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PROPOSAL

EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE ON CRIME RATES IN KENYA. THE CASE
OF NAKURU TOWN COUNCIL, BAHATI CONSTITUENCY.

BY

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DECLARATION

I WANJOHI HARRIET, hereby declare that this research proposal is my own work and written to my best of knowledge. It contains no material previously accepted for the award of any other degree of the university except where acknowledgements have been made in the text.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background to the study, the statement of the problem, purpose of the study, specific objectives, research questions and significance of the study, scope of the study, study limitations and the definition of key concepts.

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The origin of child abuse is unknown but it existed all over the world for centuries.

For example the Bible tells us that Canaanites offered children as sacrifice to their god Baal, now this is child abuse.

According to UN human rights, a child is a person below the age of 18.

The term “child abuse” refers to an act of omission or commission that endangers a child’s physical or emotional development. It refers to experiences that deprive a child of things he/she needs which directly or indirectly affects his/her development.

It is important to note that child abuse is an international phenomenon.
Poverty and substance

Abuses are common widespread international issues, and no matter the location show a similar trend in correlation to child abuse. Although these issues can likely contribute to child maltreatment, differences in cultural perspective

play a significant role in the treatment of children. In certain nations the battle for gender equality plays a large part in child's upbringing, (Roach, 2011)

A median of 56, 46 and 9% of children in transitional countries respectively experienced psychological, moderate and severe physical abuse. It also found out that child neglect and child abuse are far more common in single-parent families than in families where both parents are present, (Crosson, 2008)

In Africa, South Africa was the leading country with the highest prevalence of violence against children in Africa (32%). The highest level of violence against children can be explained variously, including its root in the country's apartheid which left South Africa with a deeply embedded "culture of violence", (the UN report 2006).

According to the Kenyan violence against children's study, it is cited that violence against children is a serious problem in Kenya. Level of violence prior to age 18 as reported by (18yrs to 24yrs) (lifetime experience) indicates that during childhood, 32% of female and 18% of male experience sexual abuse. 66% of female and 73% of male experience physical violence and 26% of female and 32% of male experience any violence as a child. 13% of female and 9% male experience all 3 types of violence during childhood. The common perpetrators of sexual violence, physical violence, emotional violence among others were found to be including; mothers, fathers, male teachers, police and neighbors, (KYACS, 2010).

There are many forms of child abuse but the major include; neglect (such as educational, medical neglect), physical abuse (for instance beating, burning, killing, shoving, slapping), sexual abuse (for instance forced sex or rape, coerced sex, sexual assault) and psychological maltreatment (for instance threats, belittling, insults, shouting, isolation, humiliation and intimidation), [NCPS(2002)]

In Bahati town council, there is a lot to be desired as far as child abuse is concerned. Experience shows that sensitization campaigns targeting parents, children, local authorities and other community members have been done in relation to prevention of child abuse but there seems to be no sign of reduction in child abuse in the town council. Many children still suffer from various child abuse including; neglect, physical and sexual abuse with negligible intervention. Basing on this background, the researcher picked the interest to carry out an investigation on the impact of child abuse on the level of juvenile delinquency on the children of Bahati town, Nakuru County.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In the past 20 years, numerous laws and executive orders have been implemented by the government of Kenya in collaboration with the relevant national and international agencies to increase opportunities to reduce maltreatment/abuse against diverse people including children. In 1996, the children statute was enacted; it incorporates most of the provisions of the UN CRPD and reiterates for children. The guarantees in the 2010 Kenyan constitution and other human rights tools pertaining to a child. Since these laws were passed, child abuse cases have been reduced and opportunities for a child to live a happy life in a family increased. However, despite the attempt made by the government and other stakeholders to rectify the issue of child abuse in the country, children in Bahati town still face numerous forms of abuse including; child neglect, physical and sexual abuse. The previous research has not done enough to find out the effect of child abuse on the children hence making this study necessary to investigate the impact of child abuse on juvenile delinquency.

1.3 GENERATION OBJECTIVES

The study aims at investigating the impact of child abuse on juvenile delinquency of the children of Bahati town council and to make recommendations that could be used to develop a position of intervention

1.4 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The study will be guided by the following objectives

1. To determine the causes of child abuse in Bahati town council
2. To find out the effect of child abuse on juvenile delinquency in Bahati
3. To identify effective strategies that can be adopted to reduce the impacts of child abuse on the children of Bahati

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the factors contributing to the incidences of child abuse?
2. What are the effects of child abuse on juvenile delinquency?
3. What strategies can be employed to reduce the effect of child abuse amongst children?

