

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
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// POOR, SINGLE - MOTHERHOOD AND ITS EFFECT ON  
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: A STUDY OF VAGRANT CHILDREN //

*Dissertation*  
A DESERTATION TO BE SUBMITTED FOR A PARTIAL FULFILMENT  
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## ABSTRACT

A lot has been said about vagrant children (hence parking Boys) of the streets of Nairobi in the past. This includes some of the speeches made by some of the senior most civil servants and politicians in this country, who have blamed and condemned such children as an embarrassment to the country. *Name one! Nkur*

This research will carry out a comprehensive study of such children and to find out whether these children or their parents (guardians) should bare the blame, or whether the blame rests on other sources, far from reach of neither these children nor their parents.

The research would also like to come out with some of <sup>the</sup> concomitants and consequences of poor, single-motherhood. It is one thing to be a single mother and it is also another thing if this single mother is poor. At the same time this research would like to compare and contrast the type of child who comes out such a family and that who comes from a family with both father and mother, but where these parents live in constant conflict with one another (empty - shell type of family).

Finally, this research will come up with some suggestions as to how to tackle the problem of vagrant children through working with the parents of such children as well as through working with the children themselves.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Kenya, like any other developing country is undergoing a series of social change, as well as development. Innovations in Industry, Communication, mass media and education have encouraged a number of people to emigrate from the rural to urban areas in search of employment. For this reason, there has been a lot of overflow of youth into the urban areas, and especially the big towns, like Nairobi and Mombasa, where most Industries and Headquarters are to be found.

Due to limited housing, these people in most cases, have been forced to over - crowd in the slum dwellings of the city, where rent is comparably, cheaper than any other place in the city. These people always choose to live where they can easily walk to their places of work, as they cannot afford to be paying bus fare, to and from on each work day. We therefore find that places like Kibera Mathare, Ngomongo and Korogocho are all situated in a walking distance from the Industrial area. Kangemi and Kawangware are other known slum dwellings, but are quite far from the Industrial areas. Most of the people who stay in Kangemi are house workers in rich communities near-by, for example Loresho, Lavington, Woodley, Westlands and the nearby areas.

Most of these people are lowly paid, since in most cases they are not educated enough to enable them to acquire a well-paid for job. The majority are casual labourers in the Industries, Factories, Private Enterprises, city council and Ministries. Some are self-employed through the sale of vegetables, fruits, alcohol drugs, and other small-scale business like shoemaking, carpentry and metal-works. In most cases, these types of jobs or businesses can not cater for the feeding, clothing and educating of the families of these slum dwellers and therefore, family problems may occur.

The birth rate in these areas is usually very high and therefore there is a lot of over-crowding. As a result of this large population, it becomes very difficult for the police to control law breaking. This is why we find too many drug abusers, alcohol abusers, robbers, rapists, thugs and all other kinds of criminals housed in such places. This therefore means that if a child has to be born and brought up in such an atmosphere, there is a great probability that this child is going to be influenced into modeling the lifestyles of the people he sees around him. This is why we find that over fifty percent of the juveniles (in this research: see table 3) are found in the slum areas of Nairobi.

Because of the lessez faire type of life found in these areas, most of the single mothers are to be found here. This is because some of them have been rejected by their rural communities for not behaving according to the expectations of the society, like prostitution, having illegitimate children, having extra - marital affairs and childlessness. These women therefore choose to leave home and go to the places where such mentioned behavior is accepted, and that is in the slum areas.

Once in the slum areas, these women have to find a way to feed and clothe their children. Some of them choose to practise prostitution, others to brew and sell alcohol, so as to obtain some money to pay rent and cater for the children. Others may not like to sell their bodies, but since it is the easiest and quickest means of getting money, they may find themselves trapped in the business.

While in the process of prostitution, many mothers or young girls end up having one child after the other, with no father to care. Some of those who brew and sell alcohol may end up as victims of their 'customers', as to these 'customers', a woman who brews and sells alcohol is

no different from a bar maid and is therefore expected to please her 'customers', just the same way a bar maid would.

Most mothers in the slum areas are poor and they therefore have to work extra hard in order to get food to feed their children. For this reason, these mothers spend most of their time away from their children. Some children never even see their mothers as these mothers leave very early in the morning and only come back late in the evening, just to find their children asleep. It is therefore difficult for these mothers to have firm control over their children's behavior, as they are never at home to see what their children do while they (mothers) are away. This therefore means that these children are likely to grow up in the wrong direction due to lack of enough socialization, which they would otherwise have gotten from their parents..

Since these mothers are poor, most of them cannot afford to pay fees for their children to go to school (by fees, I mean school funds, uniforms, books and other necessary school equipments). As a result, we find a great number of school drop outs, at quite an early age. This therefore means that the children are left idle and as such, very easily influenced into practices that may be occurring around them like alcoholism, drug abuse, loitering etc, which may eventually land them into the city centre. As the city centre is more appealing and more attractive to these children, they may keep frequenting the place or even make it their new 'homes' altogether. Such are the boys one may find sleeping in dustbins, under parked cars, on the roofs, at the bus parks and even outside big hotels. Some have built polythene/cardboard paper houses in the open spaces behind the shops.

While in the city centre, these boys may earn money through begging, parking cars ( parking boys). or even washing cars. But these boys do not all concentrate in the city centres like Westlands, Adam's Arcade, Ngara,

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Spring valley, Lavington and other centers. However, these children always have to be on the look - out for policemen, as they can be arrested any moment. When arrested, these children are usually taken to central police, caned and then taken back home. In some cases these children are taken to the Remand Home to await their judgement at the Juvenile Court. In most cases, unless the children are found with any other offense (like being in possession of opium (bhangi) or stealing) they are just charged for vagrancy (see definition)

Vagrancy is a new phenomena in Kenya, as it was not known before the coming of the Europeans. Its origins can be drawn back to the colonial era, when the Europeans settled in Kenya in the 1930's. Europeans brought with them industrialization (hence Urbanization) as well as settling on the Africans' fertile land, thus rendering the Africans landless. This forced the Africans to move to the Industries to work in order to earn a living. Due to low payment, these people had to settle in squatter areas where rent was cheapest. We therefore find that most of the mothers of these vagrants were born here, underwent the experiences of the slum life, like prostitution and alcoholism and thus ended up with many children whom they could not give appropriate care.

*Lie NO*  
*Don't blame the whites for all your problems!*



### PURPOSE OF STUDY

The purpose for studying or carrying out this research is to find out why children from poor, single mothers should be the majority juvenile delinquents and not children from the rich, stable families. There seems to be an increase of such children in the streets of Nairobi and to the layman, these children are merely neglected by their mothers. So this research is going to establish some of the reasons that cause such mothers to "neglect" these children.

In other words, "what is it that makes such children leave home for the streets?" and what can be done to limit such a problem, if not prevent it?. This research will at the end of this desertation try to come up with some suggestions as to how juvenile delinquency, and vagrancy, in particular can be limited. The research will also come up with suggestions as to how to minimize the number of pregnancies that come about out of wedlock, as well as the number of children being born to parents/ mothers who do not have adequate financial support for their children.

Suggestions will also be made on how to improve the standards of living of such families so as to create a healthy atmosphere for the rearing of proper citizens.

Lastly, the research would like to compare the children from "empty - shell families (families with both parents, but where these parents live in disharmony and instability) with children from single mothers, and also to find out whether there are any similarities in the type of behaviour of such children.

CHAPTER II.

LITURATURE REVIEW AND DIFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Psychologists like Newman et al, (1978) have hypothesized that absence of the like-sex parent is determinant of maladaptation, including juvenile delinquency. In Kenya, the majority of the delinquents are males and most vagrants (parking boys) on the streets of Nairobi are males. This could suggest that the majority of the missing parents are the fathers. The number of single mothers is on the increase in Kenya; and so is the number of parking boys (vagrants). The underlying mechanism that the above theorists propose to account for these adverse outcomes is the lack of opportunity to identify with a parent of the same sex.

These theorists (Newman et al, (1978) argue that the absence of either the father or the mother changes many aspects of the families constellation. The family's income is reduced, particularly, if the absent parent was working. This may mean that the children will suffer most, because they have lost an object of identity, as well as a source of love, security and wealth. The remaining parent is forced to alter his or her role, to play both roles equally well in order to provide the substitute of the missing partner.

To support this argument is Giallombardo, (1972) who says that when a child loses a parent through death, divorce or separation, some form of deprivation is bound to result whereas is the generally the case, the male parent is missing, the child will be placed under the obvious economic handicap. Absence of either parent may also cause certain affectional loss to the child. In addition, the complementary control, example and guidance given by both parents is wanting, and incomplete, socialization of the child is rendered more difficult.

In her research, conducted in the United States, she found out that fifty per cent of the delinquents come from broken families. In schools, she found out that delinquents had about twice the proportion of broken homes, as did children in the whole population.

Other theorists who support the idea that absence of a parent can drive children to delinquency are DONALD A. MOSES et al (1975). They say that absentee parent plays the major role in the specific pathology that drives a child to delinquency. In situations where the parent is emotionally absent (for example, where the parent is incompetent, negligent, ignorant and the like) the child experiences developmental problems. They have the fear of incompetence and this fear keeps haunting them. Eventually, this child begins to experience phobia (fear to go to school due to problems experienced in the home). As a result, this child becomes a school drop-out and may soon leave home to join hands with gangs (usually staying out of their homes).

Poor relationship between a child and his parents is also a factor that may lead a child to delinquency. KVARACEUS, W. C. (1965) says that delinquents, frequently do not have a re-assuring relationship with their parents. They can rarely discuss any problems with an older member of the family. They are not encouraged to share their own lives or emotions with their families and this in itself is damaging restriction for a child. He adds that maternal deprivation is a major factor in leading a child into delinquent acts. At the same time, if paternal affection is lacking, the structure of the family changes often for the worst. He goes on to say that delinquent boys have a weaker, less satisfactory relationship with their fathers than with their mothers.

