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An Investigation on Psychosocial Challenges Facing Boy Child in Absentee Father Figure: A Case of Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi County, Kenya

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Abstract:

This study sought to find out psychosocial impact of absentee father in upbringing of the boy child in Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi County. The study focussed on the relationship between present and absent father figure in relation to boy child delinquency, truancy, drug and substance abuse as well as academic performance in Embakasi Constituency. To realize its objective, the study was majorly descriptive and adopted both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to collect, analyse and report the required data. The study was undertaken among boys brought up in absentee father figure families' as well as present father figure families with age bracket between 12 and 17, in Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi County. The study also sought to investigate the causes of absentee father figure in the same geographical location. In this study, a total of 90 respondents were sampled; 45 of them involved boys brought up with absent father figures, while the other 45, included boys brought up by both parents. The study sample for single mothers was 45. Non probability sampling method of single mothers with boys was used. Other than the questionnaire, oral interviews were conducted on mothers to find out the cause of single motherhood to collect the data. The study was founded on Social Learning and Structural functioning theories. There was focus on the family as a major player that creates social environment and determines the upbringing of the boy child. The study's objectives aimed at finding out how parenting is conceptualized today; as well as seeking to find out the psychosocial indicators of upbringing the boy child in absentee father figure families. On academic performance, the research found out that boys from present father figure families perform better in school at an average grade of B as compared to those from absentee father families who perform at an average grade of C-. In regard to drugs and substance abuse, the study was able to tell that boys from absentee father figure are prone to drugs and substance abuse in relation to boys from present father figure. The research findings states that 47% of single mothers in Embakasi Central Constituency are single by choice. Gambling is almost at par from both present and absentee father figure boys; 81% and 91% respectively. However, from the research findings, it is also evident that some single mother have come up with alternative coping mechanism which are helping them provide overall support to the boy child this is according to the study findings which show that there are boys (11.1%) brought up by absentee father figure but they are equally doing well in school (C+) with very low delinquency rates (17%). In conclusion that study observes that boys brought up in the absence of father figure are likely to experience more psychosocial challenges as compared to those brought up with father figure families.

Keywords: Adolescent, adjudicated-defiance-delinquent-father-juvenile-paternal deprivation, father figure

1. Introduction

This study is founded on the premise that a father brings something unique in the psychosocial wellbeing of the boy child; as such the father makes irreplaceable contributions to the life of the boy child. Fathers play a unique role, in that their contribution is different from what the mothers can provide. According to Horn (2002:87), Significant results on fatherhood and parenting reveals that in comparison to boys brought up with both parents families, boys who grow without fathers have negative outcomes on average in a myriad of activities such as delinquency material defiance, drug and substance abuse school and academic performance and many more

An understanding of factors that may result to psychosocial incompetency and disorientation among boys, can better equip the key stakeholders such as parents, teachers and policy makers provide necessary support to such boys. This research study was designed to investigate the influence, the impact and the correlation between the psychosocial challenges facing boy child, boy child delinquency and the presence or absence of father figure in the boy child's life and recommend possible remedies.

Responses were made on the psychosocial issues such as delinquency checklist, school performance, antisocial behavior and drug and substance abuse between the two samples that were examined. The study also attempted to determine the above aspects among boys which were differentiated by absence of father figure in boys' life. This study also

investigated the frequency and severity of delinquency, school performance and abuse of drugs in the determined sample groups'. The study made critical analysis of the findings and recommendations for further research.

1.1. Background of the Study

From general understanding, a family is meant to be a united institution which majorly provides economic, social and psychological security to all members. So what happens to a family where one parent, in this case the father is absent? Will it have some psychosocial effects? Chemorion, (2014: 115) defines Christian family as a basic human community. He further observes that it consists of father, Mother and children. On the other hand, Degby (1980:78) observes that the family is a social institution where morals and norms are passed on to the next generation. A family is meant to be a haven of posterity where each member feels safe and is safely guarded. Drawing interference from Degby (1980:79), a family in this context is an ecological eco-system. This means that what affects one member, therefore, affects all other members and the whole system is affected and if one member is happy, okay and doing well, the same reciprocates to all the members of the family. In common understanding, a family is made up of father, mother and children. The three entities operate in symbiotic relationships; Motherhood and fatherhood are major players in parenting.

However, quite often, the mother has been considered a defactocontributor to nurturing both boys and girls. For a long time there has been a change in trends of considering the importance of both parents (father and mother). As Horn (2002:89), observed, interest in current trends on fatherhood and parenting have always been left to policy developers, social service providers, political elites, local communities such as community based organization (CBOs), media fraternity, but there is a shift to academic research and studies.

Who is an absentee father figure? According to this research paper, an absentee father figure can be defined as a father who do not interact with the affairs of the family by not living together or being emotionally absent, and relinquishing all the roles of boy child upbringing to the mother, hence paternal deprivation on the boy child. The father may be physically or emotionally absent, or both.

1.2. Causes of Absentee Father Figure

According to the 2009 Kenyan population census about 25% of families in Nairobi's Embakasi Central are headed by single mother. Why are fathers absent from their families today? Are fathers deliberately choosing to keep away from their families, or they are forced to do so due to social economic factors? The amount (quantity) of time and worth (quality) of time parents spend with their children has diminished significantly. It is observed by Michael (1976:96) that today, a number of families are headed by single mothers, either by choice or death. Some parents choose to separate or divorce. Currently, divorce has become a common phenomenon in developing countries such as Kenya. According to this research finding, in Nairobi, Embakasi Central Constituency, absence by choice is common. Women just choose to get children and not commit themselves to marriage.

Fathers are becoming rarely available as time goes by, about four decades ago, Michael (2006:97), Observed that fathers are kind of a forgotten lot of contributors to general child development and upbringing process. This study observed that divorce, death abandonment and alcoholism are all forms of father absence; these affect boy child psychological growth.

According to the 2009 Kenya population Census 25 percent of families in Kenya are single mothers, and this is most widespread in major towns. In the traditional African society, the extended and polygamous family systems included cousins, uncles and aunts living in common compound or close to one another. Within this structure, children occupied the central position and they were to be raised in close family groups. This means the responsibility of social upbringing of children was shared. In such context, boys always had a male father figure from one of the extended family relatives such as uncles and grandfathers; this is a sharp contrast to the position of then urbanized populations where kinship ties have disintegrated courtesy of urbanization, self-reliance and gender equality. As it was stated at the beginning; family is the most important social unity. A family emanates from marriage and marriage is an institution based on a binding relationship of love between a man and a woman who have agreed to live together for purpose of mutual comfort; support as well as production and upbringing of the children (Chemorion, 2014; 116). However, with time, marriage has ceased to represent ties between individual and social groups; rather it has become an alliance between individuals (marriage and family encyclopedia ; (<https://11families.Rank.org/03/08/2019/10> is)

The increase in single mothers in Kenya is also attributed to high incidences of teenage pregnancies, pre-marital sex, deaths of HIV and AIDS and political violence that make youths and young adults, especially men more vulnerable to insurgencies such as mungiki Michael (2006:97),

This research study therefore, was based on the view that when the father figure spends much time away from home, or not around all together time away from home, or not around all together due to above stated reasons, the role of the child rearing is left to the mother who has to multitask. As such, there is need of understanding the psychological challenges that a boy child would face in the absence of the father figure.

1.3. Statement of Problems

As a result of social economic challenges and constraints, and disintegration of traditional family ethics and values, the father figure presence has become secondary in a majority of modern families Horn, (2002:89). Many fathers have majority modern families. Many fathers have become absent to their boy's future. From social learning theory, boys need an ideal role model to learn from. On the same note, from the structural functioning theory, a family works like a

system with every part of the system playing its role to make a stable and optimal functioning body. Drawing out inference from the above schools of thoughts, absentee father figure is likely to be pathological more so to the boy child.

Many households in Nairobi, especially in Embakasi central constituency are headed by single mothers; this is in according to the Nairobi Demographic report Entitled Exploring Kenya's Inequality,(2013:3).The report puts the figure at 43% absentee father figure by then .The above fact is alluded to by the 2009 Kenya population census report indicate that majority of households are headed by female parents ;the report states that men are either physically or emotionally absent or both (KNB: 2009).According to the workshop proceeding on Public Consultation for National Integrated Urban development (NIUPLAN,2014-2013:12).It is averred that Embakasi central constituency, is one of the Nairobi constituencies with an increasing population with absentee father figure. NIUPLAN report (2003) is also scored by the latest statistics from Here's Life a Community Based Organization ,dealing with orphans and widows within Embakasi central Constituency .The Here's Life (2018).annual report observes that majority (44.7%)of the boys experiencing high social problems such as drugs and substance abuse ,are from absentee father figure families (Here's life CBO ,2018)

1.4. Research Objective

The study carried out an investigation on the impact of absentee father figure on psychosocial growth of the boy child and how father figure presence or absence impact on the upbringing of the boy child in Embakasi central sub county, Nairobi county-Kenya.

This research was also founded on the following expansions of the primary objectives:

- To investigate the academic performance of boys from absentee father figure families as compared to those from both parents' families.
- To identify the rate of delinquency using delinquency checklist between boys from absentee father figure families in relation to those with both parents.
- To establish drug prevalence among absentee father figure boys.
- To assess truancy levels among boys from absentee father figure families as compared to those with both parents.

