

## ABSTRACT

Kenyan public secondary schools are supposed to operate at a cost that is both reasonable and sustainable. Despite this, the cost of education in the majority of public secondary schools in Bomet County remains high in comparison. This could indicate a lack of efficiency in terms of costs in public schools. The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of selected school type on cost efficiency of public secondary schools in Bomet County. The study employed a predictive correlational research approach. Two hundred and seventy principals of public secondary schools, as well as the five Sub-county Directors of Education in Bomet County, were the target population. Using stratified and simple random sampling approaches, a sample of 175 principals was chosen. The data was collected from the principals using a semi-structured questionnaire, and the data from the Sub-county Directors of Education was collected using an interview schedule. The Content Validity Index was used to check for validity, and it found that all variables had an S-CVI of greater than 0.9, indicating that they were all valid and could be used in the study. The findings revealed that all variables had Cronbach alpha coefficients of greater than 0.7, indicating that the variables were internally reliable enough to be used in the study. The data was analyzed and summarized using descriptive statistics, such as frequencies, means, and standard deviations. To test the hypotheses, the researchers employed simple linear regression analysis in inferential statistics to see how well school type could predict cost efficiency. Only statistical operations on data analysis were performed using the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) statistics software. The results show that schools incurred a huge cost on administration, guidance and counselling related costs, equipment related costs, security related expenses, and healthcare related expenses on the account of the school type. The study further found that the respondents moderately agreed that the school incurred huge expenses on extracurricular activities, account of external support services (such as motivational speakers), and subordinate staff remuneration on the account of the school type. The school type informing the costs to be incurred was attributable to different schools incurring costs on the gender basis. The study further concluded that there was a statistically significant influence of school type on the cost efficiency of the schools in Bomet County. The study further found that there was a positive relationship between the school types and cost efficiency of the public secondary schools in Bomet County. This was attributable to the costs of operating girls' schools being higher than those of boys' schools. This is due to the security, operational and health costs

incurred to mitigate security hazards such as gender-based offences in which the girls are the most targeted. The girl child often faces various gender and sexual based offences, harmful cultural practices, and safety concerns of the students in school that are more pronounced in the girls' schools compared to the boys' schools. This then leads to higher costs in respect to guiding and counselling, healthcare, security and general administration costs in girls' schools compared to the boys' schools.

**Keywords:** Cost Efficiency, Public Secondary Schools, School Type