MC Cord et al (1959) argue that poor parental relationships, which result in conflict, discord, bitterness and even hatred has been sighted as a major cause to

driving children to delinquency. One of the first experiences of the potentially delinquent child is to see his parents engaged in acrimonious quarrels. Not naturally, he learns to suspect the motives and good will of the people around him. Their study has shown that a child raised in an unstable home has twice the chance of becoming delinquent as boy raised in a cohesive home. If the parents remain together, but engaged in constant conflict, then the boy's chance of becoming delinquent is even further increased.

The above theorists also say that paternal rejection alone has also been found to be harmful to the psychological being of the child. They go on to say that fathers of delinquents tend to reject their sons or at best treat with distant disdain. In one of these theorists' typical study of delinquents, they found out that 87% come from families where the father was overly cruel to the son, absent from home or severely neglectful, while only a small minority of non-criminal boys experienced paternal rejection.

Maternal behaviour has some influence on the child (GLUECK et al 1968). They found out that mothers of delinquents usually reject and neglect their sons. They also say that the parents of delinquents either fail to give their sons any supervision at all, or tend to discipline them in a severe, often erratic fashion. Contrary to the usual opinion, children raised under a regime of strict, but inconsistent discipline have the highest incidence of delinquency.

Apart from poor relationships between parents and children, other home conditions, like poverty in the home have been found to perpetuate children's delinquent behaviour. SIR CYRIL BURT (1944) found out that home conditions played a most important part in determining the child would become in future. He gives one example of home conditions as poverty: and that material wealth is very important for the child's physical growth.

CLIFFORD R. SHAW (1930) also found out that most

delinquents had a family background of extreme poverty, drunkardness, domestic discord, and desertion. At no time does the family constitute a unified group, capable of exercising consistent and effective control over the children's behavior. The family is usually a vivid example of that class of disorganized and helpless families which, under the relentless pressures of economic forces, becomes submerged in the deteriorated and slum districts of a large city.

GLUECK S. et al (1968), also found out that delinquents derived from poor family background and were reared in an atmosphere not conducive to development of emotionally integrated, happy youngsters, conditioned to obey legitimate authority in school and society.

D.J. WEST (1963) found out that most delinquents came from low income families, had a large number of siblings, seem to be below average in intelligence, have criminal parents, have one or both parents missing, seem to be identified as troublesome by their teachers and peers, show aggressive traits and have experienced unsatisfactory attitudes and childrearing behaviour.

CLIFFORD R. SHAW (1931), says that high delinquent rates occur in areas which are characterized by physical deteriorations and declining populations and declining population. These are areas faced with crime, alcoholism, prostitution etc.

✓ Single mothers also undergo some psychological torture, which may lead them to mistreating their children, thus making these children escape from home.

NATHAN E. COHEN (1964) says that unmarried mothers are a social problem to the community as well as to other families and themselves. Once the woman gives birth, a most tangible problem is presented to the community as well as other families and themselves. An infant is

born. This infant is to become a person. This infant has to be fed, clothed, sheltered and given rights and opportunities that society hold necessary and desirably equal for all citizens. From the time of his birth, he presents problems of general, social import. If he is to become a "good citizen" on asset rather than a liability, to his society, certain basic provisions must be made for him.

To support the feelings of Cohen is HELLEN HARRIS (1964). She argues that the relationship between the mother and her child, born out of wedlock, will in most cases remain poor because the mother becomes neglectful of the child as she has no husband to whom to present her aggrevations and boredom. The baby, more often than not causes her to lose a man who might have been a husband one day. So, the baby often represents the fruits of her badness and her foolishness as well as the betrayal by the man who got her into trouble. Mothering therefore, rarely flows warmly and dependably towards the baby thus ruefully and angrily born. This means that the child grows up deprived of parental love a child needs most in order to have a normal development. Such a child is easily influenced by peers, especially if they can substitute for the love and care that is missing in his home.

Although both boys and girls could be exposed to similar circumstances that lead children into delinquency, we find that boys are more prone to the fact than girls are. TALCOT PARSONS (1949) says that, it is clear that girls in our society do not normally achieve respect by participating in the 'rough' activities characteristic of delinquents. For a girl who searches for warmth and recognition, the female role encourages passivity rather than the masculine oriented behavior

of delinquents. Thus, a girl who experiences the same frustrations that produce a delinquent boy might well assert her femininity in promiscuous behavior that would be unlikely to turn her to aggressive crimes. He also adds that boys in the urban city are traditionally reared by their mothers, as their fathers spend almost all <sup>their</sup> ~~his~~ time out working. Children in the rural areas are more advantaged as they have a greater opportunity of being at home, most of the time, with both their mothers and fathers.

Girls, on the other hand have an opportunity of seeing and interacting with their mothers all day and therefore, identification takes place smoothly. The boys may also end up identifying with their mothers and the problem worsens when they reach adolescence and have to play their male roles. Due to inability to take up these new roles satisfactorily, these boys may experience a breakdown, which may end up driving them away from home.

Idle children are also easily influenced into drifting away from their home. KARL CHRISTIANSEN (1970) says that developing countries can hardly educate all their youth over primary level education and this is particularly acute for those children who cannot afford to obtain higher education either because they did not qualify or because of lack of finances to enable them to buy necessary school equipments like uniforms, books, building funds, or simply because there are not enough schools to absorb all the children. These unoccupied youth, usually decide to migrate to the urban areas to seek for employment or some other ways of earning a living. But due to no qualifications these youth cannot be employed and they <sup>are</sup> therefore, most of the times trapped in delinquent gangs.

## DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

The major concepts in my research proposal are the following:-

1. Poverty
2. Single motherhood
3. Juvenile delinquency
4. Vagrancy - (which is a subset of juvenile delinquency)

### Poverty:

From the encyclopedia of social sciences, poverty "is a negative term denoting absence or lack of material wealth. It denotes insufficiency <sup>whether</sup> ~~with~~ in possession of wealth or in the flow of income"

J. H. Hollander (1914) says that poverty can be divided into three distinct conditions:- Economic inequality: economic dependence: and economic insufficiency. "The basic to all other factors in the consideration of poverty is the prevailing wage level and the extent to which it fails to meet the costs of the goods and services which make for a clear and satisfying existence"

The above explanation of poverty could be true in situations where the country is facing general inflation, like country-wide economic depression or world-wide economic problems. It could also come about as a result of exploitation by employers. For example, in Kenya we have heard, time and again that certain factory workers have gone on strike due to poor salaries. Some of these people only earn six hundred shillings a month (or twenty shillings per day).

"Poverty has a destructive influence upon standards of social behavior. Even more detrimental is the influence of poverty upon health and happiness. Persistent chronic poverty results in indifference and loss of initiative! In other words, without proper or adequate



financial support it is difficult to provide the children with their basic needs, and this may cause damaging results to the well-being of a child. A poor person cannot be as happy as a rich man, because the poor person keeps worrying about what to eat tomorrow. The loss of initiative comes, especially because, no matter how hard a poor person may strive, he may not be rewarded and eventually this makes him lose hope and may turn to begging, in order to get what to eat.

Norman V. Lourie (1959) says that poverty, as a condition is relative rather than absolute, i.e. one person is poor in comparison to another. As a negative term, it has been used to denote absence of material wealth - insufficiency either in possession of wealth or of flow of income.

In regard to the above definition, I would like to note here that my sample does not belong to those who have no material possession, but those who have less material possession, in comparison to other members of the society. For example, they have little or no land at all. In Kenya, land is considered to be the most valuable possession, especially amongst the rural communities.

J. K. Galbraith (1958) adds on to the above point by saying that people are poverty stricken when their income even if, adequate for survival, falls markedly behind that of the community. They cannot have what the larger community regards as minimum necessary for decency and they cannot wholly escape; therefore, the judgement of the larger community that they are indecent. They are degraded, for in the literal sense that they live outside the grades or categories regarded by the community as acceptable.

According to the encyclopedia of social - work, it is difficult to ascertain the point at which poverty begins. There is an absolute standard below which

basic human requirements cannot be met. This standard varies according to living costs. It is, for example, higher in urban than in rural areas. But poverty is measured through several different values for example; the control an individual can exert over his occupation, the education his children receive, the nature and place of his residence, the quality of his medical attention, the courtesy extended<sup>to</sup> him by public officials, the justice he receives in civil and criminal proceedings, the security guaranteed in his declining years, his access to leisure pursuits, the time he has to exercise his individual interests and his opportunity to express himself socially and culturally. Poverty is the lack of options in the realms of work, politics, culture and personal growth.

Poor parents are not only supposed to be unable to stimulate their children intellectually, but are also alleged to be incapable of giving them the needed social supports. As a consequent of chaotic family life, without adequate supervision and role models, the child is imputed to suffer serious personality disturbances. Inadequate socialization is consistent with the psycho-analytic formulation of personality development. The inadequate socialization theses claims to explain both a lack of willingness to become involved in hard work and a corresponding productivity toward criminal activity.

Although primary school education is free in Kenya today, we still find that those children from rich families have better chances of fairing well in examinations, as their fathers can afford better school equipments, like textbooks and after - school tuitions. For this reason, such children have a greater likelihood of venturing into higher schools, while the poor children may drop out after primary level education either due to poor performance in C.P.E. or due to inability to pay fees in government aided schools or the "Harambee" schools. As a result, we find a greater number of school drop-outs in the category of poor families.

*NO WAY! MSN! the even experience the winners by*

Sir Cyril Burt says poverty is "earnings insufficient for the maintenance of bodily health. The minimum standard for the cost of living is described as the poverty line. It marks the margin of a bare subsistence".

From the above statement, we can see how difficult it is to draw a line between the poorest and the less poor. However, we can look at poverty from the distribution of resources to each member of the household. If the basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter cannot be adequately met, then we consider such a family poor. My category of poor people consists of those families which earn thirty shillings, or less per day, or nine hundred, or less, per month. If we take an average family to consist of five people, then this would mean that the average amount spent on each member per day is six shillings, including food, clothing and other requirements. As we can see, that amount is not enough for three meals of food per day - it means that each would cost two shillings. And how much can two shillings buy in our society today?.