1.5. Research Questions

The following were the research question used in the study

- How do boys from absentee father figure families perform in school as compared to those with father figure?
- What is the rate of delinquency between boys from absentee father figure families as compared to those with father figure families?
- What is the prevalence of drug and substance abuse among boys with absent father figure families as compared to those with both male and female parents?
- What is the truancy level among boys from absentee father figure families as compared to families with both parents?

1.6. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to examine the psychological effects of two samples of boys brought up with absentee fathers figure and those from both parents families .The study also attempted to determine if psychological challenges are differentiated by the absence or presence of the father figure in the home .The study investigated the levels and the rate of delinquency at which young boys experience psychosocial challenges in the determined sample groups are prone to delinquencies such as gambling and truancy.

1.7. Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

The study tried to hypothesize that absentee father figure in the life of boy child results to incomplete parenting in Kenya.

To allude to this argument in this context, the researcher drew his inference from two theories; The Social Learning Theory and Structural Functioning Theory .The two theories are in tandem with the fact that parenting isa nurturing process that aims at developing socially acceptable individuals from the previous studies, (although not including emotional and psychological effects) absentee father figure has proved to be a problem facing psychological growth of the boy child today

1.7.1. Social Learning Theory

As it was postulated by Bandura (1977:65), the Social Learning Theory opines that character, growth and development are learnt and influenced by environmental factors .What does this mean? It simply means that one's personality traits are a unique interaction between the outside environment and psychological processes that take place intrinsically.referring to Bandura (Fig 1),emphasizes that behavior ,character traits ,environment and one's individual cognition operate together hence modifying one another

The theory opinionates that children learn best through observation .Bandura further assets that through observation, one is likely to form an opinion on how character and behavior are carried out (Bandura 1977:54) In this research, boys are meant to learn from their father figure thus constitute the environment that boys need to effectively get through their life cycle from infancy to adulthood hence the need for the presence of father figure.

According to Fig 1 Bandura's Theory of Social Learning; the two bottom edges (behavior and character) are a product of the top edge which is environmental factors, and therefore Bandura's theory asserts that behavior and character are influenced by the environment in which one is being brought up. It is from the above major premise that the researcher sought to find out what happens when the environment in which a boy child is being brought up is not ideal?

Brown hill (2016:67). says effective parenting includes but not limited to, provision of physical (food, cloth, shelter) psychological support, love and enabling emotional environment. Quite often, fathers have tended to provide materials and neglect emotional support and presence. He further opines that boys brought up by both parents, in a caring, emotional and physical enabling environment have high self-esteem, experience minimal delinquency, hence growing up into socially acceptable individuals. Therefore, the father figure constitutes a major environment that influences the boy child.

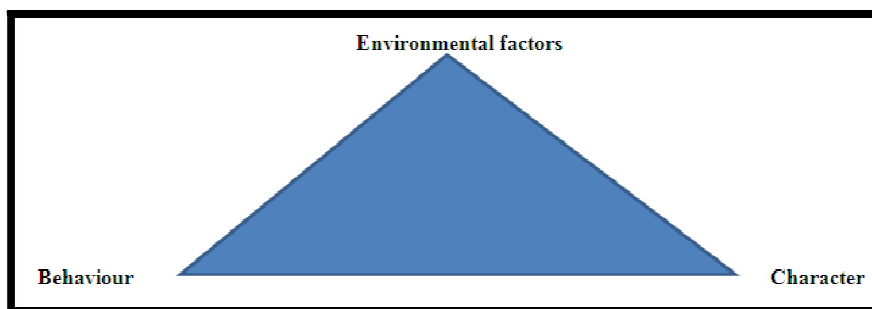


Figure 1: Bandura's Theory of Social Learning

1.7.2. Structural Functioning Theory

The theory was postulated by Herbert Spencer and Tal cott Parson. It observes that the society is a complex with dynamic system where every part operates with one another to promote harmony, oneness, solidity and stability. Therefore, this theory looks at the society via macro-level lens world view which is basically abroad focus on the social structures that make up the society as a whole. It also opines that the society continues to evolve and transform just like organisms. From the above observation, therefore, this theory rightly describe the postmodern society and family structure which have evolved from the pre- colonial African extended families, which were notoriously polygamous to today's nuclear private families which claim to be notoriously polygamous but work unprecedented rate of divorce and separation. It is not surprising today we have many boys growing in absentee father figure families.

This research paper looked at the psychosocial impact of absentee father figure from the above two theories: A family as a social structural and a family as social functioning. As a social organ, a family operates within a given system, with everyone actively playing their role. On the other hand, structural functioning theory appreciates the society as a whole in matters of the function of its constituent element, namely; norms, customs, traditions and institutions which include marriage and family. In summary, the two theories put emphasis on every component of the family actively playing there role hence a stable and optimal growth of boy child.

1.7.3. Conceptual Framework

According to Tong (2009:73), a conceptual framework is the manner in which ideas are planned and organized to realize a research project's objective. In this research study, therefore, conceptual variables were broadly divided and categorized into two; present father figure and its impact and absent father figure as well as its impact. The two variables were further categorized into parenting, role modeling, and good grades in school, high self-esteem, and minimal delinquency, low antisocial behavior; such as drug and substance abuse and ideal emotional intelligence.

On the other hand, absent father figure boys have high prevalence of low self –esteem, poor school grades, and lack of role model, high rate of juvenile delinquency drugs and substance abuse and emotional imbalance .The study used effective parenting to mean the entire process of holistic caring for a boy child, and helping him develop and grow and learn to be socially acceptable, As Brisbane (1998:98) observes, taking care of a boy is more than just being a parent. Role modeling was used to describe the actions and activities that boy child can only get from father figure. Family was used to refer to the smallest social institution, typically made up of father mother and children. The diagram below shows conceptual framework which indicates that effective parenting is a product of physical and emotional presence of both parents. The research variables are determined by either presence or absence of father figure.

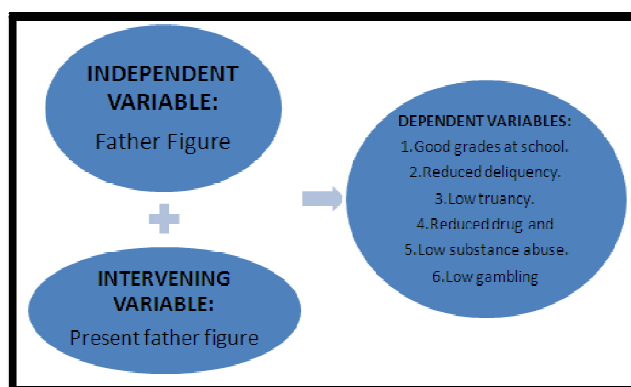


Figure 2

1.8. Scope and Limitations

During the research study, several limitations were identified. They include; the aspect of boys who have absent father figure might not be typical and replica of all situations in all geographical regions, for instance, it was difficult to access delinquency on driving a car, especially on boys from Kayole central. The father figure physical presence does not guarantee emotional presence, therefore, research scope could not fully distinguish physically present but emotionally disconnect with the boy child. Not all women who are single do not have a male figure in their life; in such a case some boys from absentee father figure would have got some advantage from such male figure, hence limiting the validity of the research study. Male teachers in schools also would act as father figure to the boy child.

Paper and penal research might not be one hundred percent reliable; the interviewee might be biased in what they say and write, for instance no mother could be honest enough to tell the researcher that they have a male figure in their life.

2. Literature Review

It's of essence to note that the boy child of the 21st Century is faced with challenges which unless properly guarded; the community might end up losing him. In this chapter, the researcher intends to appreciate the fact that every member of our society has to be cognizant that all children are future leaders, they are the hope of the days to unfold and guardians of the future, gone are the days when one gender was more valued and esteemed than the other, such traditional stereotypes have been by-passed by time. It is from the above premise, that each family, community, society and in this regard, every nation like Kenya has to bring up youngmen and women who are physically, mentally, psychologically, socially and spiritually healthy with the ideal values that reflects a better future.

For the family to be healthy in all the above paradigm there is need of concerted effort from both genders i.e. male and female to have both boys and girls grow and develop into their full potential. Referring to the boy child, several previous literatures regarding the place and position of father-figure on boys have been revisited, also considering the correlations between the paternal role and psychosocial growth and development, a number of research have been conducted through different entities and organizations such as, State Department of Education-Kenya, Department of Gender and Women Studies from University of Nairobi, Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres such Prisons Department, Juvenile Courts and other learning institutions such as schools.

2.1. The Family

Baber (2000:2) observes that definition of family does not always define what family is, more so when the relationship, being analyzed is so flexible and variable that it assumes many forms. Baber (2000:4) further opined that the word "Family" has been loosely used to cover several groupings, such as traditional group of father and mother and their children,

Family can be defined from Christian or African tradition point of view. For instance, from Christian perspective Jack O.etal (2014:102) observes that family can be described based on the rationality of the holy triune, describing God to be in a relationship of three in one. An ideal Christian family is therefore based on father, mother and children. The three persons work in harmony and contribute to well-being of family institution, Working harmoniously and complementing each other for optimum productivity. From Trinitarian relationally, Jack et al (2014:103), elucidates that a family becomes an institute where by a man and woman marry and become one, yet maintain their individual distinction.