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study aims at advocating for further more realistic and meaning upholding and the protection of the right of children by identifying the major concerns of the preventing child abuse within households, the study would bring out the major aspects of preventing child abuse among households and community members and how they have been implicated given the subjections to the major buses of the rights of children in Bahati town council and they are a basis of devising means for a major economic social recovery a households and community members in terms of children and crimes.

To the policy makers in particular the study will be important in understanding numbers of child abuses, strategies and alternatives that can be used effectively to fight the acts of children abuse in the community. Fair knowledge of what is on ground in regards to crime and wellbeing of the children will also be realized by the study. it is upon such findings that such initiatives geared towards the rights of children would be made better.

To the academia, the study will bridge the research gap by availing statistical information about delinquents. The academia will collect, compile and analyze issues intended in the study and will also present summarize survey findings in a report that is readily available for use by future academia's intending to carry out some research.

1.8 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

1.8.1 Geographical scope.

The study was carried out in Bahati town Nakuru County. This town council is located approximately 17KM from Nakuru city Bahati town borders Subukia town, Nakuru city and Maili nne Town.

1.8.2 Content scope

The study examines the impacts of child abuse on delinquency cases and identifying effective strategies that can be adopted to reduce the impact at child abuse on the children wellbeing in Bahati town.

1.8.3 Time scope

This study will consider the period between 2010 to date. It is during this time that the Kenyan government introduced the new constitution that introduced emphasis on upholding the rights of children.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviewed literature of several writers that correspond to the impact of child abuse cases of delinquency. The literature was captured from local and international sources including; books, journals, newsletters and reports. The researcher reviews the corresponding literature following the study objectives, in that respect the researcher put emphasis on determining the cause of the child abuse, finding out the effect of child abuse on delinquency and to identify effective strategies that can be adopted to reduce the impact on delinquency on the children of Bahati town.

2.2 The cause of child abuse

A parent's child history plays a major part in how he/she may behave as a parent. Individuals with poor parental role models or those who did not have their own Need may have a difficulty in meeting the needs of their children. While the estimated number varies child maltreatment literature commonly supports the

findings that some maltreating parents or caregivers were victims of abuse or neglect themselves as children. One review of relevant research suggested that abuse 1/3 of individuals who were maltreated will subject their children to maltreatment. Children who either experienced maltreatment or experienced or witnessed violence between their parents or caregivers may learn violent behavior and may also learn to justify violent behavior as appropriate. [Goldman, 2003]

Negative attitudes and attributions about a child's behavior and inaccurate knowledge about child development may play a contributing role in child maltreatment. For instance, mothers who physically abuse their children have more negative and higher than normal expectations of their children, as well as understanding of appropriate developmental norms.

Not all research however, has found differences in parental expectations. A parent's lack of knowledge about normal child developments may result in unrealistic expectations other parents may become frustrated with not knowing how to manage a child's behavior and may lash out at the child. Still others may have attitudes that devalue their children or view them as property, [Lardner, 1992]

Child abuse is a complex phenomenon with multiple causes. Understanding the causes of abuse is crucial to addressing the problem of child abuse. Parents who physically abuse their spouses more are likely to abuse their children. However, it is impossible to know whether marital strife is a cause of child abuse or if both the marital strife and the abuse are caused by tendencies in the abuses.

Unintended pregnancies are more likely than intended pregnancies to be associated with abusive relationships and there is an increased risk of physical violence during pregnancies. They also result in poorer maternal mental health and lower mother child relationship quality. Children resulting from unintended pregnancies are more likely to be abused or neglected. Neglect is thereby the most common form of child abuse accounting for more than 78% of all causes [Eisenberg and Etal, 1995]

Substances abuse can be a major contributing factor of child abuse. Parents with documents substances abuse most commonly alcohol, cocaine and heroin were much more likely to mistreat their own children and were also more likely to reject court order services and treatments [Murphy, 1991] over two thirds of cases of child maltreatment involved parents with substance abuse problems.

In 1988, study of child murders in the US found that children are looimes more often killed by non-biological parent for instance, step parent cohabitue' or boyfriend/girlfriend of biological parent [Roach, 2011]. An evolutionary psychological explanation for this is that using resources in order to take care of another person's biological child is likely not a good strategy for increasing reproductive success. More generally, stepchildren have a much higher risk of being abused which is referred to as Cinderella effect.