\* SINGLE MOTHERHOOD: Single mother-hood implies that the mother has to support the children independent of their father(s). She lives separately from the father(s) of her children. This separation may come due to death of the father(s), divorce or that the marriage was never there, but the mother continued to get her children out of wedlock. In most cases the father(s) of these children do not acknowledge them and completely refuses to take any responsibility over them. The mother is therefore forced to play both her role and the role of the father of the children. When the mother is poor, the situation is worse than when she is rich, because she is unable both socially and financially to cater for the needs of the children and this may lead children to deserting the home.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY. According to Professor Erasto Muga, In Kenya today, a juvenile delinquent is one between the statutory juvenile court age of seven to sixteen years, who commits an act, which when committed by an adult would be punishable as a crime or as an act injurious to other individuals or to the public; that is the state or the government. The age limit of the children is defined differently by different societies.

In Kenya, a person is considered an adult when he is seventeen years old. At this age, if he commits a crime, he is tried in court as an adult and not as a juvenile. Muga goes on to say that the government administers punishment to adults who commit criminal offences. In the case of children who commit offences of a delinquent nature, the government, after the necessary court procedures, admits them first to remand homes, and then, whenever there are vacancies to correctional or Approved schools. In these Institutions, the aim is not to punish the children, rather it is to teach them to be useful citizens when they leave the correctional schools. The correctional schools teach them not to repeat the antisocial acts when they return to normal life in the society.

According to the Encyclopedia of social sciences, Juvenile delinquency is:

"behavior on the part of the children which may, under the law, subject those children to the juvenile court ..... that is a young star, who has been taken into custody by the police, or committed to the Institution or otherwise disposed by the court"

In reality, children vary in a great many ways in the types of delinquent behavior in which they engage and the relative frequency, regularity and versatility of such behavior. In other words, there are different patterns of delinquent behavior and different degrees

of involvement in them. The type of delinquent of behavior on which my research is going to concentrate is vagrancy.

Phillipson M. (1971) says that the word "delinquency" is typically used to refer to delinquent acts which would be crimes if done by adults. It is used in situations where the child may be considered beyond control of the parents or in need of care and protection.

VAGRANCY: The vagrancy act (1968), section two, provides four categories of people who qualify as vagrants. Section 2(a) states the first category as:-

"Any person having neither lawful employment nor lawful means of subsistence such as to provide him regularly with the necessities for his maintenance and for the purposes of this paragraph, prostitution shall not be deemed to be a lawful means of subsistence"

Section 2(b) gives the second category as:-

"Any person having no fixed abode and not giving a satisfactory account of himself, and for purposes of this paragraph, and for any person lodging in or about any verandah, sidewalk, passage, out - house, shade, warehouse store, shop or unoccupied building or in the open air, about any cart or vehicle, shall be deemed to be a person having no fixed abode"

This is the category with which this research is going to deal in this study, because it most satisfies the criteria of vagrant children or the respondents who mostly are parking boys on the streets of Nairobi. Section 2(c) gives the third category as:

"Any person wandering abroad or placing himself in any public place to beg or gather alms"

Section 2(d) gives the fourth category as:-

"Any person offering, pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using any subtle craft, means or device by palmistry or otherwise to deceive or impose upon any person".

I shall not go into further details about section 2(a), 2(c) and 2(d), as they do not fit the definition of my respondents. Although some of the respondents were actually parking boys, they also tended to be beggars. However, they are not referred to as "begging boys", because their main intention is usually not to beg, but to get some money, through doing some work, and this is through showing motorists where there's space for parking, and getting a little pay for their work.

The vagrancy act was not originally a Kenyan law, but was drawn from the vagrancy Act of the United Kingdom (1824 - 1935). One of the categories that was most applicable to the Kenyan situation was the first category which was "idle and disorderly persons - which includes prostitutes soliciting publicly"

The most important premise and one which generally provokes legislation against vagrants, is the insecurity brought about to the public by congregation of large numbers of itinerant beggars and idle loafer. Such persons are deemed to be undesirable to the society because of their unproductivity and criminal penalties. "It has thus been necessary for the legislation to promulgate vagrancy laws - a measure intended and calculated to reduce crime by getting rid of such potential criminals"

Vagrants do not have proper places of abode, so their tendency is often to shanty houses. Such dwellings normally do not have proper sanitation. Where they live in proper houses, over-crowding is rife in that many people have to share an accommodation which is sometimes meant for one person. Such conditions are conducive to breeding and spreading of diseases and delinquency.

A vagrant has been defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as:-

" One of a class of persons who having no settled

home or regular work, wander from place to place and maintain themselves by begging or in some other disreputable or dishonest way. An intirerant beggar, idle loafer or tranp"

When a child leaves home to wander on the streets for many days, there is a likelihood that he may eventually engage in criminal offenses like pick - pocketing, shop lifting, and the like. This is why the government of Kenya tries to discourage vagrancy. The child may be influenced by his peers, into criminal offences.

HYPOTHESES:

1. Poverty is a contributory factor to yagrancy.
2. Single mother-hood is a contributing factor to Child's becomoing a vagrant.
3. Constant conflicts between parents is a contributory factor to vagrancy.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

#### (1) SITE SELECTION.

This study was carried out in three Institutions and one Reception centre for the parking Boys. The three Institutions were Getathuru Children's Home in Kabete, Kabete Approved school in Kabete and Nairobi Remand Home, also in Kabete. The Reception centre was named Undugu Society of Kenya, situated in Westlands shopping centre, Nairobi. Kabete is about six Kilometers from the city centre of Nairobi. It is in Kikuyu Division of Kiambu Districts. Kiambu District is amongst the closest Districts to the City of Nairobi. These three Institutions are to be found along the Nairobi, Wangige Road and are situated just behind the Kabete campus of the University of Nairobi.

All the above centres cater for children below the age of eighteen years. However some of the children found at the Undugu Society of Kenya, could be slightly older than eighteen years, as there was no restriction for reception of such children. Undugu receives children who were or are still parking boys, but who feel they want to be helped to lead a more decent life than roaming on the streets.

The three Homes in Kabete receive children through parents, guardians, police or social workers. Children taken there are mainly those in need of protection or discipline. Each of them had a population of around two hundred children.

The reason why such places were chosen was because they were the most convenient for the study of vagrants of former vagrant children. Secondly, in or around Nairobi these are the only Institutions where vagrant children are committed. However,



although the children at the Undugu Reception were not police cases, it was advisable to deal with them too as they were not Institutionalized and therefore, it was hoped that they would more open and would thus act as a control group i.e. to enable or to allow for establishment of difference in response between Institutionalized and non - Institutionalized children.

Thirdly, the Institutions were the nearest and easiest to reach as the researchers area of operation (field placement Agency), which was Undugu Society of Kenya, in Westlands, was only about three Kilometres away.

## (2) METHOD OF SAMPLING USED

The method of sampling used was simple, random type. The respondents did not have individual files, but in the Kabete Institutions, Registers were used to keep records. At the Undugu Society, however, there were individual files for those boys who were permanently staying at the centre, but not for those who only went to the centre at one time or the other.

In the registers, the names of the children were not listed according to their offences or any other category, but according to their arrival at the Institutions. Therefore, here, the register was used to choose the first fourteen vagrants in the month of July, whereas at Undugu, boys were interviewed according to how they came. Out of these, thirteen, who qualified best for the definition of vagrancy were chosen.

The reason why this method was chosen was because the research intended to be specific and to be sure that the respondents dealt with had been convicted or qualified as vagrants. If any other method (for example, mudball etc) had been chosen, then there would have been the fear of coming up with less number of vagrants than

expected (i.e. total 55), as in most cases, vagrants were always a small number of the total population per Institution - except for those in Undungu. See tables on page Undungu had to have a greater percentage of vagrants because it was a centre mainly catering for parking or former parking boys (vagrants).

(3) SAMPLY SITE

The study sample consisted of fifty - five respondents. Out of this samle, only four respondents were females. The table below shows the distribution of respondents as per Institution, in the month of July, 1984 (Total No. = total number of children in each Institution).

TABLE I.

Institution	Total No.	No. of Vagrants	No. of Respondents
1. Undungu Society of Kenya.	27	20	13
2. Nairobi Remand Home.	198	58	14
3. Kabete Approved School.	210	61	14
4. Getathuru Children's Home	203	73	14
TOTAL	638	212	55

As shown in the above table, the sample used was only about a quater of the total number of vagrants found in the Institutions, in the month of July, 1984. Table II on page 24 illustrates the percentage vagrants interviewed.

TABLE II

Institution	Total No. of Vagrants	No. of Respondents	%
1. Undugu Society of Kenya.	20	13	65
2. Nairobi Remand Home.	58	14	24
3. Kabete Approved School.	61	14	21
4. Getathuru Children's Home.	73	14	19

There was a total of 212 vagrants in all the Institutions. Out of these only 55 were interviewed. This means that only around 26% of the children were interviewed. Out of 638 children found in the Institutions, 212 were vagrants. This is about 33% of the total number of children found here.

(4) METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION.

To collect data, a questionnaire was designed for each respondent. Out of the fifty - five questionnaires eleven were self-administered (by the respondents themselves) i.e. the respondents read and filled the questionnaires themselves. The remaining forty - four were carried out as interviews between the researcher and the respondents. Categories for each question were read out and the respondent chose the one that was most appropriate. The reason for having some questionnaires self-administered was because, it was hoped that this would limit some researcher - respondent biases that would otherwise have occurred. It was also hoped that such questionnaires would be openly answered, as the

respondents did not have to disclose their names.

This was also one control experiment, as the children in the government Institutions <sup>seemed</sup> to associate any stranger with the law or authority. Therefore, direct interviews were bound to limit their responses a lot, as the respondents may have feared or imagined that anything they said or disclosed about themselves or about their parents was bound to victimize them as well as their parents.

