

The impact of church leadership in support of transition from junior church into youth in Methodist church in Kenya, Machungulu circuit.

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Abstract

Graduating youngsters through the teenager ministry of the church is usually a bittersweet expertise. Mostly, moving youngsters in their religious path has been the ultimate objective right along. Just as parents and pastors, youngsters usually feel a touch longing concerning transition. Transitioning youngsters could bring worry and uncertainty. Church leadership is a key factor in support of transition in the modern church. Church leaders should be providing better support to the transition of Sunday school to young adults. Church leadership should be aware that there is a distinct difference between the life-style of youths and that of the older generation. A descriptive survey was used as study design. simple random sampling was used to pick pastors, heads of church departments and parents as the respondents. The target population of 541 respondents of different ages, different family backgrounds and with different talents as exposed during church functions were picked randomly. Majority 446(99.1%) of the respondents indicated that leadership support transition from junior church into youth program while 4 (0.9%) indicated do not. The mean scores show that understanding that church leadership very highly leads to high transition from junior church into youth with a mean score of 3.86. upon continuous Church leadership set policies in standing orders promote transition from junior church into youth with a mean score of 3.81, Church leadership set policies in standing orders promote transition from junior church into youth with a mean score of 3.75, Recreational facilities programs support transition from junior to youth with a mean score of 3.72. From the findings of this study we can conclude that church leadership support transition from junior church into youth program. Churches leadership were able to organize and plan for mentoring sessions, youth fellowships, guidance and counseling, graduation ceremonies, teaching and training, health talks and incorporation of youth into leadership in the

Keywords

church leadership,
transition,
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leadership meetings, seminars, budgetary allocation research findings are indicative various church leadership support helps transition from junior into youth through showing Passage Guidance and counseling session.

1.0 Introduction

Machungulu circuit is situated at Kiani Kia Muuti Market, Akirangondu ward in Igembe north constituency. Machungulu Circuit comprises eight churches namely Machungulu, Mwerongai, Mwiriene, Muurune, Gituine, Iriindii, Mukorene and Mwerene. It is one of the largest circuits in Nyambene north synod. Machungulu is a region whose economical activities influence both social and spiritual growth. since almost everyone does not regard this as drug, the rate of chewing tends to affect the behavior of the young ones since many of them could spend their time till midnights. The availability of Miraa makes it hard to protect the young generation from time wastage and to compensate such time for worship with time for leisure. Also around the market there is at high rate of drug abuse. Since the children at puberty stages are in their discovery phase, a lot of things happen that may hinder them from transiting well from childhood to the Youth Ministry in the church. Miraa farming and consumption is practiced and also around the market high rate of drug abuse. This study background aims to seek the causes and come up with strategies to help the youths around Machungulu circuit to be well equipped in the church and to grow positively in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Machungulu circuit comprising the approximately 80% of population being the youths, it is evident that the transition process is a major concern (Collins, 2014).

Machungulu circuit was also a point of research since in the recent past there have been few youths successfully transitioning into the main service programs which is always regarded as the adult service which is the older women and men in the church. The research was conducted also in Machungulu circuit since it covers a large population as a circuit in Nyambene synod thus the information researched was easier to acquire. The number of youths transitioning into youth has

been alarming in Machungulu circuit and that is why the research was conducted to examine the challenge facing the junior ministers Machungulu circuit being a perfect suit of the research (Kuria, 2014).

Church leadership is a key factor in support of transition in the modern church. Church leaders should be providing better support to the transition of Sunday school to young adults. Church leadership should be aware that there is a distinct difference between the life-style of youths and that of the older generation (Rastello, 2014). This awareness has been focused by such terms as the generation gap and the new generation. Youth culture has become a principal field of study for sociologists, anthropologists as well as Christian educators. So the church must not be left behind to understand these new dynamics as this study seeks to address (Richard, 2017).