In Kenya, (2015:35) refers to this distinction as differentiation which is a key element of dimension of African holiness. If the God head are three in one, what will happen If the family triune is destabilized by one member being absent? From the African family that point of view, children were under the custody of the extended families, and therefore, the absence of any of the parents could easily be filled in by a close relative

However, the erosion of African traditionally family ethos are posing a threat to the wellbeing of the boy child in the even the father figure is absent (Merrick 2002:41)

2.2. Parenting Issues

As Booth and Booth (2008:54) observed, parenting is described as a social process that can be discussed upon, it is thus flexible and dynamic process that entails several variables and contributing factors. Brisbane (2009: 123) asserted

that parenting is the entire aspect of caring for children and helping them develop, positive attitude towards life. This means that parenting can be said to be effective with the presence of two key players; father and mother.

Stenberg (2004:97) observed that the fundamental element of effective parenting constitutes participation, positive role modeling love, differentiation and fostering of independence, provision of basic needs, discipline, fairness and respect. On the same wavelength, Omar (2013:65) said that for productive Parenting, parents have to stand out as a canon upon which children will emulate and learn from there. In this context, will boys learn from an absentee father figure?

Gand and Gardiner (1981:43) observed that socialization is an exercise whereby individual acquire behavior and chooses social worldview. Socialization and learning from the right gender enhances maturity. Previous researches, such as Holand(2000:45) affirmed that boys from absentee father figure exhibited psychological disorientations emotional challenges, and antisocial behavior which included character surges. Line (2012:81) confirmed that most children, both boys and girls need to be close to their fathers. However, in all the above research, including hell and (2000:46) did not consider academic performance of the two samples truancy as emotional impact lines (2012:81) scores it further by saying that boys do not just need to experience the physical presence of the father figure but experiencing the warmth and acceptance that comes with it. Olweus (2008:17) observed that child neglect is normally elementised by inability to supply basic needs, however, emotional love is paramount. Segelment and Rider (2009:73) opinionated that boys from absentee father figure are prone to psychological, verbal and mental harm, thus results to be behavioural, cognitive and emotional disorientation. Uba, 1989 :51) Observes that quite often, in the absence of father figure, mothers tend to be more permissive and all boys to do what they want this affects the boy child as they struggle to live within Societal rules at adult age. (2012:7) States that boys who have been nurtured by emotionally absent father figure are prone to drugs and substance abuse, juvenile Delinquency and petty crimes. He further opinionates that such young adolescents are culpable of faking sexuality to conceal the emotional gap that was well covered by father figure, he also says that such boys are culpable of suicidal tendencies and breaking of laws. Biu (2011:9) observed that nothing can replace effective Parenting no matter what is provided for instance; Biu gives an illustration of a boy whose parents separated while he was five years old. Both parents could give the boy a lot of money to win him, but fact was they emotionally absent. It resulted into psychosocial complications which make the boy drop out of school.

Ngwiri and Tumuti (2002:4) observed that one of the key precipitating factors leading to rise of drug abuse among high school boys is poor parenting skills and absentee father figure among many families. They also observed that high rate of suicidal tendencies parental presence entails both physical and emotional support.

2.3. Research Gap

Despite the existence of effort to address the challenges facing boy child due to absentee father figure, resent research on the impact seem to have been skewed towards physical presence and material support of the boy child but not emotional presence and the role modeling that comes with it. The question of academic performance, juvenile delinquency, truancy and drug and substance abuse has hardly been associated with the father figure presence. Above all, the boy child has not been attention as compared to the girl child. As such this research seeks to fill the gaps on emotional presence of the boy child and amplify the plight of the boy child to the society.

3. Methodology

This chapter entailed and evaluated the methodology that was used in the study. To be more precise, this chapter explained and described the specific area of study, the research design, the population target, the sampling procedures, methods as well as tools of data collection, data analysis and presentation.

3.1. Research Design

Research design is a plan showing how the problem of investigation will be solved (Kombo and Tromp, 2012:35). The research was descriptive and adopted qualitative and quantitative design, with qualitative which entails case studies, interviews and questionnaires as postulated by Jackson, (2009: 89). This enabled the collection of information to study the relationship between the two variables of absentee and present father figure in Embakasi Central Constituency. As descriptive research study, it answered the question of who, what when, where, and how of the topic, in this context, how absentee or present father figure is affecting the upbringing of boy child in Embakasi Central constituency. It also assessed the two main variables; absentee father figure and the boy child. The design was deemed appropriate for the study, since the study intended to rely on flexible and interactive research design using structured questionnaires. Data collection tools or instruments were administered to adolescent boys of age between 12 and 17 years within the 5 sub counties of Embakasi Central Constituency. Descriptive survey design studies take sample of the target population and base their overall findings on views or behaviour of those sampled. The assumption was that the sample is similar in characteristics to the target population.

3.2. Site Description

The study was carried out in Embakasi Central Constituency in Nairobi County. The reason why Embakasi Central is ideal area of study is because is an example of Suburbia (mixture of slums and suburbs) in Nairobi. It is located approximately 7 kilometres from the Nairobi CBD, the Capital City of Kenya. With a total of 5 civic wards (Komarock, Kayole South, Kayole Central, Kayole North and Spring Valley) as shown in appendix 1 pg. 41, it is a constituency with several unique demographic distributions in terms of social economic status. The constituency is a major residential area

of lower middle class and lower class citizens. According to the 2009 population census, Embakasi Central had a population of about 168, 538 people, with majority of adults being women, and most parents (43%) are single mothers. (KNBS, 2009) The population is characterized by both good (especially in Komarock) and poor housing structures (Soweto slums-Kayole ward), there is poor access to health services and poor family planning measures facilities within Kayole Central Ward (Ministry of Health, 2014) The area was purposively selected as study location because it has a number of families with absentee father figure who formed the target group of the study. With a mixture of both formal and informal settlement; this informed a good understanding of the effects of raising a boy child with absent father figure in both lower, middle lower and middle upper class. Therefore, it was a good area of study since it minimised making skewed conclusion on social economic factors that would lead fathers to keep away from their families. The area had both middle- and lower-class dwellers who gave the researcher a good parameter for comparison and contrasting research findings.

3.3. Target Population

Mugenda and Mugenda (2012:47) define a population as a complete set of individuals, cases or objects with some common observable characteristics. Orodho (2012:47) on the other hand defines the target population as a large population from whom the sample population will be selected. A sample population is a representative case from the large population. In this study, the target population was 450 adolescent boys from 5 schools' three secondary and 2 Primary School. There was a target of 380 single mothers from 5 wards in Embakasi Central Constituency. As Mugenda and Mugenda (2009:67) observed, this target population was the population to which the researcher wanted to use to generalize the results of this study. Therefore, to achieve the objectives of the study, the target population of this research was categorized into three; families with absentee father figure, families with both parents and single mothers in Embakasi Central Constituency. The researcher used a population of 90 adolescent boys of age between 12-17; were sampled out, 45 from single mothers and 45 from both families' parents. This was an ideal age bracket since according to Ikenye (2015:34), it is the age when actual differentiation takes place and onset of identity crisis which consequently may lead to an increase in delinquency. Therefore, a total of 90 boys and 45 single mothers made a third of the target population as per Mugenda and Mugenda (2012:96)

3.4. Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

In the words of Mugenda and Mugenda (2012:34), a sample is a process of selecting a number individual to represent the bigger group from which they are selected. On the other hand, a sample design is definite plan determined before any data are collected for acquiring a sample from a given population (Orodho, 2012:37). A various limitations are considered by the researcher before selecting a sample from the whole population. The limitations include; time, funds and energy on the study to be carried out from a well picked out sample size to represent the entire population. Orodho, (2008:101) observes that reliable researcher calls for the accurate establishment of appropriate sample size whose characteristics depict those of the target population. On the same note Orodho, (2008:39) opines that sampling involves selecting a given number of subjects from a defined population a representative. Sampling is defined as a process a researcher employs to collect people, places or items to study (Kombo and Tromp, 2012:31). The aim of researcher sample to create inferences, this means any observation made about the sample should be accurate of the population. The researcher used random sampling which involved the selection of samples using different boys in selected schools. The sample size was 90 boys and 90 women which was 30% of total target population of 600. From each school, the sample was determined by the target population.

Ward	Sample Absentee Father Figure Family	Percentage	Both Parents	Percentage
Komarock	15	33.3	15	33.3
Spring Valley	12	26.6	12	26.6
Kayole North	8	17.7	8	17.7
Kayole south	5	11.1	5	11.1
Kayole central	5	11.1	5	11.1

Table 1: Study Sample for Boys per Ward

Ward	Single Mothers	Percentage
Komarock	15	33.3
Spring Valley	12	26.6
Kayole North	8	17.7
Kayole South	5	11.1
Kayole Central	5	11.1

Table 2: Study Sample for Single Mothers

3.5. Research Methods

The research instruments used was a set of questionnaire and interview schedule to single mothers. Based on the study objectives, the researcher came up with semi structured questionnaire as well as delinquency checklist adopted from the semi structured questionnaire as well as delinquency checklist were used to collect the required data from boys, while interview schedule was used to collect data from mothers.