Those who self - administered the questionnaires were all of standard seven or above, educational level. They each sat separately so as to avoid influence from one another. They were supervised by the researcher and the respondents were set free to make <sup>clear</sup> califications, by asking the researcher to explain what seemed unclear to them.

(5) METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS:

In analysing the data, frequency tables were used for counting the type of responses from each respondent. On this frequency table were numbered 1 - 55 (vertically) i.e. respondent 1 - 55, and horizontally were numbers 1 - 86 i.e. question 1 - 86. Almost all the questions had more than one category (e.g. a, b, c, d etc.). Whatever category <sup>suitcd</sup> the respondent <sup>was</sup> marked against the number given for the respondent and for each question.

Then tables were drawn for each of the questions to see significance. Later those questions that had no significance were discarded. For example, if all the categories in a question had an equal or almost equal response, then there was no <sup>t</sup> ~~significance~~ way one could account for the most applicable answer to the question and therefore, this question had to be done away with.

Below is an example of an insignificant question.

QUESTION: WHO COOKS THE FOOD THAT YOU EAT AT HOME?

CATEGORY	NO.	%
a) Mother	14	25
b) Sister	14	25
c) Ourselves	14	25
d) Others (specify)	13	25
TOTAL	55	100

This question has no significance because there was no difference between those who cooked for themselves and those who were cooked <sup>for</sup> by their mothers, sisters etc. We cannot therefore find reason to say that those who cooked for themselves were more prone to vagrancy than those who were cooked for by mothers, sisters etc.

Those questions that had a marked difference in the number of responses could be said to have a significance and therefore the category with overwhelming majority could be said to account for the cause of vagrancy. The table below shows an example of a significant question.

QUESTION: DO YOUR PARENTS DISCUSS? x what?

CATEGORY	NO.	%
a) YES	2	13
b) NO	13	87
TOTAL	15	100

The table above shows significance: in that we

can say that parents who do not show love between them by discussing together may be the cause of their children becoming vagrants. Therefore, the most significant category for this question is b(no).

(6) PILOT STUDY:

Prior to carrying out this research, the Institutions in question had to be visited to see whether this research could successfully be carried out without any problems. This visit was to enable the researcher to get prepared and to choose which method of study would be most appropriate for this study. After being familiarized with the Institutions' methods of record keeping, the method of using registers for choosing respondents was decided on. This method was only used in the three government Institutions at Kabete. At the Undugu society of Kenya, a different method was applied, as there were no registers for all the respondents. The first thirteen respondents who qualified for vagrancy were interviewed. Those who had been staying at the centre for more than two weeks had individual files already opened for them, whereas those who only visited the centre frequently did not have any files.

This pilot study could be termed a pretest, because it allowed the research to test, before embarking onto the study, how applicable the questionnaires designed was going to be and it also enabled the researcher to be aware of the type of respondents the research was going to deal with during the study.

(7) PROBLEMS FACED:

The major problem faced, and especially with the children in three government Institutions at Kabete, was the way in which to get across the message, of the reason for interview to them. These children seemed to have been brought up to fear stranger. They associated any strange person with the law, and so, it was

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not easy to convince them that whatever they revealed was not to be used against them. These children, therefore, tended to withdraw some information concerning them and their parents.

Some of these children had been remanded for such a long time, either because they refused to admit their offences or because they had been charged with an offence they had not committed and therefore refused to admit what they had not done. The respondents thought that by admitting these charges, they would be punished by the law, so by telling the truth, they thought they were only betraying themselves. They also thought that the researcher was being used to trick them into revealing some information they had been hiding or denying. The respondents, therefore, always tended to be on the defensive about themselves, as well as about their parents.

Another problem faced was that, despite the fact that the researcher supervise the self - administered questionnaires, some of the respondents actually left some questions unanswered or half - answered or even irrelevantly answered. The reason for such a response was difficult to establish. It could have been because the question was too touchy, or that they did not understand what the question was asking for, although they might have thought they understood, or just that they did not feel like answering, or they forgot to answer, altogether. This was made worse by the fact that the does not allow any researcher to disclose the name of any respondent, as it is an offense to do so. Therefore, the respondents did not have disclose their names before of after filling the questionnaires. This created a major problem because, immediately after the respondents handed in the questionnaires they had to rush for their classes or other academic activities. It was therefore difficult to trace them again.

The other problem was that most respondents,

especially those who were in the government Institutions had been away from home for such a long time, due to long stay on the streets or in remand, and therefore, they could hardly recall what situations were prevailing at home since their departure. Some of them had left home when their parents were staying together, but had separated after their departure or vice versa, but could not tell whether these conditions had changed or not. Others could not tell how many more children their mothers had had since their departure from home. These children, therefore, just had to give the information that was outdated.

Another problem was faced that some of the respondents did not <sup>know</sup> what their exact age was. Some of them just gave the wrong the wrong age. Others could not even guess and in such case, the researcher had to just try and estimate.

Some of the respondents were so young. Others had never been in an interview situation and therefore, did not know what an interview was. Others were too shy to say anything. Others were so playful and they kept playing around with their fingers or toes or could keep gaping at the roof or at the window, without listening to the questions that were being asked. Others responded to the categories, blindly, without thinking what was the most appropriate. At times when the question was asked twice or twisted the other way, the respondent could give just another answer altogether. It was therefore difficult, as well as time consuming to talk to such respondents, as questions had to be repeated more than once, in order to get an answer. The only questions that such children could answer without any problem were those questions with only two categories (e.g. Yes or no).



CHAPTER IV.

DATA PRESENTATION.

TABLE I. - AGE AND VAGRANCY

	AGE (YEARS)	No.	%
a)	5 - 10	4	7
b)	11 - 15	36	65
c)	16 - 20	15	28
	TOTAL	55	100

The above table shows the relationship between age and vagrancy. Most vagrants were of the age group 11 - 15 years. The least in number were those between 5 - 10 years. It was therefore clear, from this research, that the most prone age for delinquency was that between the age of eleven and fifteen years, and therefore, the age when children should be given most care by their parents. It is the age when children are approaching puberty a very crucial period for the upcoming youth, for they want to explore the unknown world.

TABLE 2. - CUSTODIAN AND VAGRANCY.

	CUSTODIAN	No.	%
a)	Mother	25	45
b)	Father	4	7
c)	Both Parents	15	27
d)	No. Custodian	8	14
e)	Relativ/Guardian	4	7
	TOTAL	55	100

The above table, shows the person who was previously

staying with the child before he or she left home. The greatest percentage were those staying with their mothers. The next in number were those staying with both parents i.e. father and mother. Some of those children were staying alone on the streets and hardly visited their home. A few stayed with their fathers. Those staying with their relatives or guardians were also very few.

TABLE III. - CHILD'S CURRENT HOME OR RESIDENCE.

RESIDENCE	No.	%
a) Nairobi's Slums	32	58
b) Nairobi's Non Slums	1	2
c) Rural Areas	16	29
d) Other Towns	6	11
TOTAL	55	100

The above table shows residence of the children (the place in which their parents or guardians are or places in which the children were residing before coming to the city.) The table shows that the majority of the children (58%) stay in the slums of Nairobi and on one child came from an up-graded residential area. The rest came from either other urban areas or from the rural areas.

TABLE IV. PARENT (S) MARITAL STATUS

STATUS	No.	%
a) Married	15	27
b) Unmarried	32	58
c) Widowed	8	15
TOTAL	55	100

The above table shows relationship between the marital

Status of the parents and vagrancy. As shown, the greatest percentage of vagrants came from unmarried parents, of which only four were fathers. The rest were all mothers (see table 2). of the 55 parents, only 15 stayed together as a married couple. The remaining 40 were a one - parent family - either widowed, separated or never married at all.

TABLE V. NUMBER OF CHILDREN (SIBLINGS)

SIBLINGS	No.	%
1 - 4	12	22
5 - 10	41	74
More than 10	2	4
TOTAL	55	100

The above table shows the relationship between the number of children in a household and vagrancy. The table shows that the greater the number of children in a house, the greater the probability of one of them becoming a vagrant. However, those born in families of more than ten children were the fewest in number, as such families were rare. Those born in families of between five to ten children were the majority vagrants (74%). Those with less than five children had a lesser chance of having vagrant children.

TABLE VI. - ETHNIC BACKGROUND.

ETHNIC GROUP	No.	%
Kikuyu	42	76
Kamba	1	3.5
Luo	2	8
Luhya	4	8.5
Kalenjin	2	3.5
Others	4	8
TOTAL	55	100

The above table shows the relationship between the

The child's ethnic group and vagrancy. As seen, the majority of the vagrants came from Kikuyu tribe (78%). Others were almost evenly distributed between the Luo, Luhya, Kalenjin, Kamba and other tribes. The Kikuyu tribe are the closest to Nairobi city and the closest to the Institutions in which my research was carried out.

TABLE VII. - MOTHERS OCCUPATION.

JOB	No.	%
Small-Scale Business	18	45
Casual Labourer	10	25
Un-employed	12	30
TOTAL	40	100

The above table concerns only respondents from single parent families. The majority of these parents were small - scale business people. Their business included selling vegetable and fruits, brewing alcohol, selling food stuffs, shoe making, charcoal selling etc. (45%). The casual labourers included those who depended on manual labour and were paid for it after a day's work and those who got 20/= per day. The rest got below that. Others amongst the casual labourers included city cleaners, messengers, watchmen (guards) etc. all earning salary less than 700/= per month. The unemployed included who had no recognized means of earning money.

TABLE VIII - SEX AND VAGRANCY.

SEX	No.	%
Female	4	7
Male	51	93
TOTAL	55	100

The above table shows that the majority of the respondents (93%) were males. The rest were girls (7%). It is therefore, clear that the male children are more prone to vagrancy, than girls are.

TABLE IX - EDUCATION OF CHILD.

CLASS	No.	%
1 - 3	20	36
4 - 6	15	27
7 and over	2	4
No Education	18	33
TOTAL	55	100

The above table shows the education reached by the child before becoming a vagrant. We see that the majority were children who had little or no education at all. The highest level attained by these respondents was std. seven (7) education (C.P.E.) and these were only two out of fifty-five respondents (4%). Over 60% had little or no education at all.. It means therefore, that these children were exposed to idleness too early in life.

