

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK AND AFRICAN WOMEN
STUDIES**

THE PREVALENCE OF CHILD DEFILEMENT IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY

BY

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DECLARATION

Declaration by the Student

I, Omari Everlyne, declare that this research project is my original work and has not been submitted for any academic award in any other university.

Signature



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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my dear parents Francis Omari and Mary Kemunto, for sacrificing their time and financial resources to ensure that I and my seven siblings got educated, to the best of our capacity. It is my prayer that this academic report and more specifically, attainment of a masters Degree certificate will serve as testimony that their sacrifices were not in vain.

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ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANPPCAN	African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Centre
COs	Children Officers
CRADLE	Child Rights Advisory Documentation and Legal Centre
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
NCCS	National Council for Children Services
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes
VCOs	Volunteer Children Officers
WHO	World Health Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

ABSTRACT

Child defilement is a global problem with enduring negative implications on a victim's well-being and behaviour patterns. However, its scope and extent of social harm remains unclear due to rampant under-reportage caused by a culture of secrecy and related cultural inhibitions. Available data shows an increase in defilement cases by 7.7 percent in Kenya between 2015 and 2016. Additionally, Police statistics indicate a minimum of 200 cases of defilement nationally per week, with 10 whom are attributed to Kakamega County. The study therefore sought to establish the extent to which child defilement is associated with the prevailing socio-cultural and economic factors; substance abuse and family disintegration. It also sought to identify challenges involved in combating child defilement in the County. A descriptive survey design was employed to purposively pick and randomly select a sampling frame of 86 respondents comprising of 44 Gender Police Officers, 27 Social Workers, 9 Children Officers and 6 Probation Officers. Of the sampled respondents, seventy (70) of them were interviewed using a semi-structured questionnaire. The study established that child defilement is a significant problem that exposes children to early pregnancies and marriages; HIV/AIDS and psychological trauma; that majority of the defilements were perpetrated by persons known to the victim, namely family members and /or neighbours; that the perceived level of association between poverty and defilement was 95%, unemployment (58%), family disintegration (60%), alcoholism and drug abuse (73%) and negative cultural practices (26%). Additionally, teenage marriages, contributed to the problem of child defilement. Consequently, high levels of poverty, drug and alcohol abuse and ignorance of the illegality of the vice, appeared to be key challenges in the fight against child defilement. It was therefore concluded that child defilement can be fought more effectively by strengthening the existing, counselling, legal, child protection, rescue and gender recovery services. There is also need to increase awareness campaigns and capacity building among the relevant criminal justice agents. Additionally, eradication of drug and alcohol abuse is key to minimizing the problem. Finally, the problem can be dealt with more effectively through a collaborative multi-agency framework, specifically designed for tackling the vice.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Child defilement stands out as a critical social phenomenon as well as a human rights violation affecting millions of children worldwide. Globally, it is estimated that more than 230 million minors are defiled annually (Muindi, 2012). The problem is perceived to be more prevalent in developing countries where cultural practices such as child marriages are widespread and where popular misconception about having sexual intercourse with minors, as in the case of Southern Africa countries, continue to encourage child defilement as a form of healing for HIV/AIDS (WHO, 2004).

Universally, child defilement is considered an immoral act in every nation, society, race, creed, gender, generation and socio-economic strata. Conceptually, child defilement may be understood as forced or consented sexual intercourse with a minor (Republic of Kenya, 2006). The victim may either be male or female. The offender may be of the same or different sex from the victim. During the sexual act, the adult (perpetrator) uses the child without caring about the social and physical harm/ abuse inflicted. By virtue of their relatively weak position, children are easily manipulated, thus resulting in defilement (Hewitt, 1998). Some of whom are defiled repeatedly and in secrecy for many days, weeks or even years. Disclosure is often a process that may occur accidentally or purposely, through questioning of the victims by persons close to them or through observation of some physical signs when a child is being abused (WHO, 2004). The most vulnerable children to victimization are those who are unaccompanied, in broken homes, in foster care and / or those with physical or mental disabilities (WHO, 2004).

Child defilement can occur anywhere: in recreational facilities, neighborhoods, transport routes, at the work place where child labor is common including at home, schools, churches and mosques (WHO, 2001, 2004, 2011). In most cases, the people who end up abusing children may be well known to them by virtue of being a neighbor, a relative, family friend, or a person whom the child considers to be a guardian or a caregiver. The perpetrators therefore include parents, older siblings, close relatives or people considered to be family friends (FIDA, 2008; Jangazya, 2013; WHO, 2010).

Studies indicate that child defilement is mainly situational. According to WHO (2001, 2004) the problem is widespread during times of war/armed conflicts and natural disasters, in low-income areas and broken families, since all the situations create contexts in which, children are left unattended. Additionally, adverse circumstances may force some children to engage in prostitution as a survival tactic (Hewitt, 1998; Peters and Olowa, 2010; WHO, 2001).

Generally, the effects of defilement on children are devastating and have both short and long-term consequences (WHO, 2004). Child defilement is also a major contributor to mental health. Statistics indicate that about 20 percent of defiled children become mentally disordered. Among female children, defilement is the leading cause of unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and attendant complications (WHO, 2011). It may also result in transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS (Jangazya, 2013). Besides, defiled children are more likely to end up becoming promiscuous or abusing drugs as a way of escaping from the sad reality (Daily Nation, 4 February 2014).

More broadly, Child defilement is a major threat to the achievement of the sustainable development goals on the African continent and has in view of its gravely harmful effects become increasingly topical issues among policy makers, practitioners and academicians. Hence, child defilement is a matter of social concern and legislative reforms. For instance, the United Nations and other global humanitarian organizations advocate for Government interventions in child defilements and any other forms of child mistreatment anywhere in the world. According to the UNCRC, every child is supposed to be protected against any form of child abuse irrespective of the perpetrator. The UNCRC further exhorts governments to devise Child Abuse prevention programmes (WHO, 2004). Lately, International concern over Child Abuse is on the rise, mainly as a result of concerted efforts by humanitarian bodies which advocated for fair treatment of children by all the people and institutions tasked with their welfare.

In Kenya, there are policy provisions through the Children's Act (2001) that emphasize a shift towards promoting of children safety, especially for those in danger of child defilement. On the other hand, the Sexual Offences Act (2006) is the primary laws, that deals with sexual offences in the country, since it has provisions that expressly defend the rights of the child regardless of

their social status and the conditions they may be living in (FIDA, Kenya, 2006). The Act provides stiffer punishments to child defilers and other sexual offenders by setting minimum custodial sentences, which can be enhanced to life imprisonment (Government of Kenya, 2006).

However, despite the efforts by various stakeholders in the society namely; communities, the police, judiciary, NGOs, and other agencies responsible for child protection, to enhance, sensitize and lobby the state for stiffer penalties, child defilement menace still ranks high in police statistics, thus begging the question as to why the available conventions, statutes and sanctions are not effective in eradicating child defilement from the Kenyan society? This research therefore seeks to unearth the underlying factors that abet child defilement in order to assist in understanding and generation of development policies, inputs and strategies for eradicating the vice from the Kenyan society.

