

**School management capacity in managing funds for community secondary schools in
Kigoma Ujiji municipality, Tanzania**

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This study is on exploring the level of financial management capacity of community secondary schools heads in terms of planning and budgeting, funds collection, effective and efficient utilization of resources and managing challenges related to school financing. Specifically, the study sought to examine community secondary school heads competencies in planning for school financial collection and utilization, determine measures taken by school heads of community secondary school to effective and efficient utilization of school financial resources and to identify the challenges that school heads of community secondary schools face in managing school funds. The study used mixed research approach informed with descriptive survey design. The study total population was 90. The study used semi-structured interview, questionnaire and documentary review to collect study information. The study findings revealed that most of the community secondary school heads lack financial competencies in school financial management. It was found out that most of the school heads before selected to take their posts were mere secondary school teachers with inadequate knowledge background on financial management matters. Hence, they rely on their little knowledge and experience to manage school financial matters. The study also found out that most of the funds received in the school were used in buying textbooks, teaching guides, and supplementary reading materials. As for the challenges that school heads face in managing school financial resources, it was found out that most of the schools had inadequate financial resources and lacked qualified management staffs such as accounts experts. As a result school heads were forced to run schools amidst uncertainty and obliged to serve as accountants. It was concluded that inspite of the important role of the head of the school as shown above, the results from this research study had shown that many heads of community secondary schools in Kigoma Ujiji Municipality have less capacity for financial management. Hence, the study recommended that, there is a need for the government's provision of training on financial management to both school heads and teaching staff so that they are aware of how to manage the school funds.