Children living with single parents may be at higher risk of experiencing physical and sexual abuse and neglect [cross, 2005]. He then added that single parent households are substantially more likely to have income below poverty.

2.3 The effect of child abuse on delinquency

Maltreated children are at an increased risk of indulging in variety of adolescent problem behavior. Clinicians and researchers report behavior that range from passive and withdrawn to aggressive. Physically and sexually abused children often exhibit both internalizing problems. They include low self-esteem, depression and anxiety, PTSD attachments difficulties, eating disorder, poor peer relation, self-injury, delinquency and mental health problems.

Children who have a history of neglect or physical abuse are at risk of developing psychotic problems or a disorganized attachment style [Gauthier and Etal, 1996]. When these children become adolescents, especially i.e. they suffer from PTSD or a sequence of child abuse, they turn to drugs or sex or even street gangs to seek validation for the adverse consequences of lack of social emotion development [Dante Cicchetti, 1997]

Some studies find evidence of lowered intellectual and cognitive functioning in abused children. Maltreatment increases the risk of lower academic achievements and problematic school performance which in turn leads them to find other means of livelihood such as pickpocketing, street crimes etc. [Carlson, 1995]. Again Schechter, (2007) argues that maltreated children who develop

insecure attachments to caregivers may run away from home hence becoming street children popularly known as “chokoraa”

Gynecological complications among abused girls have been constantly found to be related to sexual abuse. When girls run away from home pregnant they start what we call street families which their main means of livelihood is either borrowing or stealing.

These street gangs mug unaware citizen, steal their properties, kill or injure their victims. Hosin, (2007) asserts that individuals victimized by child maltreatment are more likely to engage in juvenile delinquency, adult criminality and violent behavior

Juvenile criminality is mostly associated with maltreatment of children followed closely by child neglect.

2.4 strategies to reduce the effect of child abuse on children

Hoyano, (2007) states that parent programs focus on enhancing parental competencies and promoting healthy parenting practices and typically target teen and highly stressed parents. Some of these programs are led by professionals and paraprofessionals while others are facilitated by parents to about their own personal problems.

Korbin, (1983), many schools and local community, social services organizations offer skills based curricula to teach children safe and protection skills. Many curricula have parental education to recognize and discuss sexual abuse with their children. Example of skill based curricula include talk about touching, safe child,

reach, recovery, challenge good touch/bad touch kids on the block and illusion theater.

Crosson, (2008), states that public awareness activities are important role in an overall approach in addressing the effect of child abuse and neglect. The purpose of public awareness activities is to raise community awareness rehabilitation of children suffering from the effect of child abuse and neglect as public issues to provide the public with information about available resources and solutions.

Medicinenet.com (2012) reports that a support group structure is needed to reinforce parenting skills and closely monitor the child's well-being. Visiting home social worker also required to observe and evaluate the progress of the child and his/her caretaking situation.

Turton, (2008), states that many community organizations offer a wide range of services for children and families. Boys and girls club, scouting troops and local YMCA/YWCAS provide social and recreational opportunities for children and families community centers, food banks, emergency assistance programs and shelters offer various family support services to increase family resources and decrease stress. Specific examples of prevention activities found within community based organization include; self-help and mutual aid groups that provide non-judgmental support and assistance kazi kwa vijana or kazi mtaani has helped a lot in curbing idleness in Bahati.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodological issues that will be used in the study and these includes ; research design, study population , samples size and collection methods of data collection, sampling procedure, data ,management and data analysis

3.1 Study design

Orodho, (2003), defines it as a scheme outline or plan that is used to generate answers to research problems. It constitutes of blueprint for collection, measurement analysis of data (Kothari, (2003)

This study will use a case study design because of uniqueness of the subject under investigation Kabiru and Njenga (2009), defines a case study design as in

depth look at individual or a single entity, (kombo & trump, 2006)in a case study a great deal can be learned from a few examples at the phenomena under study.

For example a case study of a person can be done by tracing the case history from birth and noting the experiences and environments that the person has been through. Several methods such as published biographical materials, observations, clinical interviews, medical examinations and test or achievements tests can be used to collect data for case studies.

3.2 Area of study

This study will be carried out in Bahati town which is located approximately 17KM from Nakuru city. This town is multi-tribal with both urban and semi urban settling. It was selected for the case study because it will provide a representation of different cultures situations that could prevail in urban as well as semi urban settings with many victims of child abuse.