1.2 Problem Statement

Child defilement remains a common phenomenon across the country. In a study carried out by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in 2019, one in every two young people in Kenya had experienced violence as a child (Republic of Kenya, 2020). The *2019 Violence Against Children Survey (VACS)* revealed that 46% and 52% of 18-24 years old women and men respectively had encountered at least one form of violence in their childhood, including physical, emotional, and/or sexual violence. Furthermore, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) noted that in the same period, child defilement was common in Kenya, with more than 50% of children having experienced one or more form of violence and or defilement.

The problem with defilement is that, it does not only impact on the victim negatively, but also presents mental and emotional effects on the concerned or affected families and neighbours. According to WHO (2011) However, this problem has not been given the priority it deserves. Since, the number of reported child defilement cases in the country continues to rise annually at an alarming rate. Available statistics indicated that child defilement cases in Kenya increased by 7.7% in 2016, from 4,107 in 2015 to 4,422 (Bylanes, 2017). Police crime statistics also shows that at least 200 cases of defilement are reported in the country every day (Sampson & Hart, 2013; Kenya Police Service, 2010). However, these aggregated statistics, there is no specific data

on the incidence and dynamics of child defilement at the County levels. The present study therefore, set out to explore factors surrounding child defilement I one of the prone child defilement Counties of Kenya.

Crime statistics for the year 2016 indicates that as regards defilement, Kakamega county ranked third highest, only behind Nairobi and Nakuru (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2017). Furthermore, media reports indicate that at least 10 cases of rape and/ or defilement are reported in Kakamega County every week. However, the numbers may not reflect a true picture on the ground (Luchetu, 2018), since majority offences are unlikely to be reported due to fear intimidations, threats or perceived culture of silence among the victims and/ or their guardians. In 2018, rape, gender-based violence, child abuse and defilement cases accounted for 17.6% of the crimes that occurred in the county (National Crime Centre, 2018). The above statistics notwithstanding, the number of defilement cases in the county is likely to be much higher, since the majority of defilement cases go unreported due to various reasons that make the victims remain silent (Luchetu, 2018). Although there are a number of stakeholders meant to track child defilement, such as family members and children`s officers who have the responsibility of reporting the cases to the police for action, and the police who are supposed to apprehend perpetrators of this crime, there is no clear evidence that this is happening. This situation therefore calls for among others, an empirical inquiry into the factors that contribute to child defilement in order for society to formulate remedial strategies for tackling the social vice.

1.2.1 Key Research Questions

The study focused on the following questions:

- i. How prevalent is child defilement in Kakamega County?
- ii. What personal, socio-cultural and economic factors contribute to child defilement in the County?
- iii. Do substance abuse and family disintegration contribute to child defilement in the County?
- iv. What hindrances constrain the fight against child defilement in Kakamega County?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were:

1.3.1 General Objective

The overall study objective was to explore the dynamics and contributory factors to child defilement in Kakamega County.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

More specifically, the study sought to:

- i. Assess the prevalence of child defilement in Kakamega County.
- ii. Establish personal, socio-cultural, and economic factors that contribute to child defilement in the County.
- iii. Ascertain the extent to which substance abuse and family disintegration contribute to child defilement in the County.
- iv. Identify hindrances constraining the fight against child defilement in Kakamega County.

1.4 Justification of the Study

This study is timely and important since its findings will inform wider social, gender and human rights debates as well as policy formulation. In addition, the findings of the study will hopefully generate insights and narratives beyond the hard figures, thus assisting in pinpointing the actual cause of child defilement. This study therefore sought to probe and identify factors behind the high prevalence of child defilement cases in Kakamega country, with the objective of enabling the relevant agencies to figure out ways of addressing the problem at the study site and by extension the entire Country. Additionally, the literature generated may augment the dearth of empirical knowledge and thus catalyze more researches on this rampant vice in the country. It may also help to provide a deeper understanding of factors that contribute to child defilement, thus enabling National and County governments to develop policies and programmes for reducing the vice.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

The study was carried out in Kakamega County that covers an area of about 3,224.9 square kilometers and has close to 2,654,934 inhabitants (KNBS, 2019). The study was limited to assessing the prevalence of child defilement in Kakamega County and more specifically

personal, socio-cultural and economic factors associated with child defilement as well as the extent to which drug and substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and family disintegration contribute to child defilement, it also sought to establish measures for minimizing the vice in the County. The study was limited to the county as a case study, in view of the high prevalence of the offence and due to its large geographical coverage and time required for data collection. The study findings may therefore inform the understanding of the problem of child defilement at the study site and by extension the entire country.

In terms of limitations, due to tight work schedules, 16 sampled respondents did not participate in the study, thus bringing down the actual respondent size from 86 to 70. Another limitation is related to the fact that some of the respondents were at pains to give credible information. This was more so among the gender police officers, whose responses appeared more guarded and official. Regardless, the study findings are generalizable to the relevant populations in the study area.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms and Concepts

Table 1.1 Definition of Key Terms and Concepts

Terms/Concepts	Definition	Variables/Indicators
Child Defilement	Any act that causes penetration of the sexual organ of a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of occurrences • Number of reported cases
Cultural Factors	Shared meanings from one generation to another.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cases of child marriages • Instances of sexual cleansing • Number of defilements associated with cultural practices like disco matangas, FGM, etc.
Use of drugs and substances	Abuse of intoxicating substances i.e. alcohol, cannabis, cocaine and heroin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of use drugs and/or alcohol • Number of reported abusers • Reported cases of defilement
Gender police officers	This is a Police officers tasked with the enforcing gender -related issues and rights such as child defilement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness • Availability • Adequacy
Poverty	Inability of some households to meet their	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of child defilement cases in the slum

	basic need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of children defiled after being lured with gifts
Social Factors	Child's social and living environments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of family stability • Degree of conformity to peer pressure • No. of child defilement committed by drug users
Family Disintegration	Family breakages and/or disharmony, such as separation, divorce among others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of broken homes • Cases of single parenting • No of Cases of Incest & Defilements
Economic Factors	Factors related to livelihood activities or sources of individual or household incomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of House a family lives in • Parent's occupation/ income level • Category of residential location
Personal Factors	Common behaviour of individuals that influence how they make critical decisions in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of moral inhibition • Level of drug and substance use • Availability of caretaker • Demographic factors
Gender police officer	This is a police officer tasked with enforcement of gender-related issues and rights such as child defilement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of efficiency in discharging core responsibilities.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction

The study endeavored to look at previous researches, studies and findings that were done by other scholars in the field of child defilement in the hope that reasons for the continued defilement of children would be clearly understood. The section reviews literature on global prevalence of child defilement, child defilement in Kenya, factors that contribute to child defilement, extent to which Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS and family disorganization contribute to child defilement, as well as theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

2.1 Global Prevalence of Child Defilement

Globally, it is estimated that nearly 19.7% of female children are defiled annually, compared to slightly less than 8% of male children (Clinical Psychology Review, 2009). According to Ruto (2009). In the US child defilement affects 2-62 percent of female children while that of male children is 3-16 percent. In 2008 for instance, the number of cases of child defilement reported in the world was highest in the US (89,000), and this was followed by the UK (13,093). In Africa, Zimbabwe reported the highest number of incidences of child defilement, totaling to close to 3,000. Over the years, Kenya has also continued to experience a surging number of child defilement cases.

