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ABSTRACT

Globally, every organization within any kind of economy whether developed or developing requires financial control practices for the purpose of sustainability or growth in the core business that it was created for. Organizations have various practices of financial controls among them; Budgetary, Auditing and Accounting Practices. However the aim of this study was to establish the effect of Budgetary Practice on the effective use of free secondary school funds in Elgeyo Marakwet County; Kenya. The study applied descriptive survey research design. The target population was from the secondary schools of Elgeyo Marakwet where the principals were respondents. Both simple and stratified sampling was applied and Taro Yamane technique was used to determine the sample size. The structured questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection. Pilot study was done on schools in Baringo County; Kenya, hence this enabled for testing of the reliability and validity of the research instrument. The study's descriptive and inferential statistics was analyzed by use of SPSS version 24 software and conclusion was; budgetary practices had an impact on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County; Kenya. The study recommended for the County Schools to embrace the use of austerity measures of financial controls to improve on prudent financial management of the available free funds from the Government, especially the use of Budgetary Practice.

Key words: *Budgetary Practices, Financial Controls, Prudent Financial Management*

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INTRODUCTION

Since the introduction of free secondary education funds (FSE) in 2008, there is need to research on the strategies employed by school administrators in the utilization of financial resources remitted by the government through the policy on free secondary education. These strategies determine the effective use of FSE in secondary schools. Effective utilization of financial resources depends on how the school management team and the school finance officers carries out their duties and the financial management system in use. For schools to attain efficiency in utilization of FSE, paradigm shift in the management of finances in schools is essential.

Among the benefits of FSE is a reduction in the amount of fees paid by parents in secondary schools and statutory remittance of funds to schools through the education policy on free secondary education. Of all the studies related to this, none has been conducted in Elgeyo/Marakwet. They include the study on the impact of financial controls on the efficiency of FSE in secondary schools, (Kinuthia 2012). However, (Kinuthia 2012) focussed on the general financial practices in use in secondary schools and the study did not address the specific problems that emanate from the management of finance that include; accounting practices, auditing practices, budgetary practices, implementation and financial prudence. Other existing literature on the use of FSE relate to determining constraints impeding implementation of FSE in secondary schools. Some of these studies include; (Ndambuki 2016), (Adan and Orodho 2015), (Mate and Wesonga 2013), (Kimanzi 2013), (Mualuko and Lucy 2013). Other studies such as; (Nyakan Beatrice 2018) and (Muindi 2011) concentrated in determining how use of FSE funds influenced the quality of education in secondary schools. However, there is hardly any study related to the effect of financial control practices on effective use of FSE in secondary schools in Elgeyo/Marakwet County. This study therefore identified this gap. Secondly, this study noted that the strategies employed by school administrators, financial officers and financial utilization control systems affects effective utilization of FSE in secondary schools (Olang'o, Malechwanzi et al. 2021). These strategies affect the key financial control practices of budgeting, auditing, accounting, and prudence that form the basis for effective use of FSE.

Statement of the Problem

Secondary schools face imminent challenges in the management of FSE funds. This is attributed to increased enrolment in secondary schools as a result of reduced user fees and availability of funds in schools due to statutory remittance of FSE by the government to schools for each student (Olang'o, Malechwanzi et al. 2021). This statutory remittance of FSE to schools calls for efficient use of the financial resources to ensure that schools attain their intended objectives without unnecessary financial constraints. Most of the scholars among them; Olang'o *et al*., (2021) have researched on the strategies employed by school administrators and financial officers and how financial utilization control systems affects the four key financial control practices of budgeting, auditing, accounting, and prudence that form the basis for effective use of FSE. The general results reflected by the scholars implied financial control practices affected the prudent financial management in schools, however the extend of the individual control practice effect was not pronounced and spelled out by scholars though they could provide general opinions of cumulative practices of financial controls on free governmental funds. To thoroughly understand and respond to the arising research gap, this study singled out one of the major financial control practice, namely; Budgetary Control and its effect on prudent financial management of free secondary education funds in Elgeyo / Marakwet ; Kenya.