The delinquency checklist was able to collect data in three levels: home, school and community. The researcher visited sampled schools, and created a rapport with the school heads and accessed the boy's details on parental status from which the school heads organized on the interview for the sampled mothers after signing the consent forms. It took around 2 weeks for the respondents to adequately fill in the questionnaire

3.6. Data Analysis

The above sample distributions were allocated depending with the size of the ward as well as the population according to the 2009 population census. Komarock Ward was the largest in terms of size as well as the population (50400), so it got a third of the selected sample. Kayole Central is the smallest with fewer people (18,640) according to the 2009 population census, so it got 11.1% of the selected sample.

3.7. Sources of Data

The study used both primary and secondary data. The secondary data was got from school academic performance records which were also confirmed through filling the semi structured questionnaire with delinquency checklist. The questionnaires were used for both boys with and without absentee father figure, and interviews were carried out with single mothers bringing up boys in Embakasi Central Constituency

3.8. Methods of Data Collection

Data collection was done through the use of interviews and questionnaires. The questionnaires were made up of two main sections; the preliminary which included basic bio data but name was optional and the delinquency checklist. The delinquency checklist again was also divided into three i.e. home related delinquencies, home related delinquency and society related delinquency. The questionnaires were given to the sampled out boys and filled; this took duration of around 21 days to collect all the data and conduct interview to the single mothers. In this case, interview referred to getting information from individuals who are considered to be particularly conversant with the topic of interest. According to Barker (2010:54), interview, is a technique that is used to gain an understanding of the underlying reason and motivation of person's world view, attitude, preference or behaviour. Barker (2010:54), further observes that interviews have advantage of enabling serious approach by respondent hence resulting in more accurate information, good response rate completed and immediate possible in depth questions and the interviewer can give more elaboration where there is need. On the other hand, questionnaires are important since they help in preservation of data for future references. All the above informed the reason why the researcher opted to use questionnaire as a method of data collection.

3.9. Data collection instruments

The research instruments used was a questionnaire and a delinquency checklist for boys with present and absent father figure. Interview schedule was used for single mothers. The Semi-structured questionnaires were appropriately used to collect data collect key data that informed the research findings. Schools were also used find confirm the grades scored by the boys at the end of term one examinations, the schools also helped to identify family status of the respondents. The questionnaires were given to the boys with the consent of their mothers or female guardians. The questionnaires, therefore, contained both closed and open ended questions. This also allowed the respondent to give their opinion where necessary.

3.10. Data Analysis

Data obtained was analysed using qualitative and quantitative techniques. Collected qualitative data were coded and entered in computer for analysis. Descriptive statistics was put into percentages which was presented in form of graphs. Generally, the data was categorised academic performance for present and absent father figure, juvenile delinquency for present and absent father figure and reasons for absentee father figure among single mothers in Embakasi Central.

3.11. Ethical Considerations

The purpose of the study was well explained verbally to the respondents, and written permission was granted by the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), Ministry of Education and Nairobi County Commissioner. Participating Schools also granted the researcher prerequisite permission to interview their students. Written consent form was given to the parents and guardians of the sampled boys who signed and handed it back to the researcher on behalf of the eligible respondents. Confidentiality and anonymity was assured to the respondents. Since the matter being researched upon was sensitive family issues, the researcher also considered personal privacy of highest level possible. The data was only collected after consent had been agreed upon for both parents and boys. The respondents were to be free to choose whether to participate or not. No respondent was put under duress to respond to a question they felt uncomfortable with. No adolescent was interviewed without prior consent from the mother/guardian. The participants were free to withdraw from the research whenever they felt not comfortable, however, none-withdrew, they all kept on till the end.

3.12. Conclusion

In this chapter, the research has considered the design that was used in the study; the study adopted a descriptive research design in investigating the psychosocial effects of boy child with absentee father figure in Embakasi Central Constituency Nairobi County. The chapter also looked at the site of study, which is Embakasi Central Constituency of

Nairobi County. The target group in this research were boys being brought up by absentee father figure compared to those with both parents within the same study area. The sample and sampling method used was non-probability sampling method as well as snowballing method. The data was collected by use of semi structured open and closed questionnaires administered to the target group and finally, the data was analysed through coding and clustering common themes in form of tables, pie charts and graphs which were used for other statistical presentation.

Data were analyzed using qualitative and quantitative techniques. Collected data were coded and entered in the computer for analysis. Descriptive statistics in percentages and frequencies were used to present the data, which was reported in form of tables and charts.

4. Data Analysis and Presentation of Findings

4.1. Introduction

This chapter encompasses data presentation as well as its analysis and discussions. The chapter also entails the research questions enlisted with their statistical result findings in reference to research questions as presented in chapter one. There is a demographic statistic that explains the subjects in question. As it is indicated in the research objectives, the sole purpose of this study was to investigate the Psychosocial Effects of Absentee Father Figure to the Boy Child in Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi City County. To confirm this, the researcher, constructed questions that collected pertinent information of the sampled population. The researcher also adopted a delinquency checklist, borrowed from Kenneth Stein (2003:67). The questionnaire and the delinquency checklist were administered to the two categories; Present and absentee father figure, which were purposively selected from 5 civic wards and 5 schools within Embakasi Central Constituency. The two samples were made up of; 45 boys from present father figure families and 45 boys from absentee father figure families. From these two samples, the study was able to determine whether and how delinquency activities among adolescent boys were influenced by the presence or absence of the father figure at home. The study was also able to find out how the presence or absence of the father figure affects the academic performance of the boy child. From the study, the frequency and severity of delinquency between adolescents in the identified samples group was determined.

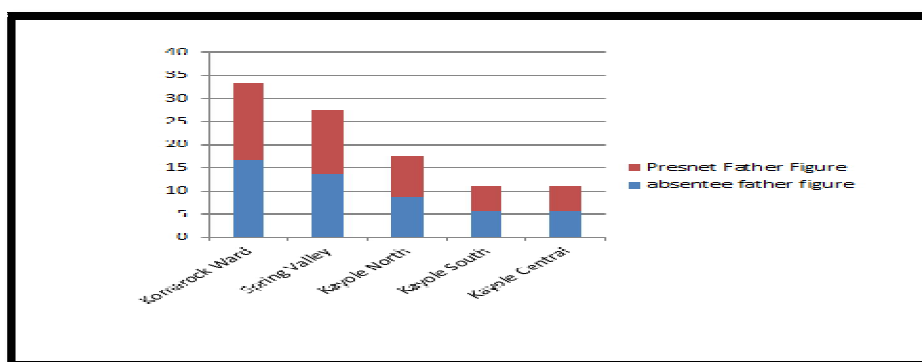


Figure 3: Present and Absent Father Figure (%)

4.2. Description of Study Samples

The study was conducted in Embakasi Central Constituency. The researcher purposively sampled out two groups of study in 5 wards namely: Komarock Ward, Spring Valley, Kayole South, Kayole North and Kayole Central. The researcher went further and purposively identified 5 schools; three Secondary Schools and two primary schools. At least each Ward was represented in the school samples. The secondary schools sampled out were: The Komarock Secondary School, Brookfield School, Kayole South Secondary School, while the primary Schools are Kayole Primary School and Imara Daima Primary school. A total of 90 adolescent boys were sampled out for response as shown in the table above; this was further divided into two categories; 45 boys from absentee father figure families and 45 of from families with both parents i.e. father and mother figure families, all purposively selected.

Consent forms were given to all participating subjects; they were signed by their mothers' female/guardians and returned to the researcher through the Schools Head Teachers.

For personal data, questionnaire, delinquency checklist and consent forms see, Appendix 2 page. 65 questionnaire appendixes 4 page 66, for mother interview schedule, See appendix 5 pg. 68, for delinquency checklist and consent form appendix 6 pg. 69

4.3. Statistics and Analysis of Groups

A total of 90 students from 5 schools positively and actively took part in the study. From the data, Komarock ward had the highest number of sampled respondents (30) representing 33.3% because is the largest as compared to the rest. ImaraDaima Primary and Kayole Secondary had 10; representing 11.1% school had the least, 5. The allocation was informed by the 2009 population census. Table 4.3 shows the results.