The problem of child defilement is not peculiar to African but is a global one. A study by Hornor (2010) on child defilement, its consequences and implications estimate that 3% to 37% of the cases in the United States were committed by adult males, while 8% to 71% were committed by adult females, thus translating to an average of 17% for boys and 28% for girls, while a statistical analysis based on 16 cross-sectional studies estimated the rate to be 7.2% for males and 14.5% for females. The US Department of Health and Human Services reported 83,600 substantiated reports of defiled children in 2005.

In the past, other researchers concluded similarly that in North America, approximately 15% - 25% of women and 5%- 15% of men were victims of child defilement when they were children. Worldwide cases of child defilement are in the increase. WHO (2012) estimates that 25-50% of

all children report being defiled, while Waithaka (2004) found out that 40-47 percent of Child Defilements are perpetrated against girls of 15 years of age and below, compared to 15-25 percent of boys of the same age. In America, 15-25 percent of children aged 15 years and below are defiled annually (Opati, 2012). In the year 2007, 53.22 percent of the children in India were reported to have been victims of child defilement (WHO, 2012).

Majority of the defilers are acquainted with their victims; approximately 30% are relatives of the child with most often being brothers, fathers, uncles or cousins. 60% of the child defilement cases involve other acquaintances, such as friends of the family, babysitters or neighbors with strangers making up for approximately 10% of child defilement cases. A study by Messman-Moore and Long (2000) on the causes of defilement in Kenya Child defilement established that child defilement are mostly committed by men. 14% of the reported cases are committed by women with 40% of offenses reported against boys and 6% of offenses reported against girls. Some sources report that most offenders who have sexually abused a prepubescent child are pedophiles though some of these offenders do not meet the clinical diagnosis standards for pedophilia.

In March 8, 2013, there were 6,277 cases of child defilement reported in Zambia. These cases represent the cases that were reported to the police between 2010 and 2013. In the year 2010 2,419 cases were reported, in 2011 1,369 cases of child defilement and 2012 reported 2,369 cases. During the official opening of the high court, criminal session held in Lusaka on 10th January 2012 the chief justice Ernest Sakala revealed that child defilement was one of the offences that topped on the list of convicted persons in Zambia prison despite the stiff laws in place. He affirmed that Defilement had continued to rank high amongst the highest, with the police records showing that 1,089 defilement cases were reported in Lusaka alone. The daily mail of May 5th, October 2015, also reported that the cases of child defilement continue to rise. One-stop-centre at the University Teaching Hospital recorded 146 cases in September 2015. Dr. Banda noted that victims were between the ages of 11 to 15 years and that in September 2014, 108 case s of child defilement were recorded. The Hospital admits to have recorded not less than 90 case s of child defilement since January 2015. (Pearson, 2016).

South Africa had some of the highest incidents of child defilement in the world. In the year 2000, 67,000 cases child defilement were reported in South Africa compared to 37,500 cases, which were earlier reported in 1998. Child welfare groups believe that the number of unreported case s in this area could be up to 10 times more. The largest increase in attacks was against children under seven. The virgin cleansing myth is especially common in South Africa, which has the highest number of HIV-positive citizens in the world with child abusers often being the relatives of their victims or even their fathers and providers (Rugwiji, 2017).

According to the World Health Organization (2018) statistics, the catastrophe of HIV/AIDS (human immune deficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome) in Africa has already claimed over 18 million lives on the continent and has hit girls and harder than boys . In many countries of eastern and southern Africa, HIV prevalence among girls under the age of eighteen is four to seven times higher than among boys of the same age in other parts of the world. This is an unusual disparity that means more deaths occur among women than men. Abuses of the human rights of children, especially child defilement contribute directly to this disparity in infection and mortality. In Zambia, as in other countries in the region, Pearson (2011) noted that tens of thousands of girls, many orphaned by AIDS or otherwise without parental care, suffer in silence as the government fails to provide basic protections from child defilement that would lessen their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS or other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's) as well as serious psychological distress.

The available statistics from some countries in Africa are worrying. In 2005 Uganda reported 5,693 new cases of child defilement, hence making Uganda to be among the leading countries globally leading in child defilement. Furthermore, Uganda Health Bureau of statistics Demographic Health survey reported that as of 2005, 65,000 children suffered child defilement in form of earlier marriages. The Annual Crime Statistics compiled by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Ugandan police enlisted defilement cases as continuing to dominate, with 22.3 percent increase or 6,395 cases registered in 2004 compared to 12,545 cases in 2005 and 15,385 cases in 2006 representing 23 percent increase. In 2007, reported cases were 12,230 compared to 15,385 in 2006 representing 2 percent decrease. In 2009 and 2012, the country

reported 23,356 this translates to about 628 Children defiled every month (Lisa and Nanteza 2012, ANPPCAN Uganda 2013).

2.1.1 Prevalence of Child Defilement in Kenya

Child defilement incidences in Kenya continue to draw a lot of concern across board, which includes the government, non-governmental organizations, media as well as civil society organizations. Because of these incidences, there is continuous demand for quality support services to address this injustice, which cannot be overemphasized. Statistics from the Provincial Director for Children Services in Nairobi showed that out of a total number of 12,275 defilement cases reported in 2008, 43 percent were Child defilement incidents. In 2009, 13092 cases were reported and child defilement accounted for 45.1 percent. The Provincial Annual Report (2015) showed that most of the reported child defilement cases in Nairobi occurred in slum areas with a total percentage of 54.75%, with most of cases. In the years 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014 western region has been reporting the highest no of child defilement cases in the country with Vihiga County being the leading in the reported cases and according to the most recent statistics Kakamega is the highest ranking in the number of child defilement cases reported in the country. In the year 2017, the following number of child defilement cases were reported; Kakamega 119 cases, Busia 102 cases, Bungoma 87 cases and Vihiga 7 cases and in 2018 Kakamega alone reported 228 cases, Bungoma 219 cases, Busia 96 cases Vihiga 27 cases, and a total of 568 cases in the western region (Kakamega County Headquarter Police Statistics 2018).

Wambua (2014) admitted that this is part of UNICEF's holistic response to the increased incidences of child defilement during the humanitarian crisis as perpetrated by both humanitarian workers and communities. UNICEF, in collaboration with WFP and its implementing partners specifically support community and other stakeholders' sensitization on prevention of child abuse and sexual exploitation during food distribution in time of relief assistance. Even as the cases continue to increase in most parts of the country, the society has not come to the realization that immediate family's members are the perpetrators of this vice. Experts warn that many parents in Kenya have not woken up to the harsh reality that children are being defiled at home.

A study done by Ogude (2011) on causes of child defilement in Kenya established that the majority defilers of children are usually close family members and relatives or neighbors and in most cases are never reported to the authority for action to be taken. Teachers and house-helpers have also been singled out as likely perpetrators of sexual abuse. Some defiled children fail to report abuse because parents are not friendly to them and choose to keep to themselves.

A survey on child defilement by Childline Kenya in 2012 reported that 35% of all the respondents indicated that they had been subjected to at least one incident of child defilement before they turned 18 (Rassi and Nyamu, 2012). The Kenya Police Annual Report (2008) also indicated that approximately 165 children are defiled monthly countrywide and Nairobi tops with 45 percent, followed by Malindi at 28 percent.