For the youth program in MCK Machungulu Circuit to be vibrant then, the church must give adequate attention to its message as well as its methods. New ideas to interact and activate the young couples and for the spiritual aspect then the church must provide experience through which youth can learn to know Christ intimately. Educate the youth in the knowledge of the Bible and Christian Ethics, lead youth to firm faith in Christ and loyalty to his ways of life and provide a continuing program of worship, study, service and fellowship. It has come out clearly that to attract youth one should engage their attractions and interests and let them participate in the process of planning, implementation and evaluation which eventually allows them to acquire a sense of ownership. MCK Machungulu Circuit should let the youth be alone to build and expound upon initial ideals and designs thereby offer a constant freshness and relevance.

2.0 Materials and Methods

A descriptive survey was used in the description of the affairs of the current status of the variables in the study, out of which the formulation of important principles of knowledge and solutions to significant problems might result (Kothari, (2010). Mck Machungulu Circuit was the study site target population for the study consisted of the youths of basic observations on behavior change, attitudes towards church during. Adolescence stages, taste of secular music and that of gospel during the youth stages. And the church members concerned directly with variables under study. The target population of 2000The research concentrated much more on school's churches and institutions with notable traits of mentorship and also the society in general (Saunders &Thorn hill, 2009).

According to the circuit superintendent minister, there are 8 churches in the circuit. This sample consisted of the youth where proportionate stratified sampling technique was used to select the required sample from the target population of 541 respondents. In addition, simple random sampling was used to pick pastors, heads of departments and parents as the respondents. The target population of 541 respondents of different ages, different family backgrounds and with different talents as exposed during church functions were picked randomly. The data for this study was collected by the use of a questionnaire tool. Observation, surveys, social media monitoring, documents, records and surveys. The questionnaires consisted of both

closed and open ended questions in order to encourage in depth responses to be captured (Kothari, 2010).

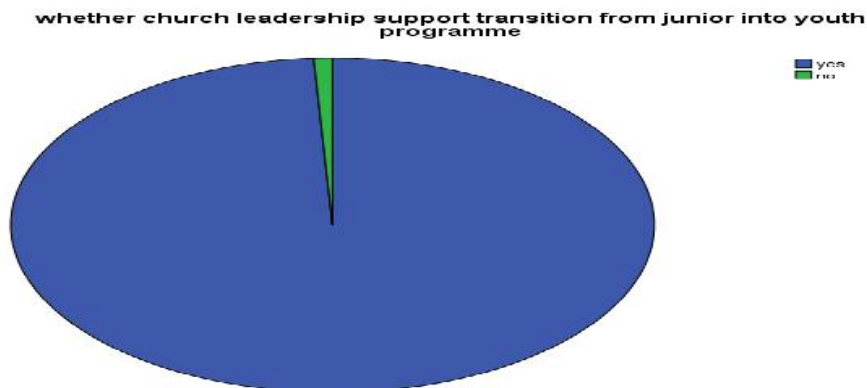
Kenya Methodist University Ethics Research Committee (KeMUERC) and NACOSTI gave out permission to carry out this research. The entire study is in line with the copyright of third-party materials that would have been used for references in the study. questionnaires were used without the name of the respondent. The respondents were assured of anonymity and confidentiality throughout the exercise. The researcher protected the respondent's opinions and views with utmost privacy and their participation was completely voluntary to maintain their physical and psychological wellness. Research findings were analyzed in accordance with the data collected to ensure reliable information.

3.0 Results and Discussion

The findings obtained are discussed in this chapter.

Impact of Church Leadership on Transition from Junior Church into Youth

Figure below Shows whether church leadership support transition from junior church into youth program. Majority 446(99.1%) of the respondents indicated that leadership support transition from junior church into youth program while 4 (0.9%) indicated do not.



Whether church leadership support transition from junior into youth program

Information of Table below whether church leadership supports transition from junior into youth. A big section 103(23%) of the respondents said that church leadership support helps transition from junior into youth through showing Passage Guidance and counseling sessions. About 74(16.56%) of the respondents indicated that leadership support transition from junior church into youth through holding youth fellowship. Another portion of the respondents indicated that church leadership support helps transition from junior into youth through mentoring programs set and sponsored by the church leaders. Another section 66(14.67%) of the respondents indicated that leadership support of transition from junior

church into youth through holding Health talk for the youth group. Another section 65(14.06%) of the respondents indicated that leadership support of transition from junior church into youth through Incorporation of the youth in leaders meeting when making various decisions on behalf of the church. Another proportion 66 (14.67%) of the respondents indicated that leadership support transition from junior church into youth through holding meetings where the church leaders Teach and train the youth on transition.

