teachers and other administrators scared to enforce discipline in schools (which in this context means taking corrective action against an errant student). Ngare (2007) in Kindiki (2008) conclude that teachers are now reluctant to take disciplinary action against students for fear of being sued by parents.

Literature Review: Legal Factors and Indiscipline.....

✓ **Biblical Perspective on correcting Indiscipline**

- Indiscipline in our schools is considered by the Bible as rebellion, which came due to Adam's disobedience of God's commands (Genesis 3: 1-19).

- Disobedience is lawlessness, and lawlessness is sin. This forms the general worldview of the Christians.

- Biblically, disobedience has harsh consequences. GOD disciplines those that He loves as a means of correction (Hebrews 12: 5-11).

- The Mosaic Law recommended that children should be obedient to their parents. (Deuteronomy 5:16; cf. Ephesians 6:1-3).

- The Old Testament even went further to prescribe harsh measures to ensure that children maintained respect and morally acceptable behavior. One such example is the commonly cited maxim that "spare the rod spoil the child" (which actually originates from Proverbs 13: 24).

Literature Review: Legal Factors and Indiscipline…..

- The legal aspects being considered in current research center on the outlawing of the use of the 'rod' or any other means that corrects a child, an approach that contradicts the Scripture!

- This does not mean torture or inhuman acts meted on children in the name of discipline, of which the Bible itself is against.

- Thus it seems that the withdrawal of the corporal punishment from schools does not have any Biblical backing or blessing and that is why we have moral chaos in schools.

- In summary it is significant to state that legal factors seem to greatly deter teachers from fully tackling any form of indiscipline because they (teachers) "feel incapacitated and helpless in dealing with learner indiscipline in schools" (Maphosa & Shumba 2010).
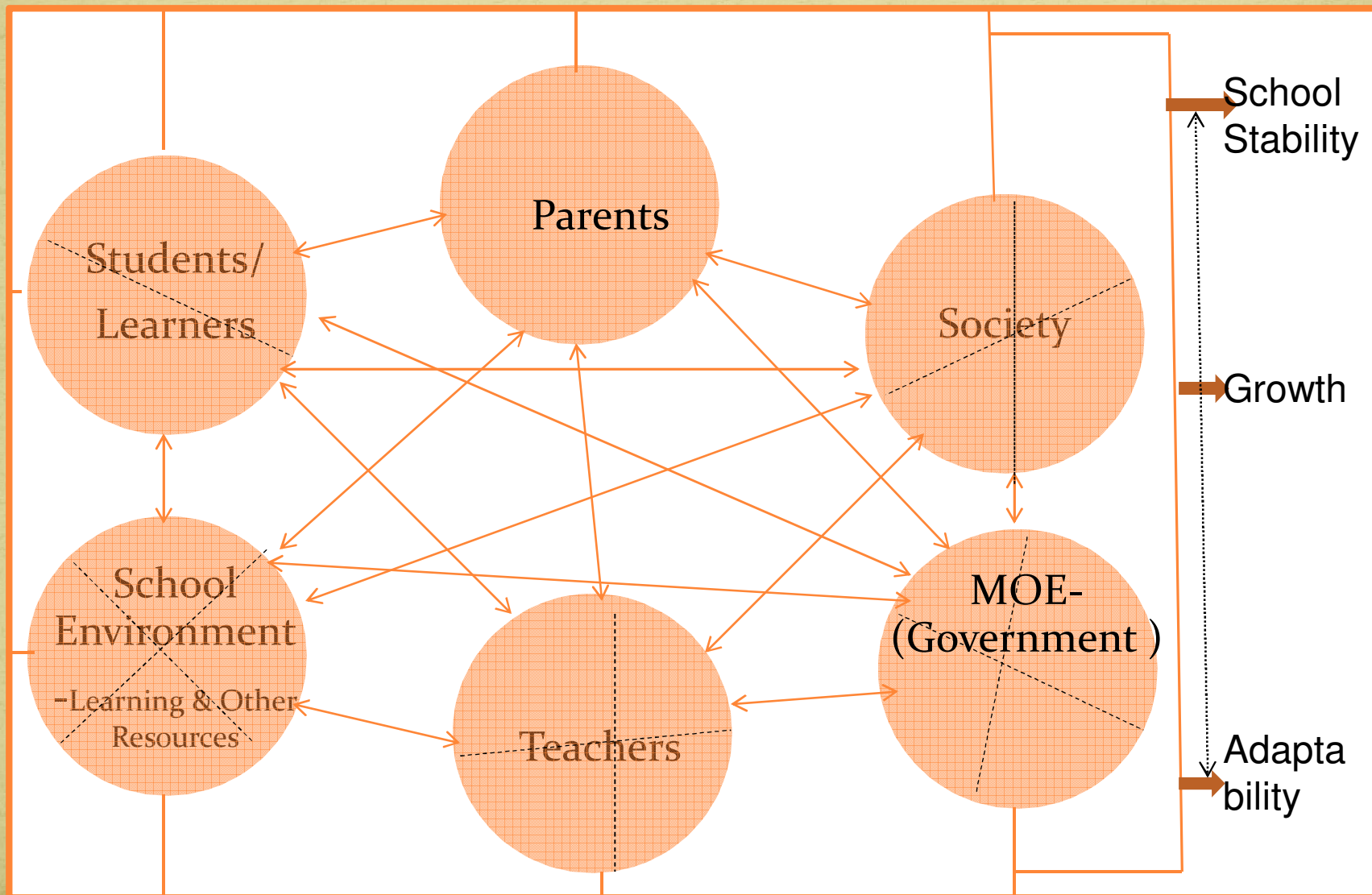
Literature Review: Administrative Factors and Indiscipline