According to the Helpline Statistics from Childline Kenya, almost 100 percent of the sexually abused children are girls, out of whom 90 percent are slum dwellers (Rassi and Nyamu, 2012). Cradle (2007) indicates that defilement accounts for 74.9 percent of abuse of girls in urban areas whereby out of all the abusers, 40 percent were fathers, 27 percent were neighbors, 23 percent were other relatives and 8 percent were teachers. This implies that the Kenyan child is not safe at home, in the community, or in school. A report by the Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC) and Childline Kenya (2013) stated that children under the age of 15 were abused mainly in Western Kenya, adding that more than 50 percent of child defilement cases are not reported to relevant authorities. Consequently, the report compiled between the 2011 and 2012, indicated that both boys and girls aged below 15 years are defiled by people who are trusted and respected in the community who are supposed to take good care of them. In the year 2017, the following number of child defilement cases were reported; Kakamega 119 cases, Busia 102 cases, Bungoma 87 cases and Vihiga 7 cases and in a period of one year that is from September 2017 to September 2018 Kakamega alone reported 228 cases, Bungoma 219 cases, Busia 96 cases Vihiga 27 cases, and a total of 568 cases in the western region (Kakamega County Headquarter Police Statistics 2018).

2.2 Factors that Contribute to Child Defilement

Child defilement is attributed to a number of factors, namely individual-based, socio-cultural, and economic. These factors are specifically discussed in the subsequent sub-sections.

2.2.1 Individual-based Factors

Finkelhor's conceptual framework posits that Child Defilement occurs only when four preconditions exist namely: a motivated perpetrator, an ability to overcome internal inhibitions toward sexual abuse, an ability to overcome external barriers to sexual abuse and a victim unable to resist the abuse (Rudolph, Zimmer-Gembeck & Shanley, 2018). Child Defilement can take place within the family, by a parent, step –parent, sibling or other relative, or outside the home by a friend, neighbor, childcare person, teacher or stranger (Ruto, 2009). It has been found that parental physical absence can lead to Child Defilement (Twum-Danso, 2019). Attwood (2014) highlights that new technology in form of televisions, videos, cinemas, novels, music and some magazines with pornography have brought problems and peer pressure to children.

Jones (2013) points out that Child Defilement (child defilement) can occur where there are men with abusive behaviors. Most perpetrators of Child Defilement (child defilement) are trusted adult acquaintances of the child who often target children lacking close adult supervision and craving adult attention. Victimization is usually gradual and children are befriended, slowly seduced then coerced into silence (Russell & Purcell, 2016). The three issues which are critical to understanding Child defilement; betrayal of trust and responsibility, abuse of power and inability of victims to make informed consent devoid of threat, wants or deprivation (Orina, 2014).

The population of known offenders includes one time and habitual sexual offenders, intra family and extra family offenders or strangers and acquaintances, and adults and juveniles or adolescents. Offenders also vary in terms of age, occupation, income level, marital status and ethnic group (Wormith & Olver, 2012)). In most cases of Child Defilement (child defilement), 60 percent of abusers are non-relative acquaintances such as friend of the family, baby sitter or neighbor while 30 percent are relatives of the child such as fathers, uncles and cousins. However,

the majority of perpetrators of Child Defilement are acquaintances or relatives of victims (Alao and Moojwane, 2008).

There is an element of trust and power in the case of the abuser who is close to the family and is often in contact with the child (Furniss, 2013). Abusers who are strangers account for only 30 percent while men are the perpetrators in most cases represented by 90 percent. Regardless of whether the victim is a boy or a girl, women are perpetrators in about 14 percent of cases reported against boys and about 65 percent against girls (Ruto, 2009). Lubaale (2015), states that; Child Defilement (child defilement) offenders are assumed socially incompetent and unable to achieve intimacy with adults and are more likely to approach children. This may be related to offenders' early attachment with parents. Male victims who grow up to sexual abuse had identified with an older partner. Such an individual may identify with young males as the recipients of his affection hence rationalize his behavior (Lubaale, 2015).

Previous studies show that family offenders constitute 30-40 percent of the offenders against girls and 10-20 percent of the offenders against boys. Around 20 percent – 25 percent of all incidents of sexual abuse involve penetration or oral genital contact. However, among those cases reported either to child protection or to law enforcement, the percentage involving penetration or oral – genital contact increases to 50 percent (Furniss, 2013).

Bunusu (2011) stated that the effects of forcible Child Defilement (child defilement) on victims include traumatic sexualization such as increase in salience of sexual issues and confusion about sexual identification and norms. This also includes stigmatization such as shame, guilt, low esteem and suicide, betrayal, extreme dependency and powerlessness. Furniss (2013) identified the incidence of recidivism as among the most important concerns about offender characteristics. Horvath, Davidson & Choak (2014) identified four preconditions for incest and intra familial abuse to be a parent incapable of choosing adult-child boundaries, a vulnerable child, the available opportunity and the inability to overcome external and internal inhibitions. Risk markers present in potential Child Defilement offenders include previous incest or sexual deviation in the family, a new male member of the household with a record of a sexual offence,

loss of inhibition to alcohol, loss of maternal libido or sexual rejection of the father and pedophilic sexual orientation especially in relation to sex rings and pornography (Opati, 2012).

Females can and do sexually abuse children. However, most of the abuse is carried out by men, including fathers, stepfathers, mother's partners, brothers grandparents, uncles, as well as friends of the family including neighbors and babysitters. Cares who are emotionally detached violent or who abuse alcohol or drugs increase the risk of leaving their children the play to sexual abusers (Briere & Elliott, 2013). Cares who sexually abuse children, typically coerce the child, making threats if "their" secret is broken. The frequency and intensity of the abuse tend to increase over time, were a concomitant rise in the nature of the threat, making disclosure more difficult (David, 2005).

2.2.2 Socio-Cultural Factors

Social issues are both national and international, they are a threat and challenge to national and global societies. There is no universal, constant or absolute definition of a social problem, but social problems are defined by a combination of objective and subjective criteria that vary across societies, among individuals and groups within a society and across historical periods. Objective element refers to the existence of a social condition where by people become aware of it through life experience, media and education. The subjective element is the belief that a social condition is harmful to the society, which can and should be changed. Example we know crime, drug addiction, poverty, prostitution and child defilement exist when a segment of the society consider it as a social problem.

Cultural is the way of life of people in a particular society or a share of meaning from one generation to another. Culture can be identified as one of the major obstacle against the rights of children in general. Culture implies stability and rigidity in the way people perceive, feel and act in a given society or organization has been thought by their various socialization experiences and become prescribed as a way of maintaining social order. Most families adhere to and practice different cultures of which some result into child defilement. Example; Cultural Believes that, having sexual intercourse with virgins could cleanse one of HIV/ AIDS can cleanse the land and bring bumper harvest in some communities in Africa. In many societies Child Defilement occur;

though most of the cases are not reported to concerned authorities, girls are exposed to more of the cultural, social and economic constraints than boys are. Cultural norms against reporting defilement make it even more difficult to assess statistics accurately the abuses (Schein, 2010).

Many cultures, especially the East and Southern Africa Region, practice early marriage, which are often arranged at a very young age. These marriages present the most prevalent form of child defilement. The parents therefore, expose their children intentionally to defilement for material gain. This practice is still a common occurrence in parts of Africa, India, some parts of Latin America and the Caribbean countries. These parents make material choices for their daughters and sons with little regard for personal implications on children viewing marriage as family building and economic gain strategies (Thompson and Wilkinjon, 2010).