School	Absentee Father Figure		Present Father Figure		Total	
	Sample	%	Sample	%	Sample	%
Komarock school	15	33.3	15	33.3	30	33.3
Kayole south	5	11.1	5	11.1	10	11.1
Brookfield	10	22.2	10	22.2	20	22.2
Kayole pri.	10	22.2	10	22.2	20	22.2
Imara Daima	5	11.1	5	11.1	10	11.1
Total	45	100	45	100	90	100

Table 3: Sample per School

From all schools, the researcher sampled out 45 boys with absentee father figure and 45 boys with both parents. The figures were arrived at purposively based on the school population. Out of the 45 sampled out with absentee father figure, 27 (60%) of them have high delinquency rate (they confirmed-very often), 13 (29%) have average delinquency (often) and 5 (11%) have below average delinquency, this is according to the delinquency checklist used. One boy asked why he finds pleasure in taking alcohol he said, "Mamanguhawezi kunichapa" my mother can't come me. Another boy said Mamanguhurudi Kamaamechelewa, hawezi juanimefanyani. (My mother always come late, she cannot tell what I do while she is away) The graphs below show the average delinquency distribution ranging from once or never to very often:

4.4. Reasons for Absentee Father Figure

Since the research seeks to unearth the challenges facing boys from absentee father figure, it was imperative to find out the cause of absentee after figure among families today. It is surprising to note that most single mothers today in the urban areas are single by choice; they get a child/ren then remain unmarried. The number of single mothers in Embakasi Central Constituency who opted to be single by choice is at 22 (47%) of the respondents. When asked why they choose to be single majority observed "sitaki stress ya bwana" I don't want stress from husbands. One lady said "wanaumehawako serious" meaning men are not serious it's imperative to do further research on the main reason why ladies today are not willing to settle down into marriage. The graph below shows the causal factors of absentee father figure. Those who never got married at all but got children are at 9%, 25% separated and 11% are widowed. This data tells us why single motherhood is on the rise in Kenya, more so in urban centres,

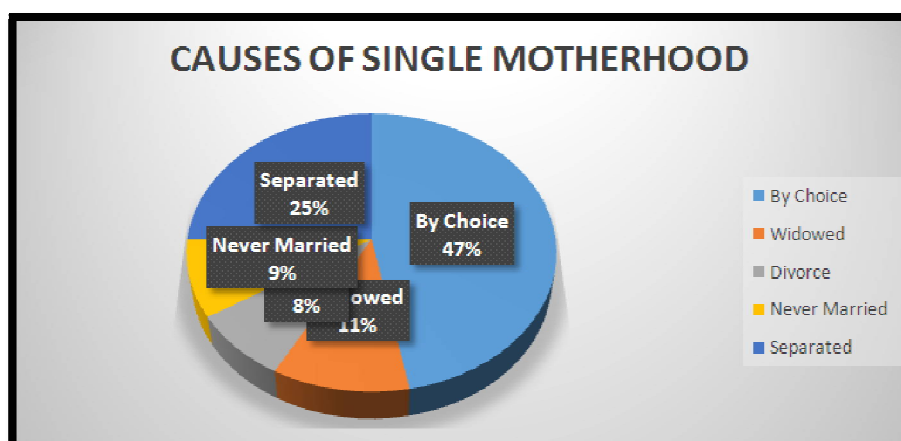


Figure 4: Pie Chart on Reasons for Absentee Father Figure in Embakasi Central Constituency

4.5. Delinquency among Boys from Present and Absent Father Figure

Having understood the reasons why mothers are single, it is imperative now to find out the effects present and absent father figure to the boy child.

4.5.1. Present Father Figure

From the present father figure delinquency data, it is important to note that delinquency is not restricted only among boys from absentee father figure. Out of the 45 sample with present father figure, 5 (11.1%) of them are highly delinquent, they are involved in delinquent activities such as gambling 38 (83%), smoking 29 (64%), deliberate damage of property 15 (33%), from the delinquent checklist they marked very often however, their delinquency ranges between once and several times meaning it above average

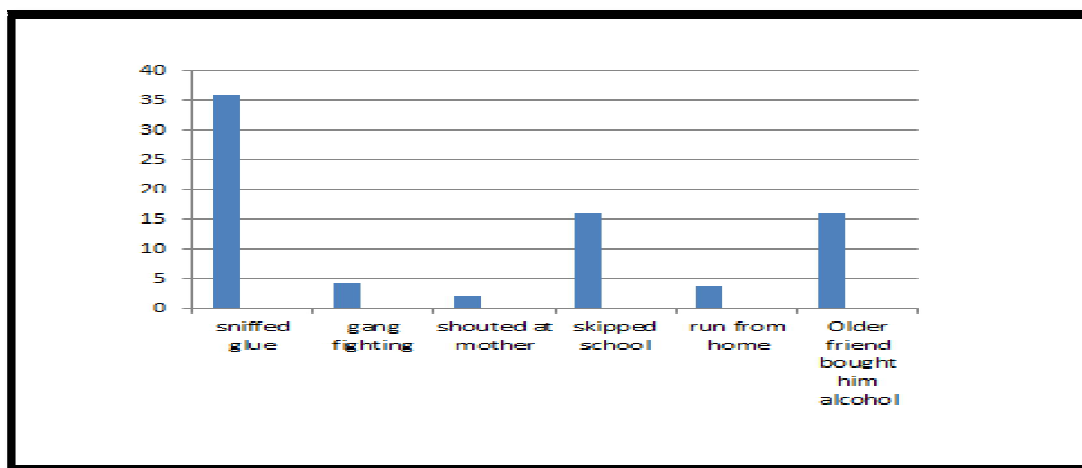


Figure 5: Category One of Home and School Delinquency from Present Father Figure

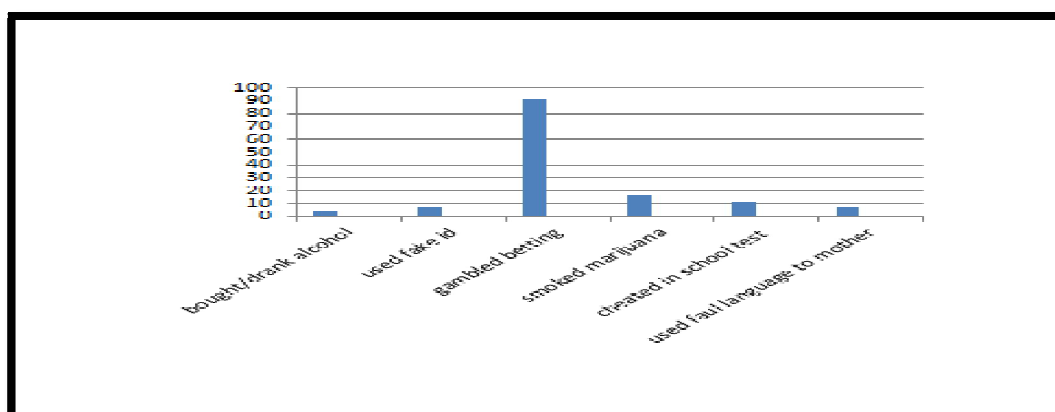


Figure 6: Category 2 Delinquency Rate among Present Father Figure Boys

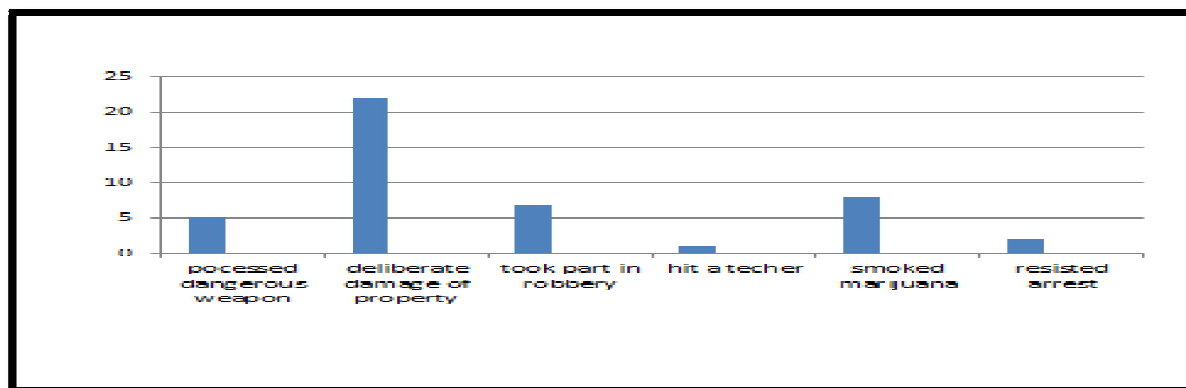


Figure 7: Category 3 Delinquency among Present Father Figure Boys

4.5.2. Delinquency Level from Absentee Father Figure Boys

Comparing the two sets of data; delinquency among absentee father figure boys and present father figure boys, it is evident that the rate of delinquency is higher among absentee father figure boys as compared to present father figure boys. For instance over 67%of boys from absentee father have taken little things of less than ksh.2000 as compared to present father figure boys who are at 29%, 18%of boys from present father figure families have sneaked into movie without paying compared to 64%from absentee father figure. 7%of boys from present father figure families came to school dirty as compared to 73% from absentee father figure family. One boy when asked why he sneaked into a movie shop in Kayole, he said "when I asked my mother to give Kshs. 30 to go watch football match, his mother asked him "Endanaulalenjaa". You go but are ready to go without supper tonight. And since most of his peers were attending they conspired to sneak in without paying so that has become a life style. The rest can be seen from the pie charts here below. This simply means that a part from absentee father figure going through psychosocial challenges, they also face economic challenges, making the single mother sole bread winners hence not being able to attend to their parental roles. 73% of boys from absentee father figure have ever deliberately broken street lights, as compared to 13% from present father figure. 69% of the boys from present father figure have ever shouted at their mothers, one argued that the mother can't beat him; this is compared to 9% from present father figure. Comparing the two samples, there is higher delinquency

prevalence among absentee father figure boys as compared to those from present father figure. The absentee father figure exhibited 79% of delinquency as compared to 17% from present father figure