Another section 19(4.3%) of the respondents indicated that leadership support transition from junior church into youth through Graduation ceremonies when the youth reaches the age of youthfulness.

Table 1. Ways in which leadership support of transition from junior church into youth

Statements	Frequency	Percentages
Mentoring	103	15.94
Holding youth fellowship	74	16.56
Passage Guidance and counseling	66	23.13
Graduation ceremonies	19	4.3
Teaching and training	73	11.25
Health talk	76	14.69
Incorporation in leaders meeting	76	14.06

Data on table below Shows ways in which church leadership supports transition. A big portion 318(70.9%) of the respondents indicated that their church set a good budget for the program. About 81(18.1%) of the respondents' church leadership set seminars so as to educate the youth on

transition. About 35(7.8%) of the respondents indicated that it's through good church leadership that health talk time is set for the youth and about 13(3.1%) of the respondents indicated that church leadership do arrange for training and award of certificates.

Table 2. Ways in which church leadership support transition

Statements	Frequency	Percent
training and certificate award	13	3.1
Seminars	81	18.1
setting a good budget	318	70.9
health talk	35	7.8
Total	449	100.0

Data on table below indicates challenges that church leadership face during support of transition from junior church into youth program Majority 359(80%) of the respondents said that Youth pretend that they know much, 52(11.6%)

of the respondents indicated youth have assumption, 22(5%) of the respondents showed that youth do not listen pretending they know more and 15(3.4%) of the respondents indicated that they have finance challenges.

Table 3. Challenges that church leadership face during transition junior into youth

Statements	Frequency	Percent
Finances	15	3.4
youth do not listen pretending they know more	22	5.0
General assumption by the youth	52	11.6
Youth pretend that they know much	359	80.0
Total	449	100.0

Respondents were then required to use the Likert scale to rate the impact of church leadership on transition from junior church into youth by ticking against the most appropriate response (1= strongly disagree 2= Disagree 3= Undecided 4= Agree 5= Strongly Agree) that best reflect their preference.

The study computed the weighted means and standard deviation as shown in table 4.11. The mean scores show that understanding that church leadership very highly leads to high transition from junior church into youth with a mean score

of 3.86. upon continuous Church leadership set policies in standing orders promote transition from junior church into youth with a mean score of 3.81, Church leadership set policies in standing orders promote transition from junior church into youth with a mean score of 3.75, Recreational facilities programs support transition from junior to youth with a mean score of 3.72, On the question of whether employee appraisals establish a shared understanding about Recreational facilities programs support transition from junior to youth respondents agreed with a mean score of 3.50.

Table 4. Church leadership and transition from junior church into youth

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	MR	SD
Church set programs promote transition from junior church into youth	5	6	75	216	18	3.86	1.01
Church leadership set policies in standing orders promote transition from junior church into youth	4	8	107	201	0	3.81	0.97
Church leadership set policies in standing orders promote transition from junior church into youth	4	8	101	199	8	3.75	0.85
Recreational facilities programs support transition from junior to youth	13	17	104	100	16	3.72	0.81
Recreational facilities programs support transition from junior to youth	13	17	174	100	16	3.50	0.77

4.0 Conclusion

From the findings of this study we can conclude that church leadership support transition from junior church into youth program. Churches leadership were able to organize and plan for mentoring sessions, youth fellowships, guidance and counseling, graduation ceremonies, teaching and training, health talks and incorporation of youth into leadership in the leadership meetings, seminars, budgetary allocation research findings are indicative various church leadership support helps transition from junior into youth through showing Passage Guidance and counseling session. The study further showed that Church leadership set policies in standing orders to promote transition from junior church into youth. These policies were finally incorporated into the church standing orders. It is through church leadership that the recreational facilities program is set to support transition from junior to youth.

5.0 Implication of the findings

Moving forward, there is need for Church leadership set policies in standing orders promote

transition from junior church into youth. These policies are suggested to be incorporated into the church standing orders.

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