Study objective

To determine the effect of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of free secondary schools education funds in Elgeyo/Marakwet County, Kenya.

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Research Hypothesis

H_{01}: There is no significant influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of free secondary schools education funds in Elgeyo/ Marakwet County.

Theoretical Literature Review

Positive Auditing theory

This theory was suggested by (Watts and Zimmerman 1990)and it guided determination of standards for accounting practices. This theory was postulated and used to predict the firms and industries that were to use particular accounting practices in its financial operations. The positive auditing theory explains the relationships existing between groups aimed at enhancing resources mobilization for firms or industries and it provides ways in which accounting practices and adherence to generally accepted accounting practices can be used to foster functional relationship between parties involved in management of financial resources in an organization. This theory is based on the assumption that individuals strife to achieve own goals and that these goals would converge at a point that would enhance achievement of the universal objective of the entire group.

Based on this study, the assumption of positive auditing theory is instrumental to the management of FSE funds. Financial management in schools ought to have distinctive and independent roles geared towards attainment of specific set of objectives and whose aim is to achieve a universal objective. The school management ought to respect at all times the roles of the school financial managers-school bursar, accountant and other financial managers in order to create enabling condition for execution of activities without external influence that is able to compromise effective use of FSE in schools. Every individual should strive to focus on their line of duty and to diligently work without compromising the roles of other parties which could trigger unnecessary collusion. Collusion by financial team breeds an opportunistic behavior that influences decision making in financial management which would result in prioritization of individual interests instead of institutional interest. Therefore, there should be independence in terms of roles required of financial management team. Individuals should strive to execute only the defined roles as per their positions and engagement with other teams should be only to strengthen and better achievement of individual objectives and attainment of the generally set goal of the institution.

Financial Agency Theory

Financial agency theory was postulated by (Michael 1994). This theory was formulated to elucidate and to forecast the general financial performance of institutions. The theory's primary focus is the costs and benefits of agency relationship between financial management team. According to (Michael 1994), the agency cost that raises value of the shareholder investment is a positive cost and is commended. However, the theory admits the possibility of conflict arising between individual's personal interest and the shareholder interest. Such conflicts occur when financial management prioritizes their own interest at the expense of the organizations interest leading to negative agency cost. This is attributed to manipulations on the side of financial management team compromising attainment of organizations goal.

This theory provides the basic outline on how individuals influence can impact prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet Countys in secondary schools. When the school management engages in practices that compromises efficient use of FSE funds, this creates negative agency cost to the school reducing the effectiveness of FSE in secondary schools.

Garbage Can Theory

This theory was developed by (Cohen, March et al. 1972) and supported by (Reddick 2003). Garbage can theory suggest that the quality of financial management is closely tied to budgeting and that institutions are unable to make proper budgets due to a number of reasons which include; lack of clear guidelines to support budget making process, lack of understanding among budget making committee

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and lack of clear boundaries on the decision making segment. This theory suggests that there should be proper financial management structures to guide budgetary allocation, execution and monitoring in order to create seamless management of financial resources in an economic institution. This theory further suggests a unified budget making process where the parties involved are aware of their scope, roles and responsibilities. In relation to this study, the suggestion of Garbage can theory will be instrumental during budget making process in order to enable schools to apply budgetary practices that would enhance prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County's allocated by the ministry of finance.

Residual Equity Theory

This theory was postulated by (Staubus 1959). The theory is based on the need for organizations to build efficient data that is able to inform budgetary allocation. The theory explains the role played by easily accessible credible data in financial management. The quality of financial data depends on its credibility. Availability of credible financial data informs the accurate financial position of the organization and eases decision making process.

This study also employs this theory based on its need for schools to build credible financial data and to enhance its convenience. Credible financial data in the use of FSE funds is instrumental for decision making during budgeting, auditing and financial accountancy. This in turn supports prudent use of FSE funds in secondary schools.