TABLE X. - NUMBER OF TIMES ARRESTED.

TIMES	No.	%
Once	20	36
Twice	15	27
Thrice	8	15
More than thrice	12	22
TOTAL	55	100

The table X indicates the number of time respondents had been arrested in the streets by the police. Those arrested more than once were the majority. Only 20 out of 55 children had been arrested once. Some had been arrested more than three times. Some of those arrested more than twice had been remanded earlier, but releases after the court's decision to do so. Others had been arrested, taken to the nearest police station, caned and then told to go home, but never did so.

TABLE XI - NO OF MEALS A CHILD GETS PER DAY

MEALS	No.	%
One	27	49
Two	20	36
Three	8	15
Total	55	100

The above table shows the number of meals each child get while at home. The least children 15% were lucky enough to have three meals per day. The greatest majority (49%) had only one meal per day. 36% had two meals per day. It seems from the above table, that most of the respondents did not have enough food to eat while at home, because their parents could not afford, or they spent most of their time away from home and could not be back to prepare meals for children.

TABLE XII. - TIME SPENT AWAY FROM HOME BY CUSTODIAN

Time of Leaving	Time of Arrival	No.	%
Morning	Lunch Hour	17	31
Morning	Evening	36	65
Evening	Morning	2	4
Total		55	100

The above table shows that most parents spend almost the whole day away from home (65%). Only 32% are able to come home over lunch hour to prepare food for their children, and only 4% spent the night away and come back on the following morning.

TABLE XIII - HOW OFTEN THE CHILD IS PUNISHED?

FREQUENCY	No.	%
Very often	21	39
Only on mistakes	14	25
Never punished	20	36
Total	55	100

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
LIBRARY

Table XIII shows that there was almost the same number of children punished as those never punished. Those who were frequently punished felt they were being mistreated. Those who were never punished, had lost direction because there was no discipline. Only 25% felt they deserved their punishment, because they recognized their mistakes.

TABLE XIV - REASON WHY CHILD IS PUNISHED.

REASON	NO.	%
Disobedience	14	26
No reason	21	38
Never Punished	20	36
Total	55	100

The above table shows why the child thought he was punished by his/her parents. Out of the 41 who were punished, 21 (38%), denied that they did not know the reason why they were punished. 26% admitted that they were punished for being disobedient. The rest 36% said they were never punished.

TABLE XV. + DOES PARENT (S) BREW OR TAKE ALCOHOL:

	No.	%
Brews and Takes	20	36
Brews But Doesn't Take	8	15
Takes But Doesn't Brew	12	22
Neither Brew's Nor Takes	15	27
Total	55	100

The above table shows that only 15 out of 55 families had no connection with alcohol brewing or drinking. The rest of the 40 families either brewed drant or did both practices.

TABLE XVI. - DO PARENTS DISCUSS WITH CHILDREN:

	No.	%
Yes	7	13
No	48	87
Total	55	100

The above table shows that there is hardly any discussion between parents and their children, either because the parents are never at home, or parents have no time for discussion with the children. Only 13% of the parents manage to discuss with their children.

TABLE XVII. HOW OFTEN PARENTS QUARELL?

	No.	%
Very Often	10	67
Very Rarely	4	27
They Never	1	6
Total	15	100

The above table concerns only children from married couples. Out of my 55 respondents only 15 were staying together as married. Out of these 15 families, 10 of them (67%) were in frequent conflict with another. Only one couple never quarelle at all. 27% quarelled, but on rare occassion.

TABLE XVIII. - HOW CHILD SPENDS HIS/HER TIME AT HOME:

	No.	%
Playing	30	55
Working	5	9
Loitering	20	36
Totals	55	100

The above table shows that most children do not have enough work to keep them busy while at home. They either



spend their time playing or idling around. Others (36% spend their time walking from place to place and hence eventually reaching the city center, or the nrarest shoping centres.

TABLE XIX - DO PARENTS DISCUSS:

	NO.	%
Yes	4	27
No	11	73
Total	15	100

As shown in the above table, the greatest majority of the parents (73%) never sat together to have a discussion between them. Only 27% were seen, at one time or another discussing, by their children.

TABLE XX. - DOES FATHER COME HOME LATE:

	No.	%
No	2	13
Yes	13	87
Total	15	100

The above table shows out of the 15 married couples, only two fathers (13%) were seen at home early enough by their children. The rest (87%) were always coming home late at night.

TABLE XXI. - DOES CHILD ALWAYS SIDE WITH FRIEDNS (PEERS)

	No.	%
Yes <sup>8</sup>	44	80
No	11	20
Total	55	100

The above table shows that most children are influenced by their peers. Only 20% said they never always sided with their peers, especially if they

knew that what their lpeers were telling them was not right. Most vagrants said they were brought to town by their peers.

TABLE XXII. - DO CHILD'S PEERS DRINK OR SMOKE?

	No.	%
Smoke and Drink	13	24
Only Drink	9	16
Only Smoke	11	20
Do Neither	22	40
Total	55	100

The above table shows that the majority of the children's peers nor took alcohol (some said they stopped after being put in the Institution). Only 24% admitted practising both acts. 16% only took alcohol and 20% only smoked. 40% denied participating in any of the practices. (It is surprising that none of the respondents admitted these acts).

TABLE XXIII - DO CHILD'S PEERS STEAL?

	No.	%
Yes	6	11
No	49	89
Total	55	100

Table 23, shows that the overwhelming majority of the children's peers never stole. (This was a rather sensitive question). Only 11% admitted that their peers were found in possession of stolen goods.

TABLE XXIV. - CHILD'S EXPLANATION FOR LEAVING HOME:

REASON	No.	%
Cruel Parents	13	24
Starvation	18	32
Friends	<del>20</del>	36
Just felt like	4	8
Total	55	100

The above table shows the excuses which the children gave for deserting home. Most of them (36%) were misled by their peers. ~~36%~~ left home because there was not enough food for them and thus they felt they were starving. 24% left home because their parents were too harsh on them and 8% left home because they just felt like. In other words there was no guidance as to whether it was wrong and risky to leave home, so the children did not know that what they were doing was wrong.

(ii) RELATING FINDINGS (DATA) WITH LITERATURE REVIEW.

As shown in table one, the most prone age for delinquency or vagrancy was between the age eleven years and fifteen years this supports sir Cyril Burt's (1944) argument that children below the age of ten years, however much exposed to harsh conditions at home, have no other alternative, but to cling to their mothers. Those over ten years, he argues, are more open to peer influence and therefore, choose to be in a place where they will feel most secure. Within the company of peer groups, they feel that their needs are more readily met and they, therefore, stick to these peers rather than their parents.

Those eighteen years, he adds, are considered by the society as adults, who are able to distinguish the good from the evil. As shown in the table, only 28% of my respondents were to be found in this age group.

In table 2, we see that the greatest percentage of vagrants were those taken custody of by their mothers. This agrees with Newman et al's view that absence of the like-sex parent is determinant of maladaptation. This is so because, most of the vagrants were males. They further account for these adverse outcomes as the lack of opportunity to identify with the parent of the same sex. They say that without a man in the home, it is very difficult for a son to resolve his Oedipal complex towards his mother, and without a man whom to model, the boy grows up with difficulty in role performance. He feels incomplete without a father and may keep inquiring about the whereabouts of this father. Much of the conflicts that is seen between a son and a mother and son in a divorced family comes from the very need for the son to push away the object of sexual desires, which come because of discontinuity in cultural transmission and may result in a breakdown in communication between the generations within the family, when this breakdown occurs in the members of the juvenile generation, communicating primarily with each other, they may develop a subculture differing in many aspects from that of their elders.

Table two also shows that quite a number of the vagrants (27%)

come from homes where there were both parents, but they all admitted that there was constant conflict between their parents (see table 17). MC cord et al (1959) argue that parental relationships, which result in conflict, discord bitterness and habed in a major cause in driving children away from home.

According to table 3, most vagrants were previously living in the slum areas of Nairobi (58%) CLIFFORD A SHAW (1931) says that high delinguent rates occur in areas which are characterized by physical deteriorations and declining population areas where there is alot of crime, alcoholism etc slum areas cater for some of the poorest people in the cities. Birth rates is usually high, so is the rate of divorce and separation, due to frustrations and hardships faced by these people. Lwaw and order cannot be maintained efficiently amongs such people and hence the increase in crime.

It therefore most likely that children who are born in such an atmosphere will grow up to internalized what is going around them GLUCCKE et al (1968) argue that most delingvents are reared in an atmospher not condusive to the development of emotionally integrated happy youngstars conditioned to obey legitimate authority in school and society.

Table 4 shows the relationship between parental marital status and vagrancy. From the table, IE is clear that unmarried mothers produced the greatest majority of vagrants (58%) NATHAN. E. COHEN (1964) points out that unmarried mothers are a social problem to the community as well as well as to the other families and themselves, once the woman gives birth, a most tangible is presented to the community, for the needs of this child have to be met, so as to enable him to grow up into a "gged citizen" yet for poor, single mothers, these provisions cannot be met and therefore, the children must find their way out.

To support this view is HELLEN HARRIS (1964). She feels that the relationship between an unmarried mother and her child, born out of wedlock, will, in most cases remain peer as she has no husband to whom to present her grievances. This child may often remind

her of the man who got her into trouble and therefore mothering may not flow warmly as is required. The child therefore grows up deprived of the motherly love that is necessary in order for a child to become a "good citizen". This child is therefore forced to look for a channel through which he can acquire this love and acceptance and usually these are found within the peer groups. In table 5, we see that the larger the number of siblings, the greater the probability of having a vagrant within the family. D. J. WEST (1963) points out that most delinquents come from low income families, have a large number of siblings, seem to be below average of intelligence, have criminal parents seem to be identified as troublesome by teachers and peers, show aggressive traits and have experienced unsatisfactory attitudes and child-rearing behavior.