- School management plays a key role in the success or failure of a school.
- While students have no justification to engage in indiscipline acts, certain styles of management may result to indiscipline acts. Such styles include:
  - Lack of addressing student grievances
  - Lack of clarification of roles of teachers in school
  - Lack of communication of change in school routine-Kindiki (2008)

Literature Review: Information
Communication Technology and Indiscipline

- ✓ Advance in technology has become a boon and a curse in our age. Technology has positive and extremely negative aspects too.
  - Internet usage- accessing sites that have adult content, violence and other forms of socially unacceptable content.
  - Television and Movies have content that has too much violence
  - Ballantine (2001) points that "violence for entertainment teaches children that violence is legitimate, justified, rewarded, effective, clean heroic and manly."
  - children get affected to the extent that they display aggressor effects which involves a display or a manifestation of what they see in the videos i.e. violence, or they show victim effect which is characterized by children identifying with the victims on videos and they become fearful, and may carry weapons.
    - Theoretical Framework:
      - Adapted from: *Organization Theory: A Structural and Behavioural Analysis* (p.48) by W.G. Scott, T.R. Mitchel, and P.H Birnbaum, 1981, IL: Richard D. Irwin, as used in Muchinsky (2007)

Literature Review: Theoretical Framework:
Systems Approach, Adapted to suit School Setup

Parents

Students/ Learners

Society

School Environment

-Learning & Other Resources

Teachers

MOE- (Government)

School Stability

Growth

Adapta bility

Literature Review: Theoretical Framework ; Explanation

<u>Key:</u>

- Circles represent parts of a school system

- Broken lines represent intra-part interactions i.e., individuals with other individuals

- Solid line represent inter-subsystem interaction

- Both the solid and the broken lines are the processes that tie the parts of the system together

  - Systems Approach (Based on System Theory): As a living organism, a school has a system or has systems within itself. It must be reiterated that a successful system is one which flows smoothly in the ideal without any form of disruption. This can occur if every part within the system operates synchronously.

Research Design and Methodology

- mixed model research (which is a form of mixed research) methodology was adopted as the broad research approach that guided to investigate the factors that contributed to increased indiscipline in secondary schools in Kenya.

- The target population for this study comprised of the secondary school Head teachers, Guidance and Counseling teachers and the deputy head teachers of sampled secondary schools within Eldoret Municipality in Wareng, Eldoret East and Eldoret West Districts of Rift Valley Province.

- In this study, purposive and stratified sampling techniques were used. Purposive sampling was used to select Municipality from among other educational administrative units present in the District because of ease of accessibility to the researcher.

Discussion of Findings

- **Indiscipline and Social Factors**
  - When the sum total of social factors was done, it emerged that 90% of the findings pointed to the fact that social factors contributed to increased indiscipline. This confirms the findings from literature reviewed.
- **Indiscipline and Legal Factors**
  - The legal factors affect discipline in schools though they cannot be controlled by the teachers. In the study, the total percentage for the legal factors was 85%. The banning of corporal punishment had greatly led to indiscipline in schools. Kindiki's (2008) findings are confirmed that teachers are now reluctant to take disciplinary action against students for fear of law suits.

Discussion of Findings….

- **Indiscipline and Information Communication Technolog**
- The survey revealed that issues like watching violent movies, unrestricted access to some internet sites, lack of censorship or parental guidance to the programs being watched and use of cell phones contributed to increased indiscipline.
    - The media Awareness Network observed that as children watch violent movies shown, they "learn to internalize scripts that use violence as an appropriate method of problem solving".
    - One of the head teachers commented that "when students watch demonstrators who carry placards written 'haki yetu' (meaning our rights) and the next day their 'haki yetu' (our rights) is given, what will the youth say? They will say for you to get yours, you must carry placards".

Discussion of Findings.....

- **Indiscipline and Administrative Factors**
    - On the extent to which school administration contributed to increased indiscipline, majority of the respondents were in agreement that the school administration could actually contribute to indiscipline. The sum total of factors that were surveyed added up to 88.75% showing how school administration was vital in either fanning or warding off indiscipline.
        - The absence of head teachers and the others in administration team in school could lead to administrative and authority vacuum.
        - It emerged that 100% of the respondents agreed that lack of communication in school routine led to unrests.
        - Other aspects that are vital too include the administrations' purposed clarification of the roles of not only the teachers in administrative positions, but also other teachers with any position in the school.

Recommendations

- **Strengthening School Guidance and Counseling**
- **Church Intervention Measures e.g. educate parents on proper parenting and seconding chaplains to secondary schools**
- **Censoring of the Content to be aired on Television and Blocking Internet sites with Adult Content**
- **Re-education of Teachers on Legal Issues which are Educational Nature. This equals a copying mechanism**
- **Unity among the Stakeholders in Enforcing Discipline, based on Systems Approach**

Conclusion

- The social factors, legal factors, information communication technology factors and administrative factors were confirmed as actually contributing to increased indiscipline. Meaning that there was a correlation to what funs indiscipline else where in the world.

Closing Words

*****END*****

Remember the old Dictum?:

"Spare the Rod Spoil the Child!"

Thank you & God Bless