In most of the African societies, children are a source of wealth and girls are means of obtaining money, cows, goats, sheep, and camel or food stuffs. Therefore, since the highest proportion of bride price goes to girl's parents, then their parents marry off these girls when they are still young to old men who defile them, due to their parents need for material gains. In the traditional African society, defilement existed, but in Buganda, virginity of the girl was of great value. Therefore, if a man defiled a girl before she got married, then he would be fined a goat, one cow and two backcloths that he would give to the father of the girl. However, if a man defiled a girl being prepared to marry the `Kabaka` meaning king then the defiler would be killed. In the African tradition, every elder person was regarded as a parent to any child. Sexual issues were forbidden to be discussed in public. In addition, traditionally the position of women in society, family and politics was subordinate. Virginity of a girl was safe guarded, but today parents leave their children with house-girls/ boys, relatives, neighbors and school authorities where they are vulnerable to child defilement (Sungwa, 2013).

In Kenya, for example, cultural practices such as initiation ceremonies and the view that the onset of puberty is the cut-off point between childhood and womanhood, means that adolescents are not defined as children in many cultural practices. This is also the basis for early marriage (Obwoye, Ngundo & Kyule, 2018). Some parents are known to marry off their young girls to older men in order to obtain money to meet educational fees for their male siblings and for other

purposes. In pastoral communities, early marriages are common where parents marry off their young girls in exchange for livestock. These exchanges, of cattle for girls and women, form an integral part of the local economy (Grace, 2014).

Plummer (2015) observed that child defilement is seen to be present throughout the history of human interactions, and in some cultures is ingrained in the historical and sociological development of society; thus, like folks, tales, that emphasizes the relationship between kin that are in actual practice are incest taboos. He puts emphasis on the point that should be taken seriously is the fact that people should be aware of and conscious of the historical concepts as well as the cross-cultural differences that exist in different societies across the world when thinking of adult-child sexual contacts that may in society not be seen as evil and deviant behavior.

2.2.3 Economic Factors

In the recent decades, innovation in communication and technology have spawned, the emergency of a global economy- an interconnected network of economic activities that transcends national borders and spans the world. The globalization of economic activities means that our jobs, the products, and services we buy and our nation`s economic policies and agendas are influenced by economic activities occurring around the world. The economic situation around the world is taking a downward turn as banks faltered, credit frozen, business has gone down and unemployment rates soars.

In 2010, 205 million people worldwide- 6.2 percent of the global labor force were unemployed, with the highest rates being in the middle east (10.3 percent) and in the north Africa(9.8percent) (ILO, 2011) rate of unemployment are high among racial and ethnic minorities and among those with lower levels of education. Unemployment is due to four factors that is; lack of available jobs, job exportation where jobs relocate to other countries where products can be produced more cheaply, over sourcing which involves a business subcontracting with a third party to provide business services, and automation or the replacement of human labor with machines and equipment (Iig, 2011).

Unemployment is due to rapid growth in population, especially in the developing world where Social and economic changes that have displaced many rural dwellers to urban centers and their outskirts where people are powerless and jobless and vulnerable to exploitation (Davis, 2016).

Millions of people worldwide work in sweatshops work environment that are characterized by less than minimum wage pay, excessively long hours of work often without overtime pay, unsafe or inhuman working conditions, abusive treatment of workers by employers or lack of organizations aimed at negotiating better working conditions which occurs in a wider variety of industries including garment producing, manufacturing, mining, agriculture (Institute Of Global Labor And Human Rights. 2011).

In families, unemployment is also a risk factor for child and spousal abuse and marital instability when an adult is unemployed, other family members are often compelled to work more hours to keep the family afloat and unemployed non-custodial parent usually fathers, fall behind on their children support payment. Unemployment is a risk factor for homelessness, substance abuse and crime. As some unemployed individuals turn to illegitimate criminal sources of income, such as theft, drug dealing and prostitution. Globally, the high number of young adults without job creates a risky for crime violence and political conflict (United Nations, 2015).

HIV and Aids epidemic creates an enormous burden for the limited healthcare resources of poor countries. Economic development is threatened by the HIV epidemic which diverts national funds to health-related needs and reduces the size a nation`s workforce. There are 16.6 million aids orphans (one or both parents have died of aids) most live in sub-Saharan Africa (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2010).

In low- income countries poverty is another economic factor that is associated with malnutrition, hazardous housing and working conditions, unsafe water and sanitation and lack of access to Medicare. Poverty is associated with higher rates of health risk behaviors such as smoking, drinking alcohol and being physically inactive (Deaton, 2013) members of lower class are subjected to the most stress and have the fewest resources to cope with it (Cockrham, 2007).

Poverty is linked to stress which may lead to substance abuse, this substance abuse is a health problem that places an enormous burden on every society, harming health, family life, the economy and public safety.

Poverty has been seen as a contributing factor to children vulnerability to defilement. Poverty may be hard to reverse due to its inter-generational and multi-faceted nature and is characterized by persons who have no access to productive assets, education, health care, income, food, decent housing and clothes among others (Muindi, 2012). Poor health and related expenses also constitute the most often stated reason for households declining into poverty (Muindi, 2012).

Globally researchers have found that there is a strong correlation between poverty and child defilement. Hence, child defilement has its roots in poverty. Poverty make parents abandon their responsibility of proving for the need of their children. A parent can ask of a girl to look for capable person to take care of her basic needs. A girl out of confusion may end up being defiled in return for money. Therefore, can poverty create a risk factor for child defilement in children who may be tempted to engage in child defilement for financial award (Antonowicz, 2010).

Magwa (2015) affirm that overcrowding goes hand in hand with poverty and raises the risk of child defilement. Overcrowding limits the possibility of separation between adults, teenagers and children. In these places, children share sleeping areas with their parents and other adults or older children where these children may see or hear the parents having sex and may want to copy the behavior. like Bandura's theory of social learning 1977 children learn from observing and imitating others hence lead them to defile others or alternatively when children share one room with their parents and the mother is away for a night, the father can take an opportunity to defile the children, hence where there is overcrowding child defilement occurs.

Reduction of poverty and economic empowerment has been considered an effective approach to reducing crime and child defilement cases. Sustainable poverty reduction has been achieved by pursuing strategies that emphasize economic growth, employment creation and provision of basic social services (KIPPRA, 2016). However, economic growth will not produce jobs and cut

poverty unless it is inclusive and unless the needs of the poor and the marginalized are at the center of development priorities (UNDP, 2011).

Poverty plays a key role in child defilement because it makes the children vulnerable. Entrenched in poverty and lack of education and income earning opportunities force the Parents allow their children or they give them out to able men in exchange of food. In poor families children miss out schools majority being girls marry at an earlier age or even start having sex in order to get their basic needs. Children from poor households and especially poor orphans get involved in risky child labor where they are forced to trade in sex to supplement the money they get from their labor earnings (Juma, Alaii, Askew & Van den Born, 2013).