CLOFFORD R. SHAW (1931) sums up some of my finds about the delinquents' family background by saying that most delinquents had a family history of extreme poverty, drunkardness, domestic discord and desertion. At no time does the family constitute a unified group, capable of exercising consistent and effective control over the children's behavior. The family is usually a vivid example of that class of disorganized and helpless of economic forces, becomes submerged in the deteriorated and slum districts of a large city.

CLUEK et al (1968) also found out that delinquents derived from poor family backgrounds.

Most of my respondents said that their parents left home early in the morning (65%) and were only back home in the evening. This means that they were never at home to guide and well as provide care and warmth that was required by the children. DONALD A. MOSES et al (1975) argue that "absence" parent plays the major role in the specific pathology that drives a child to delinquency. In situation where the parent is physically absent, the child experiences developmental problems. These children may eventually break down and leave home, because of inability to meet the required needs.

Some children said they left home because of being punished for no apparent reason by their parent (39%), others (36%) said they had frequented the town many times but were not punished for doing so by their parents - GLUECK et al (1968) say that parents of delinquents either fail to give their children any supervision at all, or tend to discipline them in a severe, often erratic fashion. They also found out that children reared under a regime of strict, but inconsistent discipline have the highest incidence of delinquency. For example, the highest population (38%) said they were at times punished but they did not know why they were being punished (table 14).

Children do need friendly or warm discussions with their parents, so as to follow the right ways. However, my research revealed that 87% of the parents did not discuss with their children. W. C. KVARACEVS (1965) says that most delinquents for a variety of reasons frequently do not have an identify of reassuring relationship with their parents. They can hardly discuss their problems with their parents or an elder members of the family. He says that both maternal and paternal deprivation are detrimental to the growth of the child.

As seen in table 8, 93% of the vagrants were boy girls accounted for only 7%, TALCOT PARSONS (1949) says that although both boys and girls could be exposed to similar frustrations in a home situation, boys are more easily driven to delinquent acts than girls. He argues that society does not usually give credit female children for taking part in 'rough' games characteristic of delinquents. For a girl who searches for warmth and recognition from her mother, she has to engage in passivity, rather than masculine oriented behavior. He also says that girls spend a lot of time with their mothers at home whereas the boys hardly see their fathers (especially in the urban area) and therefore these boys may find it difficult when it comes to playing their male role and in adolescence these boys may breakdown due to inability to take on their male roles effectively.

Table 9 shows that the majority of the respondents (96%) had little or no education at all. CHRISTIANSEN K. (1970) argues that developing countries can hardly educate all their youth over primary level education and this is particularly acute for these children as it exposes them to idleness too early in life. It is this therefore that makes the children become influenced into loitering and engaging in other delinquent acts.

Peers play a vital part in influencing others into their bad behavior. As shown in table in table 21, 80% of the respondents said that they always sided with their friends. This similar to GLECK et al's (1968) that delinquent boys had in most cases been influenced by their friends, and this was usually done at schools or institutions, where these boys spend a lot of time without parental guidance.

The age group 9-10 years and 11-20 years were the most responsible. The reason for this could be that this is the age group 9-10 years could still be protected by their parents and children who were allowed to be released to the street and they were too young to be released from the protection of their parents. They were often at home.

The age group 11-20 years were few in number, but they were the most responsible for the delinquency. This could be due to the fact that they were old enough to be released from the protection of their parents and they were often in the street. This could be due to the fact that they were old enough to be released from the protection of their parents and they were often in the street.

The age group 21-30 years were the most responsible for the delinquency. This could be due to the fact that they were old enough to be released from the protection of their parents and they were often in the street. This could be due to the fact that they were old enough to be released from the protection of their parents and they were often in the street.



(iii) DATA INTERPRETATION (ANALYSIS)

This chapter concerns my own interpretation of my findings in the field. These were some barriers which hindered me from getting the correct data.

The biggest number of my respondents (65%) were between the age eleven and fifteen. The reason for this could be that most of these boys dropped out of school after standard three education, because they could not afford the required funds. At the age of 13-14 these children are required to join secondary schools; but due to lack of funds and qualifications - most of them drop out of school.

At the same time, the age groups 5-10 years and 16-20 years were less (7% and 28% respectively) The reason for this could be that those in the age group 5-10 years could still be occupied by going to school these children were also less exposed to vagrancy as they were too young to walk away from home in resistance to the frustrations they were facing at home.

The age group 16-20 years were few because, in most cases, the institutions dealt with did not cater for children beyond the age of eighteen years. This is because a person over the age of eighteen years old in the Kenyan law, is regarded as a adult person and not a juvenile delinquent.

The age group 11 - 15 years is most crucial for children, because it is then that they are approaching adolescence. Adolescence is a very trying period for children, for this is the age where changes begin to take place in their bodies and hence they want to explore or to prove their girlhood or manhood. This is the time when the boys engage in a lot of masculine activities like fighting, adventuring etc. Therefore, at this age, these boys and girls need a lot of guidance, but if this guidance is lacking, then there's a likelihood of them going astray.

Single mothers contributed 45% of the vagrants. The children from such homes could have been affected due to lack of a father - figure in the home. Just to illustrate my point I would like to

sight one of example of two groups of parking boys i talked to. one of the groups was a well organized, responsible, with a leader. This leader was the strongest, biggest, outspoken, daring personality. He made all arrangements for the members on how to keep their daily savings and how to escape whenever the policee were around. This shows, that these boys found a father - figure in this leader. They admired him, and in him they found the shelter and protection, that was lacking at home.

Without a father in the home, the <sup>m</sup>mother experiences difficulty in playing her role, efficiently, and this is more so if this mother cannot financially or materially provide for the children. This mother has to work extra hard to be able to provide for these children and this explains why these mothers rarely spend time with their children.

Children from families where these were both parents accounted for 27%. They were second to the families with only a mather.

It seemed that families with both parents were experiencing alot of conflict between them. This was one of the reasons that children from such families also became vagrants. Children from homes with a father only were also few(7%) , as it is rear amongst this category of people, to find a man taking custody of children after separation with his wife. Women are usually dismissed, plus their children. Fathers may only take responsibility of one child, whom he may feel is his favourite amongst his children, and this child has to be old enough to do the work his mother would have carried out. The same percentage of children (7%) were also previously taken case of by guardians or relatives. These guardians or relatives acted as their employers for these children were mainly baby - sitters. Amongs such a category of poor people, it is not easy to find a family which can take responsibility of another's child, unless they stay with this child on condition that she or he does some work for this guárdian or relative.

Those children who lived with no custodian were also few (14%) These children are among the most cunning children seen in the streets of Nairobi. They have lived in the streets long enough to detect danges and escape any possible arrest. Infact these few I talked to were straight from the streets and not institutionalized

Some had been on the streets for three years, but had never in their lives, been arrested by the police. This is why I could not get a greater number of them as they were not institutionalized.

Children from the slum areas are amongst some of the poorest children to be found in Nairobi. Infact 58% of my sample consisted of children from such areas. 51 conditions found in the slum areas are usually unsuitable for children who are growing up. These are the areas with the highest incidences of criminal offences. People live on alcohol and drug abuse. There's alot of prostitution, usually practised in the presence of the children, because the houses are too small and have to be shared between parents and children. Children are therefore exposed these practises very early in life. Since children model and copy alot from their parents they are bound to internalise all they see going on around them. These conditions, usually influence children into rebelling and thus living home. For example, children may tolerate seeing their mother bring men to the house every night.

Children from non slum areas were very few. Infact there was only one boy from the well integrated areas of the city. Such areas are usually for upper of middle class people and therefore poverty does not play a role in driving such children away from home. In such places, w even if there are single mothers, children are usually well catered for as their mothers usually well catered for as their mothers usually provide substitutes through house maids or house boys, or even cousins and uncles. Poor mothers are usually not able to provide such substitutes because they cannot afford to keep an extra person in their houses. Furthermore, such mothers are usually able to provide financial and material support lacking in the poor homes. Therefore, there are less incidences of such children.

The same also applies to children from the rural areas ( they accounted ~~for~~ for 29%) The children from rural areas are usually not easily influenced into leaving home. This is because it easier for poor children to get support from the extended family. Substitutes are also provided for by relatives like, aunts, uncles and grand parents. But in casasa where such children were to be found in the city centre, it was either because they escaped

after being punished by their parents or guardians or were misled by their peers. And they were usually arrested on immediate arrival to the city and charged as vagrants.

Children from other towns were few. They accounted for only 11%. This could be because, other towns have their own institutions of the like and so children from these are served in their home towns.

My sample also constituted 74% of children from families of between 5 - 10 children. Poor parents can hardly feed, accommodate, clothe and educate, such a number of children. Even for the middle class such a number of children have to be catered for with difficulty. Therefore, we find that most of these parents cannot afford enough food for the children. As seen in table 24, 32% of the children left home because of starvation and table 11 also shows that 49% of the children only had one meal per day. Such children are not easily educated as they cannot afford to buy uniform and to pay school funds. Table 9 shows that only 4% of the children managed to get education of over C.P.E. (Std 7) level. The rest could not afford to go further in education because of poverty. Poor conditions like sharing one room between many children cannot allow the school going children to do revision. These children cannot afford after-school tuition fee. They cannot afford good textbooks and they cannot afford to learn through mass media like radios and T.Vs. They therefore, always remain behind other children who can afford these things and this seems to kill their incentives. Eventually these children may drop out of school.

Low education also implies that young children are exposed to idleness rather early in life. Idleness is quite dangerous to children in the slum areas, especially where parents are never there to take supervision of their children. These children are usually in danger of taking up what they see taking place around them like alcohol and drug abuse, prostitution, robbery, theft etc. Idleness is also brought about amongst the poor children because there is not enough work to keep them going. They have no shamba to plough, their houses are too small and work in such houses can be completed within a matter of minutes. There is usually not much work...

the girls do it, so is the cleaning of houses. The boys are therefore the most idle. It is also very very difficult to find boys sitting around home, unless, there is something or somebody to force them to stay at home. So these children may quickly be bored and may leave home to go to the city centre where life is more attractive and where there's much more to see and do than in the slum areas. Thus the frequent visit to town by these boys.