4.5.3. Academic Performance between Present and Absentee Father Figure Compared

Comparing the two samples, there is higher delinquency prevalence among absentee father figure boys as compared to those from present father figure. The absentee father figure exhibited 79% of delinquency as compared to 17% from present father figure. It is also evident that boys from both parents present families tend to perform better in school at average grade B,4 As 26%, Bs 71% 3 Ds 7% compared to average of D+ from absentee father figure 1A 2.2% from absentee father figure. Table below shows academic performance per grade between the two samples 1% A, 13%, and 36 81% 3 Ds, 7%. However, the data shows that 3% adolescent from absentee father figure performed at a grade above C in their exams while 2% from both parents' families performed below D. From this data, it is therefore, important to note that there are mother who though single are working hard to help the boy child overcome Psychosocial challenges which might be a product of absentee father figure. On the other hand, some boys though brought up by both parents are not doing well, probably this is because of lack of psychosocial connection with their parents, this begs the question on whether physical presence of a parent is directly proposal with emotional presence, can a father be physically present but emotionally absent? Here below is academic performance graph:

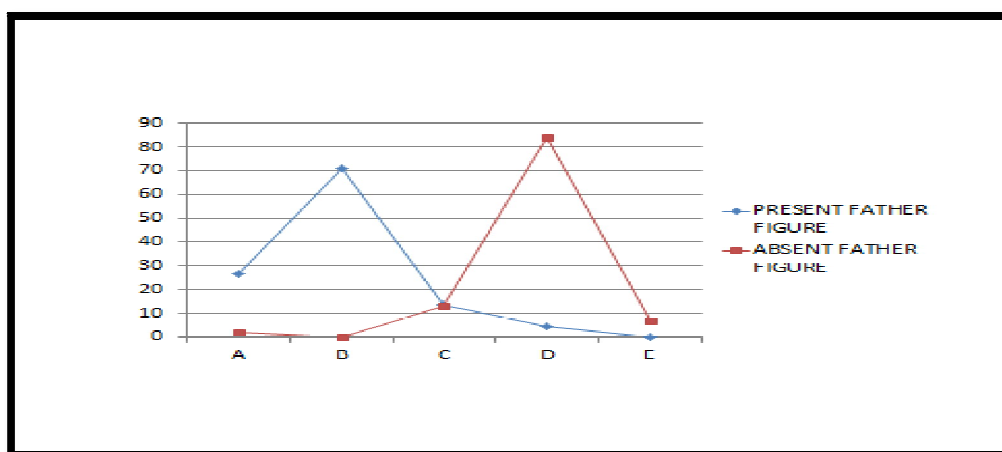


Figure 8: Line Graph on Academic Performance per Grade

4.5.4. Playing Cards, Gambling For Money

The results from the Fig 9 showing gambling prevalence were high from both present and absentee father figure families. From present father figure boys, 82% have participated in gambling, compared to 91% from absentee father figure. This shows that there is some kind of delinquencies that is not influenced by the father figure; probably this is because today most gambling is done on mobile phone which does not necessarily require one to move out of the house. Multi bet and *Sports pesa* is the most popular gambled game.

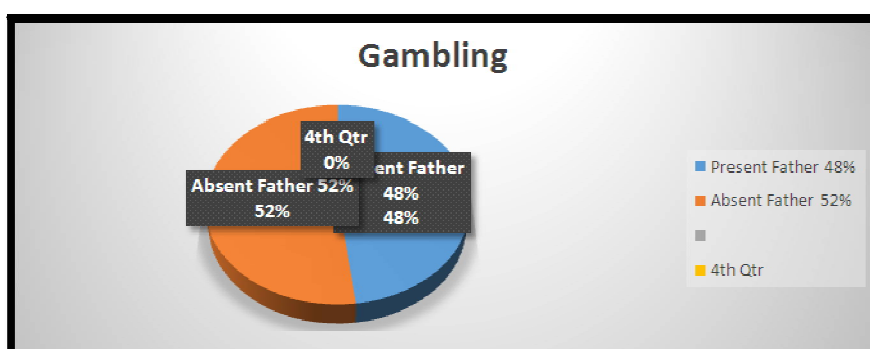


Figure 9: Pie Chart on Gambling between Absentee and Present Father Figure Compare

4.5.5. Home and School Delinquency

The research found out that, majority of boys who have answered their parents rudely, gone against their parents, talked back at their parents, shouted at their mother or even got into physical confrontation with their parents, extended same behaviour to their teachers in school. In school they come while dirty, poorly groomed, cheated in exam test, caused major disruption in the classroom, used fake ID, in school especially to serve meals and even attempted to hit a teacher. This shows that students cultivate good or bad values at home then the same is extended to other agents of socialization such schools and wider community. Home and school delinquency prevalence is extended to the community, For instance it is the same adolescent boys from absentee father figure 69% with high delinquency of 73% and weak values at home

and in school that tend to drive car without driving licence, participated in gang fight broke street lights, carried dangerous items or weapons, sneaked into a place of entertainment (movie, cinema, theatre) without paying admission fee, taken little or medium items in the house, car or even in school, they also register low grades in school 67%. Fig 11 shows a comparison of home and school Delinquency distribution of delinquencies at different levels.

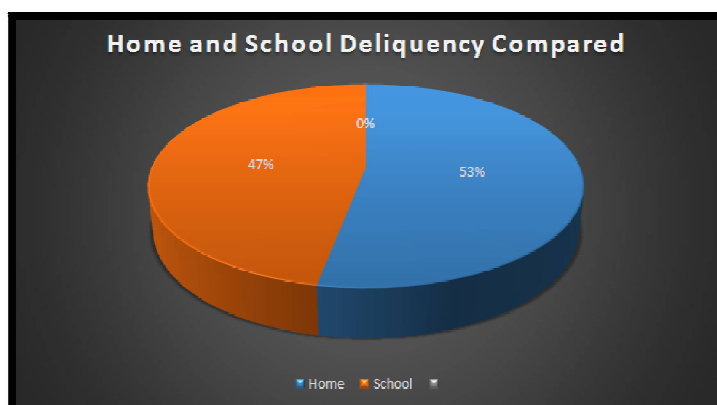


Figure 10: Pie Chart on Home and School Delinquency Compared

It is evident From Fig 11 that most of the challenges facing youths especially boys today, can be addressed starting from home and school. This is because they emanate from the two basic agents of socialization; home and school; the research shows that majority delinquencies are nurtured at home and extended to the society. Gambling is the most popular delinquency from present and absentee father figure boys. For instance, one boy said it is not strange to "kuchapa mum bafuchafu" meaning they cunningly get away with some stuff especially money without the mother knowing, especially when sent to the shop. This habit is carried on to school and to the wider community.

4.5.6. Drug Prevalence per Civic Ward

Kayole South, Kayole North and Kayole Central have the highest rate of drug and substance abuse at 33 (73%), 28 (63%) and 26 (58%) respectively as compared to Spring Valley and Komarock Wards at 22 (48%) and 18 (41%) respectively from the samples collected. In summary, the data has confirmed the high prevalence rate of delinquency among absentee father figure boys as compared to those from both parents' families. Delinquency tendencies and general antisocial behaviour which revolves around crime rate can also be attributed to social economic status. Societies with strong social economic background are likely to have minimal psychosocial challenges hence less delinquency tendencies among boys.

In understanding alcohol prevalence further especially in Kayole South and Kayole Central, the high prevalence is likely to be necessitated by the fact that most of the Kayole North, Kayole South and Kayole Central are made up of informal settlements (slums) such as Soweto where locally brewed and cheap alcohol is rampant; no wonder in the resent past there has been deaths resulting from illicit brew, common in city slums. Komarock is formal, with good social amenities such as housing, tarmacked roads and majority of the residents are working class who own their private houses and homes. They are also well educated as such emancipated from human manipulation and dwindling social fabric, this makes them guide their children in making right choices. This research is a confirmation that most slum dwellers are prone to, vulnerable and exposed many social challenges facing our communities, cheaply brewed alcohol that kills and blinds users such as Kumikumi. This leads to high rate of delinquency among young adult boys. It is a clear confirmation that environmental factors contribute to the general growth and development of a person.

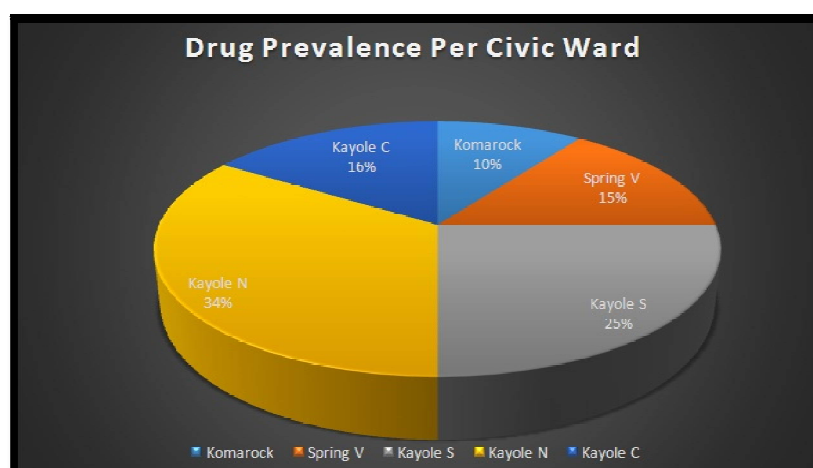


Figure 11: Drug Prevalence per Civic Ward

4.6. Analysis of Research Questions

The analysis of research questions seek to respond to the research questions as well as research objectives in relations to the research findings.