Poverty is the main cause of family separation as married men migrate to urban areas in search of employment. The unavailability of jobs in the urban areas creates idleness and frustrations forcing many to engage in anti-social activities. Sexual activities in urban areas become abundant with the men targeting young boys and girls who are unknown to them and they threaten them to secrecy or offer them small gifts to silence the children (Juma et al, 2013). Poverty is associated with teenage pregnancy as poor adolescents are at the higher risk of having babies than the non-poor peers. Earlier child bearing is associated with increased risk of premature babies or babies with low birth weight, dropping out of school and low future earning potential as a result of lack of academic achievements (Reichman, 2015).

Poverty is also associated with poor housing problems such as, substandard housing, homelessness and housing crisis, low-income housing units, lack of enough space, central heating, sewer and septic systems, and these houses are located in areas with high crime rates and high levels of pollution, concentrated areas of poverty and poor housing in urban areas. These are the places where child defilement is most rampant. In these areas a mother may ask for her son or daughter `s accommodation in a neighbor`s house where the child is vulnerable to child defilement as the unrelated neighbor may turn to the child and defile him or her.

2.2.4 Substance Abuse and Child Defilement

Child defilement is one of the violence associated with drug and substance use and abuse, either as a consequence or as a causation factor. Studies have determined the child defilement potential (the types of discipline imposed) of parents with and without histories of alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse, found that parents with histories of AOD abuse had higher child defilement potential than did parents without such histories. Parental drinking has been identified as a risk factor for childhood child defilement. Drugs influence the abuser to forget reality and thus commit these acts. This study however was intended to assist overcoming some of these beliefs associated to areas by creating awareness, and expressing that child defilement can happen anywhere else (Mwangi, Ndungo & Masiga, 2018).

Drug and substance abuse is a global challenge with its effects more felt in Africa. Efforts that have been employed at international regional and national levels are not effectively deterred. The production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and substances continue to be experienced. In Kenya, despite the fact that there are measures such as legal registration and awareness creation on the dangers of drugs and substance abuse, the problem is still widespread in the society. (NACADA, 2016). Children who reside in slum areas are reported to use alcohol, which subjects them to be the targets of the defilers or sometimes contributing to engaging in sexual activities between themselves. Most of the commonly abused drugs are marijuana or cocaine, smokable methamphetamine, psilocybin and heroine. 5 to 7 percent of these children have been reported to use alcohol daily. The categories of children who abuse drugs are exposed to child defilement, where the elderly children defile the younger ones. The other is the categories that are defiled by criminal gangs or adult persons who see the chance to defile the children without being known (Black, 2013).

Crime and violence are closely associated with alcoholism, defilement and battering. About 30 percent of fathers defile their daughters and 75 percent of domestic violence cases involve a family member who is an alcoholic. Victims of child defilement often blame themselves for what has happened. Because they feel so guilty, ashamed, and helpless, they themselves may turn to drinking as a way of escape from the pain. Often, Children of alcoholics, if mistreated, carry their problems into adult life. They may also have problems with family responsibility since their

alcoholic parent was irresponsible and did not provide them with the basics of life as they were growing up thinking that it contributed to them being defiled. (Kendler et al, 2000).

2.2.5 HIV/AIDS and Child Defilement

Many men who were diagnosed to have HIV and AIDS have developed an irrational belief that having sex with a minor would bring them healing. Therefore, in the search for healing such people would find an opportune time to covert this belief into practice. This kind of thinking is wrongly advised by witchdoctors and this belief could be seen in the mushrooming messages on billboards, radio and TV programmes by HIV and AIDS activist to reject this kind of thinking (Milambo, 2015). Nudwe (2003) confirmed this belief and stated that with the prevalence of HIV and AIDS, boosts business potential increases chances of promotion at places of work or enhances other powers such as witchcraft. This is usually done on the advice of witchdoctors and traditional healers. According to Steiner et al (1995) HIV and AIDS is a threat to the public and has claimed the life of many people under the age of 25 years and it remains a challenge to young people (Kallings, 2008). Very low percentages of AIDS cases are reported on children and young adults. Most of the HIV cases fall between the age of 25 and 29 years account for 20 percent of AIDS cases. Given the long (5 to 10 years) inoculation period for the HIV, research assume that many of these individuals were infected as adolescents. They estimate that over 40,000 have been infected (Holmberg, 2016).

Due to emotional vulnerability and financial desperation, orphaned children are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse (Morantz, Vreeman. Ayuku & Braitstein, 2013). This also includes those who become domestic workers. Some men prefer younger girls for sex believing that they are less likely to be HIV positive. Evans (2002) also stated that in some areas of West and Southern Africa, some men believe that sex with a virgin will cure AIDS. Hence, they target children whom they think are free of HIV. According to Jones (2013), economically deprived and poorly educated children are the ones more at risk of Child defilement and the consequent problems of exposure to teen pregnancy and STIs and HIV-AIDS. Kendrick & Stewart (2008) stated that survivors of child defilement are more likely than non-abused participants to exhibit high-risk HIV behaviors such as having a greater number of sexual partners, unprotected sex, use of intravenous drugs and higher levels of unwanted sexual activity and prostitution.

A sample of 54 adults in Tanzania (UNICEF, 1999), were asked why adults might have a preference for juvenile sexual relationships. Thirteen respondents (four men and nine women) agreed that it is because children do not have AIDS. On the other hand, 29 respondents (15 men and 14 women) agreed that it was to increase the variety of their sexual lives. Another factor considered important was the cheaper rate charged by children. Thus, the supposed myth that children are targeted for sex as a means of avoiding/curing AIDS is by no means universally held in Tanzania” (UNICEF, 1999).

2.2.6 Family Disintegration and Child Defilement

Lack of parental care contributes to child defilement. It is argued that the inability of most parents to provide adequately for their children due to poverty forces girls into sexual relations with taxi drivers, bus drivers and other so that they raise some money to afford them to eat something. Parent support is, thus lacking in many households today where it is found that parents spend less time with their families (LaRocque, Kleiman & Darling, 2015). Children who are emotionally abused and subjected to child defilement are denied the opportunity to exercise their rights.

Drug and substance use and the continuous fighting in families is the leading cause divorce and separation or when, death of one parent occurs, the child may be forced to take the role of the missing parent. The daughter may be forced to take the role of her mother and become her father’s wife and assume the responsibility of caring for the other siblings and the father sees her as the central female figure in their house. In addition, a man, who is not sexually compatible with his wife and is not willing to substitute her for another woman, may turn to his daughter for sexual satisfaction. Mother –son defilement do occur when the husband is absent or due to family disintegration but it is rarely reported. Sibling –incest occurs whereby the older siblings defile the younger one regardless of the gender. This means that the older son may defile the younger son or daughter (Hunters 2010 and Antonowicz 2010).

Family risk factors associated retrospectively with Child Defilement include poor parent child relationships, poor relationship between parents, and absence of a protective parent and presence of a non-biologically related male in their home. In the contemporary society there, is increased

decline in family patterns and single parent family is more prevalent. This leads to high rate of households with stepfathers and mothers or cohabiters, a situation which expose children, to unrelated men in their home who continuously defile them (Mendez & Fogle, 2015).

In the Childline Report (2017), 10% of the informants stated that children from dysfunctional families where there is lack of harmony are less likely to resist sexual advances by a family member or someone outside the family who offers them sex in exchange for emotional attachment. Similarly, 13 percent indicated that children from emotionally barren and abusive homes could be drawn into sex rings, which offer companionship and reward while 16 percent attributed Child Defilement to poor parenting and neglect. McAlinden (2014), states that families with unhealthy levels of relating may have increased levels of Child Defilement victimization within members of the family.