Due to the type of work the parents engaged in, there was hardship in getting the children and parents to interact. For example, about 70% of these parents were either small-scale business people (selling vegetables, fruits etc) or casual labourers. Both jobs require that the person spends a lot of time out in the field so as to yield returns. For example casual labourers according to how many hours they work or how much work they do. Small-scale business people also need to spend long hours away from home looking or waiting for customers. (see table 7). This means that children are left alone for long hours and as seen in table 10, most children (altogether 74%) had been arrested by the police more than once, but because their parents are never at home to stop them from going to the city centre, these children continue to do so. Table 21, further explains this lack of time by showing us that only 4% of the parents never left home 65% left in the morning and were only back in the evening. Lack of time due to such work also denied children the opportunity to air their ideas and problems to their parents. Table 16 shows that 87% of the parents did not have discussions with their children. Therefore, children did not have the opportunity to learn from their parents. At the same time such children may keep repeating bad habits because their parents never know about these habits, and therefore they don't punish these children for such habits. For example, we see that 36% of the children said they were never punished by their parents.

However, we find that 39% of the vagrants were frequently punished, and 25% were only punished on mistakes.

It seems that frequent punishment and non punishment produced almost the same number of vagrants. The two have almost the same effect on children, as too much punishment with no consistency or no explanation may sound to the child as ill-treatment and therefore the child will rebel. At the same time, misconduct which goes unpunished produces too much independence or freedom to the child and this produces a 'case free' child, who will eventually keep requeunting the city, because he is never punished for it.

When the children were asked whether they peers smoked cigarettes or took alcohol, they seemed to be shy and to withdraw the truth. This could have been because the children feared that I could use such information to victimize them. The children who were institutionalized, were reared under harsh conditions and such offences were heavily punished. Even when asked whether their friends did so. It seemed these children had been brought up to fear strangers. They associated every stranger with the law and they could have thought I was being used to extract some hidden truth from them. Questions concerning theft, drug and alcohol abuse were quite touchy and such response could have been predicted. These children even feared victimization of their parents and therefore, they also hid some information. For example, only 36% of the children admitted that their parents brewed and took alcohol. On one occasion, when a home visit was paid to one of the respondents who had said his parent (mother) neither brewed or took alcohol, his mother was found drunk and was in the process of selling alcohol.

Out of the (15) fifteen married couples, only one couple was reported to be in harmony with each other. 65% quarrelled very often and 27% quarrelled on rare occasion. However, there was little or no discussion taking place between these parents. Table 19 shows that 4 out of 15 couples were seen discussion together at one time or another by the children. This was either because both parents or one of the parents was never home early enough to be seen by the children. For example, table 20 shows that

Out of fifteen couples only 2 (13%) fathers did not frequently come home late. All in all children from families with both parents always seemed to favour their mothers. To the, only their fathers were to be blamed for any conflict that was taking place between the two parents. Therefore, questions concerning fathers alone always seemed to be exaggerated in the process of defending the mothers.

Table 6, shows that the majority of the vagrants were of the Kikuyu tribe (76%). This could have been because the Institution within which this research was carried out was in Kiambu district, whose occupants are mainly Kikuyu by tribe. But most vagrants in the streets of Nairobi are also of the Kikuyu tribe and it also seems that the majority of slum dwellers are of the same tribe. This could be because these were the people most affected by white settlers. These white settlers settled on the Rify Valley, and areas surrounding Nairobi. These areas were all formerly occupied by the Kikuyu tribe. Left landless, these people had to go to urban areas in search of jobs. Today's vagrants are the children and grandchildren of those people who were rendered landless by the white settlers in the 1950's. The government should

make an effort to repatriate such people to their former land or any other areas where they can settle, instead of leaving them in the urban areas.

## IMPLICATIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

### IMPLICATIONS

The fact that Kenya is a developing country, it means that the problems she is facing now, concerning poverty, slum areas, and illiteracy of parents will still persist for more years to come. Therefore, as long as some people are still poor, slum areas and all the crimes associated with them are here to stay. There is hardly any developing country without poor people and hardly any developing country without slum areas. Even the developed countries have them. Therefore, as Kenya's population continues to grow, so does the number of vagrants on the streets, especially those of Nairobi.

Single motherhood alone does not necessarily contribute to vagrancy of children. Many children, today are being brought up by mothers alone. However, proper provision is necessary, if a child



will remain settled in the home. Therefore, the fact that most vagrants were to be found amongst single mothers meant that these mothers were financially and materially unable to cater for their children. It also mean that the children from poor, single mothers were deprived of motherly warmth and affection necessary to keep children at home. Therefore as long as children are deprived of financial, material, love and affection necessary in a home, there will be a great likelihood that they will leave home to become vagrants.

Industrialization and Urbanization are the major causes of vagrancy. They are the cause of frustrations, overcrowding and deprivations to be found in developing countries today. Therefore, so long as there development through industrialization and Urbanization vagrancy will still be on the increase.

Vagrancy can be termed as a developmental dysfunction. This is because it is mainly brought about by certain deprivations a child is exposed while developing and hence a child cannot develop normally without them, for example, a father-figure,

motherly love and affection etc. Most of Kenya's population is still uneducated about the processes that take place in a developing child. Hence the implication that vagrancy comes about due to lack of knowledge that such mothers are lacking.

The fact that most vagrants are from single mothers also implies that most fathers in Kenya are not responsible for their children after the separation (in cases where there was marriage) and after the child is born (in cases of illegitimate children.) It therefore seems that unless fathers are forced to take care of their children whether within or without marriage, the problem will still persist. Secondly, fathers are never to blame for the ill behaviors of their children, but mothers continue to be blamed, hence society encourages fathers to deny responsibility of bad behavior by their children. Therefore, so long as society keeps praising fathers for good behavior and blaming mothers for bad behavior, it will always remain that fathers will not take responsibility when their children go astray. Most fathers, even if married will leave all the childrearing practises to the mothers. This especially so amongst the poor and less educated ones. This implies that there's a need to educate such people on the importance of a father's role in child rearing.

The fact that there is an everyday increase on the number of vagrants on the streets of Nairobi, it means that there continues to be an increase on the number of single mothers who are unable to cater for their childrens needs in and around Nairobi. This also implies that there's continued divorces and separation as well as an increase in children born to poor mothers but out of wedlock. It also implies that the relationship between the poor, married couples in the city of Nairobi and in other urban areas continues to increase. Hence, there is a continued poor parent - child and parental relationship due to hardships prevailing in these areas.

### SUGGESTIONS

In the past, parents of vagrant children and especially parking boys in the streets of Nairobi have been blamed for their negligense, ignorance and inability to curb the increase of such children. However, nothing has been done to educate such parents on how to curb such a problem. Some of these parents are helpless, either physically, mentally emotionally or financially.

It would therefore, be easier to defeat the problem of vagrant children on the streets if the government could take measures of eliminating poverty amongst such parents. To do this, the government could consider supporting such mothers in their small-scale business, so as that the mothers can uplift their businesses and thus yielding more profit. This profit can be used to feed, cloth and educate the children.

Another problem that tends to perpetuate vagrancy amongst the youth is early drop-out from school by such children, thus rendering them idle. Such children may become more open to influence from peers and from other people around them. Quite a number of children have been unable to attend school due to inability to afford school uniform, school funds and other school requirements like desk fee, sports fee, building funds etc. The government should take it seriously that school funds and uniforms are not compulsory for such children. Since Headteachers always find it difficult to prove which children need to be exempted from such payments, social workers need to be assigned to each school in order to carry out some home visits and to establish the truth about prevailing conditions in the homes of such children.

In order to keep such parents interacting more with their children, such parents should be allowed to construct small kiosks not far away from their houses so that they can run their businesses and at the same time have an opportunity to be with their children. Due to the large population in the slum areas, such businesses would get market from the population around here. This will also lessen starvation as the mother will be near to make sure that the children get enough food per meal.

Slum areas are a major contributory factor to the problem of vagrancy. The government should therefore, see to it that slum areas are substituted with better integrated estates. But, taking such a measure, crimes, most associated with slum dwellers, like alcoholism, drug abuse, theft etc. will be reduced and the children will grow up under a healthy atmosphere and hence the problem of children modeling or copying such behaviors will be lessened.

Family therapy should be more enhanced, especially in the slum areas, where people face a lot of frustration brought about through job frustrations, unemployment and poverty. Such frustrated people, especially fathers, are most likely to displace their feelings onto their wives and children, thus creating

family disunity. Family counselling would educate parents on how to cope more effectively with their frustrations and how to improve relationships between parents and children as well as between spouses themselves.

The public should be informed that such children like parking boys and other vagrant children should not be given money, as this encourages such children to keep frequenting the city centre and other shopping centres in the city, with a hope of getting money. Instead, more Agencies, like the Undugu Society of Kenya, for the parking boys, should be established, so that instead of the public giving money to individual children, (parking boys), such money should be sent to the Agency, so that all such children can benefit. The government should also give more financial support to such agencies, so as to enable the agencies to serve a larger number of these parking boys. Donors and well-wishers should also be encouraged to come forward in large numbers to help such needy children.

Most rehabilitation centres should be introduced so that the youth, who drop out of school, while too young to get employment can find a place in which they can find a place in which to learn handicrafts or games which they can perform as a group, so as to earn some

little money to keep them going. Business oriented lessons should be given to such children, so that they can learn skills like dress-making, shoe-making, carpentry and the like. This would enable these children to be self employed in future, keeping in mind that there is scarcity of job opportunities in Kenya today.