3.3 Study population

According to Lee Kinyanjui (2014), population is a complete collection of all the elements (units) that are interested in a particular investigation.

The study will focus on 90 participants and they include police officers, NGO's, CBO's, parents, children and local leaders seen in the table.

Table 1. Study population

UNIT	CATEGORY	TARGET POPULATION
1	NGO' s / CBO' s staff	5
2	Police officers	5
3	Local Leaders	10
4	Parents	10
5	Children	30
6	Community member	30
TOTAL		90

3.4 Sampling technique

Sampling size and selection

The sample size will be determined according to roscoe of the thumb as cited in Sekaran, (2003), and Sarantakas,(2005) which indicates that a sample bigger than 30 and less than 500 is appropriate for most social science research and for the population of 50000 people , the sample should be of 381 people.

Samples of 90 respondents will be targeted of which 50 will be accessed because it is assumed that these have relevant information about the topic of the study. To obtain the sample size the researcher will use non-probability techniques as seen in Mugenda and Mugenda, (2009)

Sampling technique/methods

3.4.1 Purposive sampling

In this method of sampling, the researcher will select people to participate in the research for given reasons.

3.4.2 Convenient /accidental sampling

In this method the researcher will select any subject that is part of the target population that is within easy reach of the researcher and are recruited into the sample. For example the researcher will stand by one of the parishes and interview any local leader, police officer or NGO's or CBO's that comes by.

Accidental sampling is also a type of non-probability sampling that involves the sample being drawn from that part of population that is close to the hand.

That is a sample size selected because it is readily available and convenient as researchers are drawing on relationships or network to which they have close access to. This sampling technique will be used for parents/community and children because they are believed to have differences in their status.

3.5 Data collection method/tools

Both primary and secondary data will be collected and qualitative and quantitative data collection tools will be used and these include; questionnaires, interview, observation etc.

3.5.1 Questionnaires

These questions mailed or distributed to the responders to answer on their own. Questionnaires have both open ended and closed questions. In open ended questions, respondents will answer the way they want while in close ended questions answers will be provided from which they choose from. A questionnaire is a quick method of collecting plenty of data within a short period of time.

3.5.2 Interview

This is an oral administration of the questionnaire. Interviews will therefore be face to face encounter. The researcher will obtain accurate information through maximum cooperation from respondents [Mugenda and Mugenda, (1999)] interview is more flexible than questionnaires because interview adapts to the situation and gets much information as possible.

3.5.3 Key informants

Key informants interviews are methods of obtaining in depth information from individuals who hold important positions as far as research is concerned. They are selected because of the offices they occupy of the information they have.

3.5.4 Observations

In observation the study of status of phenomenon was obtained by observations of the researcher. It provides a very complete picture of the environment being studied and since observation studies extend over several ways, they give a longitudinal perspective not possible with many other types of research (Mugenda and Mugenda, (1999)

3.5.5 Focus group discussion

This is a qualitative method of research and it involves bringing together people who are knowledgeable about a particular topic of discussion.

3.6 Validity and reliability

3.6.1 Validity

To obtain content validity the researcher will consult the supervisor on the content of the tools to check language, the format questions and the logical flow of the questions.

3.6.2 reliability

to obtain the reliability of the tools, the researcher will use a pilot test on small sample of 3 to 5 respondents of Bahati town council because it is believed that these respondents have a similar setting line and have undergone through similar circumstances.

3.7 procedure of data collection

The researcher will obtain a letter from Laikipia University allowing her to proceed to the field work. Permission will be sought from the local authorities so as to conduct actual data collection in Bahati town council.

3.8 data processing and analysis

To analyze qualitative data the researcher will use content analysis or themes or historical studies

To analyze quantitative data, the researcher will use descriptive analysis which includes; mode, mean and median to enable the researcher to meaningfully describe the distribution of scores of measurements using few indices or statistics.

3.9 ethical consideration

Ethic is a branch of philosophy which deals with one conduct and guide to one's behavior.[Mugenda and Mugenda,(1999)]

The researcher will make sure the respondent's anonymity is guaranteed. This refers to the identity of individuals being either by using numbers, third parties or pseudo names. Besides the data collected will not be used be leaked out I other wards. It will be kept confidential and the researcher will make findings based on the interests of the respondents and their willingness to respond because the researcher will not force to get information from the respondents.

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