4.6.1. How Do Boys from Absentee Father Figure Families Perform in School as Compared to Those with Father Figure?

The data collected on academic performance of the study sample identified from 5 schools in Embakasi Central Constituency shows great impact of absentee father figure to the general psychosocial development of the boy child. From the 5 schools, 3 are secondary and 2 are primary schools. Boys from both parents' families tend to do better in school; probably this is because they have less psychosocial challenges including lower delinquency tendencies. On average boys from both parents present families tend to perform better in school at an average grade B, As 26%, Bs 71%, Ds 7% compared to average of D+ from absentee father figure represented by A 2.2% 6 Cs 13%, and Ds 81% Ds 7%. However, the data shows that 3% adolescent boys from absentee father figure performed at a grade above C in their exams while 2% from both parents' families performed below D. From this data, it is therefore, important to note that there are mothers who though they are single, are working hard to help the boy child overcome psychosocial challenges which might be a product of absentee father figure. On the other hand, some boys though brought up by both parents are not doing well, probably this is because of lack of psychosocial connection with their parents, this begs the question on whether physical presence of a parent is directly proportional with emotional presence, can a father be physically present but emotionally absent?The data collected shows that from the present father figure families, still there are boys who tend to perform dimly, probably this is an indication that their fathers might be a physically present but are emotionally distanced and detached from the boy child, this calls for holistic presence of the father figure i.e. the father has to be both emotionally and physically present to address the psychosocial challenges facing the boy child in the society. There is need of connection between emotional and physical presence.

Grade	Present Father Figure	Absent Father Figure
A	26%	2.2%
B	71%	-
C	1%	13%
D	2%	81%
E	-	5%

Table 4: Academic Performance as at End of Term I 2019

4.6.2. What Is The Rate of Truancy and School Absenteeism between Boys from Absentee Father Figure Families as Compared to Those with Father Figure?

In the delinquency checklist, truancy and school absentee was addressed by selected sample of 90 adolescents responding to the following question: How often have you skipped school without legitimate excuse? About 69% of the respondents from absentee father figure confirmed positively to have severally avoided school with no good reason; it's interesting to note that this is the same group that constitute a majority of those who scored below D- in their end of term exams. This brings a correlation between school attendance and academic performance.

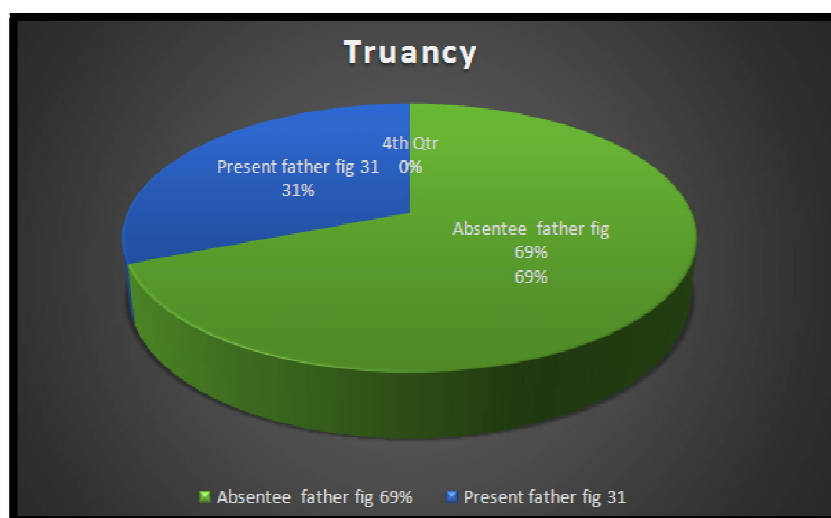


Figure 12: Truancy between Absentee Father Figure and Present Father Fig

It clearly indicates that a student who misses school is likely to underperform in class. In contrast to the above findings, the 45 respondents sampled from present father figure tended to attend school at 79% while 21% missed occasionally, again, of those who missed school occasionally 5% scored below C-.

From the research findings, the level of truancy and delinquency increases as the boys transit from primary school to secondary school. For instance 31% delinquency rate was identified from the primary school sample as compared to 69% from high school. This is interesting, because it would be imperative to find out whether this behaviour gets or goes down as the same boys move to tertiary institutions such as colleges and universities.

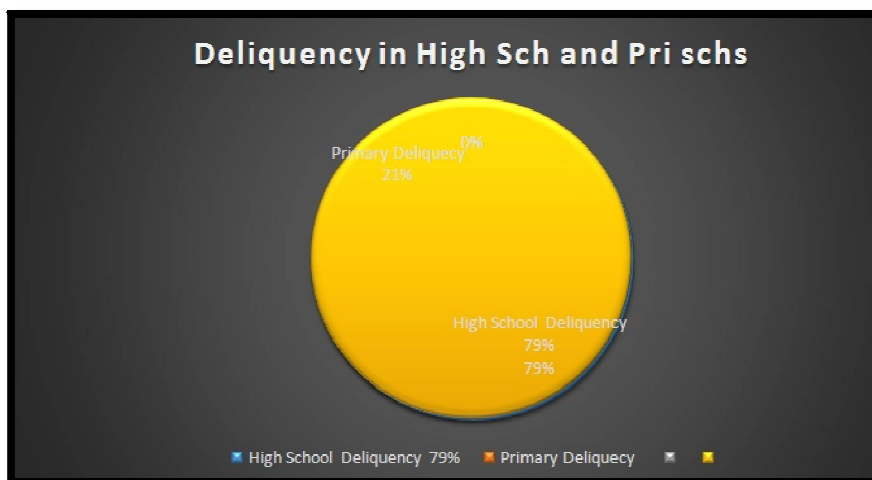


Figure 13: Delinquency between Pri and High Sch

4.6.3. Absentee Father Figure, How It Accounts and Impact on Parenting Outcomes of the Boy Child

Generally the purpose of this study was to evaluate the responses made on the psychosocial growth (delinquency rate) between the two samples selected from the present and absentee father figure. The overriding objective was to investigate and ascertain the importance of the father figure in nurturing, mentoring and moulding the boy child. The study aimed at determining whether the psychosocial challenges facing the boy child today can be attributed to ineffective parenting values from the weak and absent father figure. As observed in the theoretical frame work, a family is system, and as a system it can only operate optimally if all parts are playing their roles to their level best. Therefore, from these research findings, it has been confirmed that absentee father figure and poor parenting background has played a role in most psychosocial challenges facing adolescent boys in our society. From this study, the researcher can authoritatively argue that boy child is at risk of being morally extinct. Hence have a jeopardised the societal prospects of future husbands and fathers. For instance, according to the research, 67% of the boy child parental defiance and drug abuse in Embakasi Central Constituency is attributed to physically and emotionally absent father figure. The study has also confirmed that the father figure has to remain a role model upon which the young adolescents can look up to. Delinquency among present father figure was at 15.5% while that of absentee father figure boys was at 77.7%. Parents contribute a lot to the academic performance of their children. Therefore, from the findings, figure plays a key role in the case of a boy child. The data clearly indicates those adolescent boys from absentee father figure who also exhibited truancy performed dismally; 69% of the sample scoring below D- as compared to those from present father figure with minimal truancy scoring at C and above at 79%. However, the data also shows that among the absentee father figure sample 7 were able to score above C-meaning mothers are acquiring skills and strategies and skills of stepping in to help fill the gap of absent father figure.

4.6. Conclusion and Summary of the Results

In conclusion, the research took into account a total of 90 respondents from 5 civic wards, 5 schools; 3 secondary Schools and 2 Primary Schools with 45 single mothers. The age bracket considered ranged between 12-17 years which entails class 7 to form 4. The data collected indicates that primary school boys exhibited the lowest level of delinquency at 17% as compared to the high school students who are at 69% of the total sample used. Form 2 and 3 had the highest delinquency rate 78% as compared to other classes 22%. This is likely to be caused by the fact that at form 2, students are asserting their position in high school after going through a humiliating form one. On the other hand, form threes are in preparation to get into candidate and examination class as such they would like to engage in all manner of delinquencies since they will not have such opportunity again, refer to Table 4 on truancy and delinquency at class level. Boy child has continued to face challenges which are becoming a threat to the optimal functioning of family and marriage institution. In the recent past there have been cases of antisocial behaviour among the young boys. One of the latest concerns has been gambling, according to Karuku(2019:29), gambling has become threat to the youths today. She further observed that most youths are shunning away from alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, which is a good thing, however, they have replaced alcohol with gambling. This is consistent with this research finding, where the researcher observed that gambling cuts across both absentee and present father figure; 92% and 82% respectively. Gambling among youths is not a respecter of presence or absence of one's father figure, this is likely to be majorly influenced by peer pressure and need for quick cash with no sweat among young people. Gambling itself has led to other negative effects among the young adults; they tend to take part in petty stealing to go betting.