Instead of just arresting the children, taking them to the nearest police station, caning them and then releasing them to go home, the parents of these children be dealt with more closely, so as to establish the reasons for the child's running away from and therefore, to find out what problems the child is facing at home. These parents should not be charged for abandoning their children by the juvenile courts, but the court should leave such problems to the social workers. The reason for this is that if the parent is only fined some money for letting her child go the streets, and the reason behind all these is not solved, then the same problem will still occur and this parent may even end up being jailed herself, which may worsen the situation altogether. At the same time, if the child is only caned and released to go back home, yet conditions at home are not improved, then the problem will not have been solved in any way and the child will still frequent the streets.

Can not  
kids can trace  
their parents  
(social workers)

Most mothers are not aware that the absence of a like-sex parent is detrimental in maladaptation of the child, if a proper substitute is or are not provided. Therefore, such mothers should be educated on how to play such roles or on how to provide such substitutes by taking such children to school, where teachers can provide such substitutes, or by letting children at one time or another, stay with other relatives like grandparents and uncles.

Family planning is most vital to such mothers. It seems that the poor people are have a higher population growth rate, than the richer people. Therefore, family planning education should be introduced to such mothers and these mothers should realize that with the current increase of inflation, the greater the number of children one has, the more the problems she is bound to face in rearing them. Amongst the poor, single mothers, family planning should be made compulsory for each mother. This can be done through giving rewards to those mothers who can manage to plan their families for as long as three to four years without having a child. If this reward is good enough then the poor people will obviously accept it. Some of these mothers may not be able to take care of themselves, especially those who abuse alcohol.



Therefore, other methods other than the pill should be used. Where possible, sterilization should be most applied. However, for those who readily accept family planning, freedom of choice of method should be left to them.

### CONCLUSION

The problem of vagrancy has been prevailing mainly because of poverty. But it is not always necessary that poor parents should produce vagrants. If the parents are living together and have a stable relationship in which there's harmony between themselves and the children becoming vagrants.

Wealth, love, warmth, affection are all necessary in the general upkeep of children. Without these, there is no way in which the children will remain in the home. By wealth, it does not apply just to riches, but financial support, necessary to maintain all the children, at least in part, to their own satisfaction.

Single-motherhood should be avoided, especially if children are too young to understand the reasons of staying away from their fathers, or if they are too young to depend on themselves. This, most applies to

poor families. This does not mean, however, that a woman should stick to her partner even in conditions where the relationship is harmful to the woman, as well as to the children. In conditions where children have not detected these conflicts, there is usually no danger of the children being psychologically affected, but once the children detect it, then it is advisable, where separation is inevitable, to do so.

This research, therefore, concludes by saying that emotional and material deprivation, found amongst most poor single-mothered families, is a major cause of vagrancy and other forms of juvenile delinquency. This does not mean, however, that we should blame such mother for contributing to such a problem. These mothers, as well as their children, are victims of circumstances. The environment in which these children are bred does not favour them. This is because, most of these children are brought up in the slum areas and the slum areas are known to cater for some of worst criminal activities that can be found in a city. Therefore, children who are brought up under such an environment cannot escape to model such criminal behaviors. Furthermore, due to poverty, such children drop out of school, quite early in life. They become idle and

therefore, to keep themselves busy, they will try anything that can enable them to pass time. This is why we find that most vagrants are from the poor families, mainly found in the slum areas.

Therefore, those people who have been blaming the problem of parking boys onto parents and especially the mothers should be informed that the problem of parking boys is not just a family problem. It is a rural-urban migration problem and therefore a problem that can only be handled if the government can find a way to uplift the standards of poor families.

FOOTNOTES:

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QUESTIONNAIRE

PART A. (FOR THOSE STAYING WITH THEIR MOTHERS ONLY)

1. What is your name?

2. How old are you?

- (a) 5 - 10 years
- (b) 11 - 15 years
- (c) 16 - 20 years
- (d) Over 20 years

3. With whom do you live?

- (a) Mother
- (b) Father
- (c) Father and Mother
- (d) Alone (on the streets)
- (e) Relative/Guardian

4. Where do you stay?

- (a) Slum Areas of Nairobi
- (b) In the rural areas
- (c) Another urban area
- (d) Non squatter area

(5) Where are your parents now?

- (a) Nairobi
- (b) In the rural area
- (c) Mother is dead
- (d) I don't know.

(6) Are your parents living together?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

(7) What tribe are you?

- (a) Kikuyu
- (b) Kamba
- (c) Luo
- (d) Luhya *What for*
- (e) Kalenjin
- (f) Others (specify)

8. How many children are you in your family?

- (a) 1 - 4
- (b) 5 - 10
- (c) More than 10.

(9) What does your mother do?

- (a) Unemployed
- (b) Small-scale business
- (c) Casual labourer (Kibarua)

10. Where does she work?

- (a) Close to the home
- (b) far from home

11. Who buys the food that you eat at home?

- (a) Mother
- (b) Father
- (c) Sister/brother
- (d) Others (specify)

12. How many meals do you eat per day?

- (a) One
- (b) two
- (c) Three

13. Do you get satisfied after eating?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

14. Who cooks the food?

- (a) Mother
- (b) Sister
- (c) Ourselves
- (d) Others (specify)

15. How is the food served to the children?

(a) We each have a plate

(b) We all eat from one plate.

16. How often does your mother go away from home?

- (a) Everyday
- (b) not often
- (c) never leaves

17. What time does she leave?

- (a) Very early in the morning
- (b) After mid-day
- (c) Late in the evening

18. What time does she come back?

- (a) In the morning
- (b) At mid-day
- (c) At night

19. Where does your mother go to?

- (a) To her business
- (b) To visit friends
- (c) I don't know

20. How does she treat the children when she comes back?

- (a) Kindly
- (b) Cruelly at times
- (c) Always cruelly
- (d) Always indifferent

21. Do you like your mother?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

22. Why don't you like/dislike her?  
(a) She beats me  
(b) She denies me what I want  
(c) She never punishes me  
(d) She drinks too much
23. Is your mother cruel?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
24. How often does your mother punish you?  
(a) Very often  
(b) Only on mistakes  
(c) She never punishes me
25. What type of punishment does she give you?  
(a) Caning  
(b) Slapping  
(c) Being chased a way from home.  
(d) Others (specify)
26. Are your other brothers and sisters also punished?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No  
(c) Not as much as she punishes me
27. Why does your mother punish you?  
(a) Disobedience  
(b) No reason  
(c) Never punished
28. How do you react to her punishment?  
(a) I run away from home  
(b) I fight back  
(c) I accept my mistake
29. How do you spend your time when your mother is away?  
(a) I help in the house work  
(b) I work  
(c) I go for a walk
30. Does your mother have friends?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
31. What type of friends are they?  
(a) Women only  
(b) Men only  
(c) Men and women
32. Do you like your mother's friends  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
33. Do your mother's friends spend the night at home?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No



34. Does your mother at any time spend the night away?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No  
(c) I don't know

35. How long does she stay, when she goes?  
(a) Not for a long time  
(b) For a very long time  
(c) She never goes.

36. Does your mother brew alcohol?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No

37. Does she take alcohol?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No

38. Do you ever have discussions with your mother?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No

39. Do you feel comfortable during those discussions?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No

PART B (FOR THOSE FROM BOTH PARENT FAMILIES)

40. Where are your parents?  
(a) In Nairobi  
(b) In the rural areas  
(c) In another town.

41. Do they work?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No  
(c) Only one parent works

42. Who buys the food you eat?  
(a) Father  
(b) Mother  
(c) Both  
(d) Others (specify)

43. Who pays the rent?  
(a) Father  
(b) Mother  
(c) Both  
(d) Others (specify)  
(e) We don't pay rent

44. Who, between them likes you more?  
(a) Mother  
(b) Father  
(c) They like me equally  
(d) None of them.

45. Why do you think so?  
(a) Because He/she feeds and clothes me  
(b) because he/she does not punish me  
(c) because he/she punishes me  
(d) because he/she never cares for me
46. Do your parents at times quarrel?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
47. Do they take alcohol?  
(a) Yes, both of them  
(b) Only father does  
(c) No, they don't  
(d) Only mother does
48. Who amongst them stays for long without coming home?  
(a) Father  
(b) Mother  
(c) Both of them  
(d) None of them
49. Who amongst them pays your school fees?  
(a) Father  
(b) Mother  
(c) Both of them  
(d) None of us goes to school
50. How many children in your family go to school?  
(a) One  
(b) two  
(c) three  
(d) more than three  
(e) none
51. Do your parents ever have talk together?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
52. Do they ever include you in their discussions  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
53. When your parents quarrel who is always to blame?  
(a) father  
(b) mother  
(c) I never know who to blame
54. Does your father ever come home late?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
55. How does he behave when he comes home late?  
(a) He apologises  
(b) He only goes straight to bed  
(c) He beats mother, plus us.

56. How does your mother respond to this behaviour?  
(a) She quarells back  
(b) She cries  
(c) She never talks to him
57. Do you like your father's behavior?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
58. When your father is sobber, how does he behave?  
(a) Better than when drank  
(b) Same as when drank  
(c) worse than when drank  
(d) He's always the same.

PART C (GENERAL QUESTIONS ON CHILDREN)

59. Sex?  
(a) Male  
(b) Female
60. What Level of education have you attained?  
(a) Std. 1 - 3  
(b) Std. 4 - 6  
(c) Std. 7  
(d) No education
61. What tribe are you?  
(a) Kikuyu  
(b) Luo  
(c) Luhya  
(D) Kalenjin  
(e) Kamba  
(f) Others (specify)
62. Who are your friends at home?  
(a) Neighbours  
(b) School mates  
(c) Parking boys  
(d) Others (specify)
63. What do you do while with your friends?  
(a) we play  
(b) we go to the nearest shoping centre  
(c) we go to visit other boys
64. Do you always agree with what your friends say?  
(a) Yes  
(b) No
65. What happens if you refuse to agree?  
(a) They reject me  
(b) They beat me  
(c) I have never disagreed
66. Do your friends drink or smoke?  
(a) They drink and smoke  
(b) They only drink  
(c) They only smoke  
(d) They don't practise any of the above.
67. Do you drink or smoke?

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