This study therefore, employs Positive Auditing Theory, Garbage Can Theory, Residual Equity Theory and Financial Agency Theory. Each of the mentioned theories has a role to play. Positive auditing theory aims at fostering engagements between financial management team while Garbage Can Theory enables secondary schools to apply budgetary practices that would enhance prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Residual Equity theory enables schools to build credible financial data and Financial Agency Theory makes it possible for schools financial management team and stakeholders to assess the financial performance of secondary schools in the management of FSE funds.

Conceptual Framework

Budgeting Practices

- Budget process
- Budgeting knowledge and training
- Timeline

Prudent Financial Management

- Efficient utilization of FSE fund
- Transparency
- Accountability

Independent Variable **Dependent Variable**

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Review of the Variable;

Budgetary Practice

The budgeting process refers to the methods used to accomplish a budget. The process begins from preparation of budget plans, prediction, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the performance of a budget. It is the most essential component for management in all organizations and institutions because without a budget it would be impossible to plan and execute tasks. To assess the effective use of FSE in secondary schools, this study tries to determine whether schools adhere to budget process during development of budgets for FSE funds. The study also aims at determining the technical knowledge of the budget preparation team in order to assess their capability and suitability. In addition, this study tries to establish whether schools foster knowledge and skills of their budget development team through trainings. There is need for capacity development for workers owing to the new challenges and dynamic requirements in financial management sector. The study further determines the existence of performance matrix that guides monitoring and evaluation of the budgets. Without timely targets, it would not only be impossible to gauge whether tasks are conducted as planned but also it would be difficult to know whether the resources are being used effectively.

Financial Prudence

Financial prudence refers to the efficient use of resources by adhering to the financial practices with the aim of enhancing accountability and efficiency in the spending of monetary resources. Without financial prudence, institutions would not be able to effectively use resources and this may lead to wastage of funds and inability to meet objectives. The study tries to establish whether schools segregate duties to enhance independent engagements and to provide room for easy checks when ascertaining the institutional financial performance and use of resources. Financial prudence in the use of FSE can be evaluated by the degree in which secondary schools adhere to the set plans and budgets as per the vote head guidelines of the ministry of finance. Schools that spend FSE according to the set budgets are able to meet their objectives because resources will be used effectively as planned. Financial discipline is determined by how the school management in charge of FSE adhere to budgets the degree at which schools scale down unnecessary spending. Financial prudence is multi-faced because it looks how schools apply the financial control practices to foster efficiency of resource allocation and use. The study also aims at determining the safety of physical assets purchased through FSE and the safety of books of accounts. In addition, the research determines whether schools observe timely payment of creditors and the extent to which petty cash is operated.

METHODOLOGY

The study applied descriptive survey research design due its characteristics of taking circumstances the way it is without alteration. The study focused to draw data from 72 secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The County comprised of 86 secondary schools which are made of 67 Sub-County secondary schools, 17 Extra-County secondary schools and 2 National secondary schools.

According to (Drost 2011), sample frame consists of a group of the population where the sample is drawn. The group that makes up sample frame have characteristics that represent the entire population. In this study, the study focused on school heads since they are the accounting officers. The following formula developed by Taro Yamane was used to determine the sample size.

$$n = \frac{N}{N(\varepsilon^2)+1}, \quad \varepsilon = \frac{\rho(\varepsilon)}{t},$$

Where;

n = estimated sample size

N= population

ε=adjusted margin of error

e=degree of accuracy as proportion (5%)

ρ=number of standard deviations that would include all possible values in the range=2

t=t-values for the selected confidence interval (95%)=1.96

Therefore; $$\varepsilon = \frac{\rho(\varepsilon)}{t} = \frac{2(0.05)}{1.96} = 0.051,$$

$$n = \frac{N}{N(\varepsilon^2)+1} = \frac{86}{86(0.051^2)+1} = 71$$

Hence the studies sample size is 72 secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

Several sampling techniques were used in this study. These included; stratified sampling, purposive sampling and random sampling techniques. First, secondary schools were grouped into strata's - boarding and day secondary schools. Secondly, each of the secondary school used to collect for this research was selected randomly to avoid biased samples. The study employed stratified sampling technique and simple random sampling techniques. Secondary schools were grouped into two strata, day schools and boarding secondary schools.