5. Summary of the Findings

The research has established that juvenile delinquency in both primary and Secondary Schools have become common phenomenon; however, according to the research juvenile delinquency is more prevalent (63%) at age between 14 and 16 years. Drug and substance abuse, school riots and burning of schools have become rampant; the above age bracket is active participant in such vices. As a society, there has been a tendency of speculating and trying different causal theories to address some of the psychosocial challenges devouring boy child in the society. Comparing boys from absentee father figure and present father figure, the research has found out that boys from absentee father figure have higher delinquency, truancy, drug and substance abuse rate as compared to boys brought up in present father figure families.

The data collected on academic performance of the study sample identified from 5 schools in Embakasi Central Constituency shows great impact of absentee father figure to the general psychosocial development of the boy child. From these research findings, it's evident that psychosocial pathologies result to dismal academic performance of the boy child. Boys from both parents' families tend to do better in school performing at an average grade of B; probably this is because they have less psychosocial challenges including lower delinquency tendencies as compared to those from absentee father figure who are performing at an average grade of D.

Boys from absentee father figure have higher delinquency rate (67%) as compared to those from present father figure families who are at (17%). They are involved more in truancy, alcohol and drug abuse, breaking of school rules and many more. They are the same who happen not to align to societal norms and rules this means that same behaviour exhibited at home are extended to school and community at large. As observed in chapter four, most of the boys from absentee father figure use the advantage of the absent father figure to manipulate their female parent/guardian to have their way out.

Generalizing the research findings, it can be confirmed that delinquency behaviour is born at home, nurtured at school and implemented in the bigger community. This means that what a boy is at home can easily be replicated in school. This finding agrees with Bandura's theory of social learning, which opinionated that, children learn through observation; this may be either through one on one or via the surrounding environment. Bandura further asserts that majority of human behaviour is learnt through observation and modelling, meaning, by observing others, an individual is likely to form an opinion on how new character and behaviour are carried out, and consequently the perceived ideas provide a guideline for action (Bandura, 1977:54). In the case of absent father figure boys tend to have no one to learn from so to them everything can be right.

From the data collected, we can conclude that delinquency is generated from home; home related delinquencies are at 69%, school delinquencies which include truancy is at 63% the two social institutions (home and school) yield to societal delinquencies (alcoholism, breaking public property, stealing) 59%. If home and school environment are conducive, there are high possibilities of minimizing the rate of delinquency and other psychosocial challenges facing the boy child. Pathological tendencies are brewed at home and in school as such there is need of engaging more and empowering these two fundamental social institutions if at all we need to have a stable, health society. It is of essence to make a disclaimer that whenever we are interpreting the results of such research study we employ caution. This is because several studies are generalised to the degree in which the sample correctly represents the population being studied. This means that the geographical area of study might not represent similar situation in a different culture, social-economic and geographical regions. Therefore, if at all there is a generalization with any other identified population there might be need of additional samples, groups and evaluating tools with different institutions. Last but not least, a paper and pencil research questionnaire given to students may not give accurate report on the delinquency and psychosocial challenges facing boy child, it might have some degree of subjectivity however much the research will remain objective.

6. Conclusions

Based on the findings of this research, the following conclusions and implications are drawn: The summary is based and limited to the subject of those who participated. The study was able to find out that parenting today is different from the way it was several years ago this is because in the past absentee father figure was not a challenge since there was strong kinship system that bound families together hence the father figure gap could easily be filled up by extended family father figures. African family ethos was so strong that a gap could not be felt in the event of absent father figure. Time has changed. Emotionally and physically absentee father figure today has become a common scenario with negative effects to family institution, especially on the boy child. The research has confirmed that boys whose father or father figure is around are likely to be well prepared for adult life as compared to those brought up in absentee father figure families, this is because adolescent boys who are delinquent are likely to extend such behaviour to adulthood hence becoming weak father figure leading to a vicious cycle of absentee and weak father figure in the society, hence a weak and dwindling family. According to Ojala, (2018:34) it is argued that there are many children who are not going to school yet nobody seems to be bothered, she goes on to observe that the children have all the time to be involved in crime. From the report, there is a lot of child neglect due to absent parents. This article is in agreement with this research, in this research we also found out that today, many young boys have a lot of permissiveness to what they want. In as much as this research focused on the father figure but generally parents have to up their game, carry out their roles diligently to redeem the family institution and more so, the boy child who is part of societal posterity.

Confirming these research findings, as well as Ojala (2018:34) on absentee parents, it has been found out that present father figure minimises delinquency tendencies among adolescents boys consequently resulting to socially upright adult man. Father figure plays key role of a role model, a guider, a positive disciplinarian who supervises the boy child with similar experience to what is expected from the boy child himself and the society. The father is expected to respond to the

boy child sensitively, with positive affirmation hence enabling him to make right choices with high self esteem which will minimize delinquency. The research also unearthed that boys from absentee father figure are likely to face challenges ranging from social, economic, academic and psychological which affects their growth and development. However, absentee father figure has not affected all boys from such families. For instance, out of the 45 samples with absentee father figure, 5 (11.1%) are not delinquent and they attained mean grade C and above at the end of term one 2019 exams. (Refer to grade performance table) This means there are still single mothers who are able to competently take care of their boys regardless of the absentee father figure. In other words, apart from absentee father figure there are other factors which can lead to delinquency among boys, peer pressure is one of them. There is need of further research to find out what single mothers who are able to bring up boys with minimal delinquency and good school grades are doing, this can be shared with other mothers who are struggling with their boys. Another case at hand is the boy from Brookfield School with absentee father who managed a grade of A- in his end of term exam with no major delinquency cases. This shows that some single mothers raising up boys have come up with alternative strategies that they adopt in process of parenting. Probably such mothers need to be approached by opinion leaders to share their expertise and coping mechanism on how they are managing to bring up such competent boys, yet others are struggling. Finally, according to the research findings, most single mothers (47%) are single by choice; they opt to get children but not ready to settle down into marriage. Some have divorced and a few 19% widowed.

7. Recommendations

From this research findings, it is recommended that in cases where the father figure is absent through natural attrition such as death, male teachers, male relatives and male persons of outstanding character may step in as foster fathers to help nurture and train boys in right direction, this does not necessarily mean inheriting the mother of the boy as it has been in most African culture. Is there a possibility that if the above suggestion is implemented we will minimize cases of murder among young couples and those in marriage relationships? Many young men have abused their wives and even killing them. They need role models.

The main factor leading to single motherhood is choice, the research found out that most single are deliberately deciding to be single. This trend might not change; therefore, the research recommends the society to equip single mothers with parenting skills to handle their boy children. The delinquency prevalence is high in high schools as compared to primary schools (73% and 23% respectively). This means there is need of putting up proper transition measures from Primary School to High School. There is need of better school counselling services; this is because some of the delinquencies identified during the course of this research study can easily be addressed by a professional counsellor. The counsellor will be able to address issues such as life skills, assertiveness, decision making, critical thinking, inter -and intra personal relationships. Schools also need to support societies and clubs such Christian Unions, Young Christian Societies and other religious clubs, these will help in teaching, training and instilling good Christian, Societal and morals Values among the students which will minimise delinquencies among them. Apparently, all these are measures aimed at empowering the boy child, especially in transition classes like standard 8 and Form 4 where the students are just about to experience some unprecedented permissiveness.

8. Suggestions for Further Studies and Research

- In regard to the research findings from this study, it is of importance that similar studies are carried out in other geographical regions as well as institution of higher learning to investigate delinquency transition from basic learning institutions (Secondary Schools) to tertiary institutions such as colleges and universities.
- From the data collected, over 47% of single mothers have decided to be single by choice, is this trend going to reduce? With the current social economic, education and health emancipation of female gender, it is not likely to go down. This means the society should expect more single mothers, therefore, this research recommends empowering the mother figure through training and sensitization on how to nurture, train, empower and understand psychosocial and physical needs of the boy child and be able to support him holistically hence an optimal society.
- Finally, it will be of great importance to carry out research and find out how young adolescents who had delinquency tendencies are coping up in adulthood. Are they married and keeping families? And how are they keeping on in the job market?
- However, all the above notwithstanding, this research study it is evident that the number of absent father figure is increasing. Therefore, there is need to equip single mothers with parenting skills to handle their boy children. The delinquency prevalence is high in high schools as compared to primary schools (73% and 23% respectively). This means there is need of putting up proper transition measures from Primary School to High School. There is need of better school counselling services; this is because some of the delinquencies identified during the course of this research study can easily be addressed by a professional counsellor. The counsellor will be able to address issues such as life skills, assertiveness, decision making, critical thinking, inter -and intra personal relationships. Schools also need to support societies and clubs such Christian Unions, Young Christian Societies and other religious clubs, these will help in teaching, training and instilling good Christian, Societal and morals Values among the students which will minimise delinquencies among them. Apparently, all these are measures aimed at empowering the boy child, especially in transition classes like standard 8 and Form 4 where the students are just about to experience some unprecedented permissiveness.

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