Jones (2013) stated that Child Defilement could occur where mothers are in short-term relationships and where fathers take little responsibility for care and protection. Children placed in informal foster or adoptive situations with friends or relatives when their parents emigrate, constitute risk to children for defilement and neglect. The loss of one or both parents by death, migration or family separation can result in child defilement (Jones, 2013). According to study by A Bolen (2002), males were at greater risk when they lived with both non-natural parents or with only their mothers. Females were at greater risk when they lived with both non-natural parents or with only their fathers. Females were also at a greater risk when they lived with any males in the household after their parent's separation. Social and economic factors such as poverty and family disorganizations have been seen to contribute to increases cases of child defilement in most parts of the world.

2.2.7 Mitigations against Child Defilement

According to Nanasasi (2010), there are several measures that could be taken to control the menace of child defilement. These include improving communities' responsibility towards children's upbringing by increasing public awareness and support. The public needs to understand that any child, whether rich or poor, living in a city, suburb, or rural area can be at risk of being a victim of child defilement. This particular problem, which affects children at all

socio-economic levels, may be used as a rallying point for subsequently helping disadvantaged children.

Secondly, it is imperative to raise awareness among policymakers and implementers. Political will and commitment are essential at the national level to initiate national policies for eradication of child defilement. This means that program on child protection are more likely to become potent forces in reducing defilement of children when strong political and community support is evident.

Thirdly, develop programmes of high-risk children and family in the rural areas, such as Childline, need to be considered for replication of the same in different parts of the country. There should also be increased advocacy and exchange of information among key partners, both at rural and national levels, to improve cooperation and coordination efforts.

Additionally, key stakeholders in the children affairs should focus on the impact of HIV/AIDS on orphaned children by paying special attention to the plight of orphaned children, strengthen and support the capacity of families to protect and care for these children. Furthermore, there is need to conduct further research in areas of child defilement, with specific focus on the abusers. Research should be intensified to find out whether the offenders are punished according to the law at both incest and defilement, and if not so then why.

Research should also be carried out on the under-reporting of child defilement to the police and other institutions or organizations that provide legal services which are even free. Moreover, it is imperative for research to be carried out to find out why people prefer settling defilement cases at the village, family levels and even those that are reported to the police withdrawn or file closed and the same applies to the courts of law. Also, there is need to find out why child defilement law is not strongly implemented and supported by most of stakeholders.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Theoretical frameworks are explanations about phenomena (Abdullah, 2007). It is simply a set of concepts and the proposed relationships amongst these concepts. Rational Choice theory, Social Disorganization and Social Network theory were selected to inform the study on the factors contributing to child defilement in Kakamega County.

2.3.1 Ecological Model of Criminology

The Social Ecological Model is a theory-based framework for understanding the multifaceted and interactive effects of personal and environmental factors that determine behaviour, and for identifying behavioral and organizational leverage points and intermediaries for health promotion within organizations (Terry, 2014).

The ecological perspective was developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner in the 1870s, and based on the biological science of ecology, which views all living organisms within their social and physical environments and examines the exchanges of people with their environments (Gitterman, 2009). Applying ecology to human beings in social work practice settings involves a perspective that humans interact with their physical, social, and cultural environments. Physical environments include the natural world as well as the built world, which includes buildings and structures designed and made by man. Social environments include the interactions with friends and family, social and community networks, such as colleagues or through membership or involvement with organizations or the community, and the societal structures that shape the way in which the environment operates and orders itself, such as through political, legal, and economic structures. Based on the objective of this study, child defilement does not occur in isolation from the social environment of the victims and perpetrators of the vice.

The cultural aspect of the environment involves those values, norms, beliefs, and language that shape the individual's views, perspectives, and expectations. Taking an ecological perspective would involve seeing the relationship and connection between the individual, family, group, and/or community and the physical, social, and cultural environments and how each influence and shape one another (Gitterman, 2009). The influence and connection between the different parts of the environment is not static but, rather, evolves over time taking into consideration the

historical and cultural influences. Gitterman and Germain (2008) describe how the ecological perspective goes away from simple cause-and-effect linear thinking where A causes B, and, therefore, honing in on A as the target for intervention. Rather, taking an ecological perspective would involve focusing on the interactions and relationships between A and B, while also considering the environmental factors that could influence A and B's interaction and the ways in which they are responding. A social worker might find that the target for intervention is neither A nor B, but rather the family in which A and B belong (social environment) or the physical environment in which they live, which could be the source of stress and strain (Teater, 2010).

When implementing the ecological perspective in practice, a social worker may use the life model approach, which is an approach that aims to improve the level of fit between people and their environments. The level of fit can be improved by either: (1) "mobilizing and drawing on personal and environmental resources to eliminate or at least alleviate stressors and the associates stress; or (2) influencing social and physical environmental forces to be responsive to people's needs" (Gitterman, 2009, p. 232). In the context of this study, the ecological model of social work would help in associating the social environment with child defilement. For instance, victims of child defilement are often defiled due to their proximity and close association with their tormentors.

2.3.2 Social Disorganization Theory

The theory views social problems, rapid social change example cultural revolution as a disruption on the norms in a society. Social disorganization refers to the inability of a community to realize common goals and solve chronic problems (Kubrin and Weitzer, 2003). It is also the inability of a community structure to realize the common values of its residents and maintain effective social controls (Sampson and Groves, 1989). When norms become weak, or are in conflict with each other, society is in a state of anomie. Hence, people may steal, physically abuse their spouses and children, abuse drugs commit rape or defile children since norms pertaining to such behaviours are weak or conflicting. To this view, solution to social problems lies in slowing the pace of social change and strengthening of social norms.

This study uses the social disorganization theory to explain societal role in child defilement. Social disorganization refers to the breakdown of the social institutions in a community, thus disrupting harmonious and cohesive family life. When such a pervasive breakdown occurs, adults are rendered incapable of controlling youths or stopping them from engaging in criminal activities. When links between community institutions are weak, the capacity of a community to defend its local interests is weakened. Therefore, efforts to solve common problems such as predatory victimization such as child defilement are largely dependent on a community's organizational base (Sampson and Groves, 1989). Since some of the children fell victims to defilement due to their family disintegrations, social disorganization theory was clearly relevant in helping to bring out this perspective.

According to the theory, poverty, residential mobility, ethnic heterogeneity and weak social networks decrease a neighborhoods' capacity to control the behavior of people in public and hence the increased likelihood of crimes like child defilement. Sampson and his colleagues (2006) invented the notion of "collective efficiency". They hypothesized that when people in a neighborhood trusted and supported one another, they had a basis for binding together to control disorderly and criminal behavior like child defilement. According to Shaw and McKay, (1942) communities with low socioeconomic status lack adequate money and resources hence suffer from a weaker organizational base. Residents of Kakamega County may therefore not be able to stem incidents of child defilement if they do not address some of the root causes of child defilement, such common breaking up of families and leaving of children unattended due to reckless behaviour of parents and guardians such as too much irresponsible drinking.