This study employed a structured questionnaire as an instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was ideal for this study because it is suitable for good coverage and more so, quicker, confidential to respondents and less cost associated to it.

According to (Cooper, Schindler et al. 2006), pilot test should consist of 10% of the entire sample size. This ensures that the data collection exercise run without hitch. Pilot test also makes sure that the questionnaire used to administer to the correspondents captures all the required data. In this study, pilot test was conducted in Baringo County; Kenya on eight secondary schools where questionnaires were administered to the eight school head. Of these schools four were day secondary schools and 4 boarding secondary schools.

The collected data was processed and analysed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The findings of the study were presented using charts and tables. Descriptive statistics was used to summarize data to enable meaningful interpretation and description. Descriptive statistical analysis limits generalization to the particular group of individuals observed. The descriptive analysis was used in this study are: percentages, frequency, means, overall mean and standard deviation.

In addition, inferential analyses including Pearson correlation and multiple linear regression analysis were used. Inferential statistics was used in the study to enable the researcher to reach conclusions about the relationship between the variables. Drawing conclusions about populations based on observations of samples is the purpose of inferential analysis. The results from inferential statistics were used to test null hypotheses at significance level of 0.05(95.0% confidence level) with aid of SPSS version 21. This study employed multiple regression analysis to examine concurrent influence of financial control practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The multiple regression equation in this study is as follow:

$$\mathbf{Y= \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \varepsilon}$$

Where:-

Y = Prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County

β0= Constant, showing financial management in the absence of the financial controls

B_1 = Regression Coefficients of financial controls influencing financial management

X_1= Budgetary Control

ε =Error Term

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher distributed a total number of 72 questionnaires to different respondents in public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Table 1 showed the response rate results.

Table 1: Response rate

Questionnaire administered	Questionnaires Returned	Return rate (%)
72	64	88.9%

Out of these 64 questionnaires were successfully filled and handed back to the researcher which gives 88.9% response rate. According to Baruch and Holtom (2008) a minimum average level of response rate of 52.7 percent is good; with any rates above 70% deemed to be excellent. Therefore, the response rate obtained for this study (88.9%) was adequate to draw conclusions.

Descriptive Statistics of Variables in the Study;

Budgetary practices and prudent financial management

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The objective of this study was to determine the effect budgetary practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

Most respondents confirmed that the school management, bursar, accountants and administration are involved in the budgeting process as indicated by 28.1% of the respondents who strongly agreed and further 29.7% who agreed on the same. However, 31.3% of the respondents were uncertain an indication that not all school management, bursar, accountants and administration are involved in the budgeting process in some schools. The results also revealed that 54.7% of respondents agreed that the school management and administration have been trained in budgeting process and additional 28.1% strongly agreed on the same with a mean of 3.969.

More so, 31.2% of respondents strongly agreed that the school bursar, accountants have been trained in budgeting process while 25.0% agreed on the same although 29.7% of the respondents were uncertain whether the school bursar, accountants have been trained in budgeting process with a mean of 3.688. The study also established that 51.6% of the respondents agreed that the school management, bursar, accountants and administration are periodically trained in budgeting and 14.1% strongly agreed, although 25.0% were uncertain on the same.

In regard to the roles and responsibilities of school management, bursar, accountants and administration in budget making process have been set out in writing, 26.6% of the respondents agreed and 32.8% of the respondents strongly agreed. However, 21.9% of the respondents disagreed that the roles and responsibilities of school management, bursar, accountants and administration in budget making process have been set out in writing. Lastly, 46.9% of the respondents agreed that there are records of the performance of budgets at the end of each year with 21.9% of strongly agreeing on the same although 18.8 were uncertain. The mean of 3.77 indicated that there are records of the performance of budgets at the end of each year.

