

THE CANCER OF STUDENTS' DEMONSTRATIONS IN MISSION SCHOOLS: A CASE OF THREE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MARANGE, MUTARE DISTRICT-ZIMBABWE

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ABSTRACT

The research investigated the cancer of student demonstration in mission run boarding secondary schools in Marange, Mutare District, Zimbabwe. The population of the study was made up of students, teachers, heads as well as Education Officers. A qualitative research approach was used to elicit the views of respondents. The researchers adopted a qualitative perspective because the study was concerned with views of individuals on causes of student demonstration especially in secondary schools. The instruments used to collect data from the sample were focus group interviews for students, semi-structured interviews for teachers and administrators as well as observations. The findings from the study indicated that student demonstration is a result of poor communication between two parties that is, students and administration, lack of participation by students in decision making, general revolt against church and parents, adolescence problems, peer pressure as well as drug and alcohol abuse. Political involvement by groups is also a cause of student activism as well as the aspect of rowdysm being beneficial to students. The main recommendations given in this study are that mission run boarding secondary schools have to reinforce guidance and counseling in order to reduce cases of violent behavior, Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education should appoint Heads on competence and not church affiliation in mission run boarding schools, Administration should provide time to listen to student concerns, Teachers should engage administration on their challenges and those of the student ,Church authorities should not interfere in day to day running of schools and students should always stay focused on academic matters.

Keywords: Cancer, student demonstration, mission school.