Averagely, the level of budgetary practices was at 71.1% mean response (mean=3.722, std. dev. =1.0797) rated high as shown in Table 1 a suggestion that budgetary practices such as budget process, budgeting knowledge and training as well as timeline influences prudent financial management. Mwaura (2010) concludes that collaboration in budget participation affect financial performance of the companies. He argued that the act of participation in the budgeting process serves as a function by inducing subordinate to accept and commit to their budget goals. This result mirrors Koech (2015) who found out that budgetary control influences performance of manufacturing firms listed in NSE.

Descriptive Analysis for Prudent financial management

Majority of the respondents (53.2%) agreed that there are clear roles and responsibilities of the school management, bursar, accountants, administration and stakeholders while 10.9% of the respondents strongly agreed with a mean of 4.0. However, 35.9% of the respondents were uncertain an indication that some of the respondents were not aware that there are clear roles and responsibilities of the school management, bursar, accountants, administration and stakeholders. Similarly, majority of the respondents (62.5%) agreed that there is operational independence of the school management, bursar, accountants, administration and stakeholders and further 6.3% strongly agreed with a mean of 3.4. However, few of the respondents (25.0%) strongly agreed that there is operational independence of the school management, bursar, accountants, administration and stakeholders and further 12.5% agreed on the same. On the hand, 35.9% of the respondents were uncertain and 20.3% disagreed with a mean of 3.297

In regards to the board of governors and its committees are independent of the school management, majority of the respondents confirmed that the board of governors and its committees are independent of the school management as shown by 35.9% of the respondents who agreed and 31.3% who strongly agreed with a mean of 3.719. Lastly, 57.8% of the respondents agreed that there is transparency and accountability in all financial transactions in the school and additional 9.4% of the respondents strongly agreed with a mean of 3.484. Averagely, the level of accounting practices was at 70.9% mean response (mean=3.544, std. dev. =1.091) rated high as shown in Table 1.

Inferential statistics

In this section, the study infers the sample findings to the study population through correlation analysis, linear regression analysis and moderation analysis and the findings are as shown below.

Table 2: Correlations

		Budgetary
Budgetary Control	Pearson Correlation	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	
	N	64

-

There was a significant positive relationship between prudent financial management and Budgetary Control (r=.605**, P<0.01) as shown in the table 2 with 99.0% confidence level. This means that improvement in budgetary control practices will always result to improvement in prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The positive relationship indicates that public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County should put a lot of emphasis on Budgetary Control.

Analysis of linear regressions;

Linear influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management

This tested the direct influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The results are shown in table 3.

Table 3: Direct influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.605[a]	.366	.355	.93673	.366	35.725	1	62	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Budgetary practices

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	31.347	1	31.347	35.725	.000[b]
	Residual	54.403	62	.877		
	Total	85.750	63			

a. Dependent Variable: Prudent financial management

b. Predictors: (Constant), Budgetary practices

Coefficients[a]

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.578	.806		-.717	.476
	Budgetary practices	1.307	.219	.605	5.977	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Prudent financial management

From table 3, the model summary shows R^2 =0.366 which implies that 36.6% variation in prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County is explained by the budgetary practices while other factors not in the study model accounts for 63.4% variation in the prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. This variation is significant as indicated by F statistic of 35.725, P=0.000 an indication that budgetary practices is significant predictor of organizational development. Further, coefficient analysis indicates that there is a positive significant linear influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County; (β= 1.307(0.219); at p<.01 and the linear regression model equation is;

$y = -0.578 + 1.307X_1$

where;

y is prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County

X_1 is budgetary practices

The coefficient analysis results therefore imply that a single improvement in budgetary practices will result to 1.307 unit improvement in prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Budgetary control is sought to be achieved by comparing actual performance with budgeted performance and taking action to correct the budget variance. Budgetary controls check whether the plans are being realized and put into effect corrective measures and determines where deviation or short-fall is occurring (Egan, 2010). According to Yang (2010), more formalized budgetary control tends to lead to a higher growth of profit of a firm. The underlying reason can be that due to management control; the total expense of a firm will be at most minimized, which thus results into the growth of profit of the firm.

The findings agree with Nafisatu (2018) who found that there was a high positive correlation between budgetary control and East African Portland Cement Company Limited financial management measured in terms of profit before. Similar results were obtained by Koech (2015) who also showed that there was a significant relationship between financial management in manufacturing companies and the three variables (planning, monitoring and control and participative budgeting). Yang (2010) observed that more formalized budgetary control tends to lead to a higher growth of profit of a firm. The underlying reason can be that due to management control; the total expense of a firm will be at most minimized, which thus results into the growth of profit of the firm.

Hypothesis testing

The study tested a total of three null hypotheses and the decision of accepting or rejecting each null hypothesis is explained as follows; The decision is to either accept the null hypothesis (**H_o**) if its corresponding unstandardized regression coefficient β = 0 and not significant at 5% (p>0.05) from the linear regression results; or reject the null hypothesis (**H_o**) and accept the alternative hypothesis (**H_A**) if its corresponding unstandardized regression coefficient β≠ 0 and significant at 5% (p<0.05).

First, null Hypothesis) H_{01}: There is no significant influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. **Alternative Hypothesis) H_{A1}:** There is significant influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Results; budgetary practices β = 0.737 *significant at p<0.01*. ***Verdict;*** we reject the null hypothesis (**H_{01}**) and accept the alternative hypothesis (**H_{A1}**) that there is significant influence of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County.

The results were similar to Chircir and Simiyu (2017) who found out that that change in financial management of ABGL was influenced by the four factors studied under budgetary control (human factors, monitoring and evaluation). Manoj and Rajesh (2017) reflected the budgetary control had a statistically significant effect on financial management in Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC). However, Serem (2013) established that there is a weak positive effect of budgetary control on performance of Non-Governmental Organizations in Kenya.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study examined the effect of budgetary practices on prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. From descriptive statistics most respondents agreed that there are records of the performance of budgets at the end of each year; the school management, bursar, accountants and administration are periodically trained in budgeting and the school management and administration have been trained in budgeting process. Some of the respondents were not aware that the school management, bursar, accountants and administration are involved in the budgeting process and the school bursar; accountants have been trained in budgeting process.

Pearson Correlation analysis found that there is significant relationship between budgetary practices and prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. Simple linear regression revealed that budgetary practices have significant direct influence on prudent financial management. This implied that changes in prudent financial management are significantly accounted for by budgetary practices. Multiple linear regression analysis indicated that a single improvement in budgetary practices will to significant improvement in prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. This is supported by prior research using correlational data analysis that found that budgetary practices influence prudent financial management.

The study concludes that budgetary practices significantly influence prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. This is an indication that budgetary practices such as budget process, budgeting knowledge and training and timeline influenced prudent financial management of public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County. The school management and administration have been trained in budgeting process and there are records of the performance of budgets at the end of each year

The study recommended that public secondary schools should have a collaborative budget making processing with bottom up approach where all departments are involved during budget making process. This would ensure budget allocations match firm expenditure and budgetary estimates are in line with the school's budgetary needs. Further, the study recommended that the school management, bursar, accountants and administration are periodically trained in budgeting.

Areas for further studies

The study sought to determine effect of financial control practices on prudent financial management of free secondary education funds in Elgeyo/Marakwet County, Kenya. The study limited itself to public secondary schools in Elgeyo Marakwet County; however, there is need for further studies to consider private schools in the same region as well as public secondary schools in other regions.

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