The theory further argues that that young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods are the participants in a sub-culture in which delinquency is an approved behavior and that criminality was acquired in a social and cultural setting through the process of interaction. The theory puts it that high crime rates depends on the social control available in the area. Due to economic deprivation, large family sizes, unemployment, poor housing, high rates of school dropouts, low rate of income and large numbers of single parenthood leads to antisocial behaviors. In this sense, not all children who fall victims to defilement can blame their tormentors. Sometimes due to high poverty levels in the homes of the victims, they end becoming vulnerable by even

allowing themselves to be abused in the hope of being rewarded either in cash or kind. Furthermore, the social disorganization theory is important in helping us to understand the complexity of dealing with some of the social concerns such child defilement by looking at the background of both the defilers and the victims where their unique circumstances could easily trigger their actions.

The nature of urban areas where residents move in and leave at an earlier opportunity is also a contributing factor. Men ran away leaving their wives or friends with children. People do not know their neighbors and therefore community is not willing to exercise effective social control on its members. Basic needs provision for many single mothers have become a problem and hence are unable to control the behaviors of their children. Children young as two years old are left on their own while the parents struggle to find something meaningful to help them earn enough money to meet the basic requirements that is never enough.

2.3.3 Social Network Theory

According to Castells (2001), a social network is a social structure of individuals or organizations called “modes” which are connected by one or more specific types of interdependence, such as common interest, friendship, kinship, financial exchange, dislikes, beliefs, knowledge or prestige. Network researchers distinguish between strong ties (such as family and friends) and weak ties (such as acquaintances) (Granovetter, 1982). This distinction can involve a multitude of facets, including affect, mutual obligations, reciprocity, and intensity. Strong ties are particularly valuable when an individual seeks socio-emotional support and often entail a high level of trust. Weak ties are more valuable when individuals are seeking diverse or unique information from someone outside their regular frequent contacts.

Applying this theory to child defilement therefore, one considers various factors that contribute to child defilement. Erosion in family values of social cohesion and failure of the extended family to provide protection to children facilitates child defilement. When family values are destroyed and social inequality thrives, the windows of child defilement are opened. However all hope is not lost since it is the associational tie” that binds members of the community together and serves as unitary basis for resolving the crises through home care. The theory postulates that

social networks operate on many levels, from families up to the level of nations and play a critical role in determining the way problems are solved. Field (1981) posited that social networks could be built in various organizational contexts, including voluntary associations, workplace, neighborhood and schools.

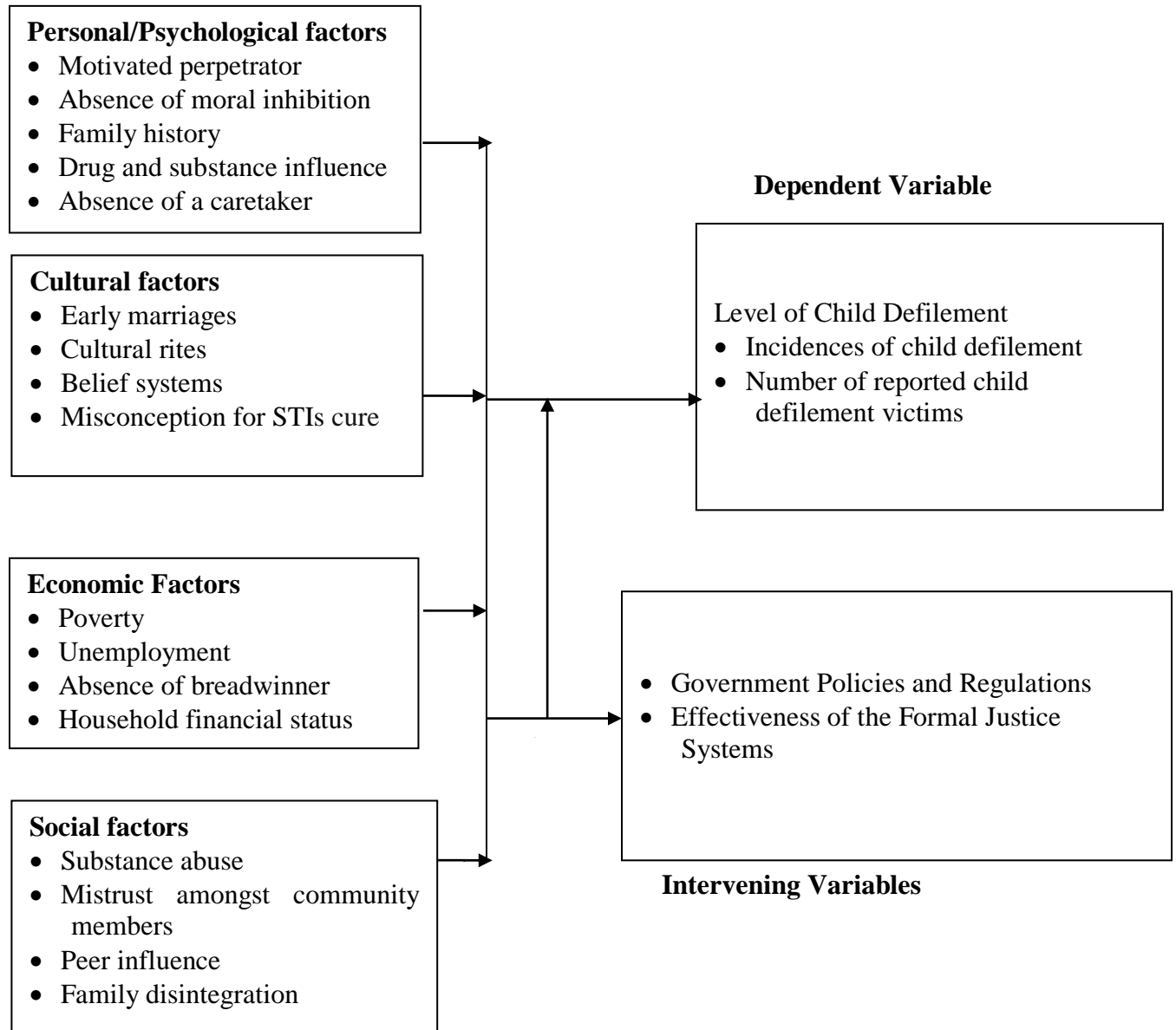
2.4 Conceptual Framework

The schematic diagram of the conceptual framework is represented in figure 2.1. In this study, personal/psychological, Socio-cultural and economic factors are the independent variables whereas level of child defilement is the dependent variable or the outcome of the study. This is denoted by incidents of child defilement, and number of reported child defilement victims. There are the intervening variables, government policies and regulations, which determine the relationship between independent and dependent variables. As illustrated in figure 2.1, all the four independent (predictor) variables have an association with the dependent variable. In order to critically analyze this association, all the variables were measured using various sub-variables.

Regarding personal/psychological factors, these were viewed in terms of motivated perpetrator, absence of moral inhibition, family history, drug and substance influence, and absence of a caretaker. Socio-Cultural factors were measured based on mistrust among community members, peer influence, family disintegrations, early marriages, cultural rites, belief systems, and misconception about STIs cure. Economic factors were analyzed based on poverty, unemployment, absence of breadwinner, and household financial status. As a dependent variable or outcome of the study, level of child defilement was viewed in terms of high incidences of child defilement, and number of reported child defilement victims. Figure 2.1 presents a relationship between independent and dependent variables.

Figure 2.1 Conceptual Framework

Independent Variables



CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

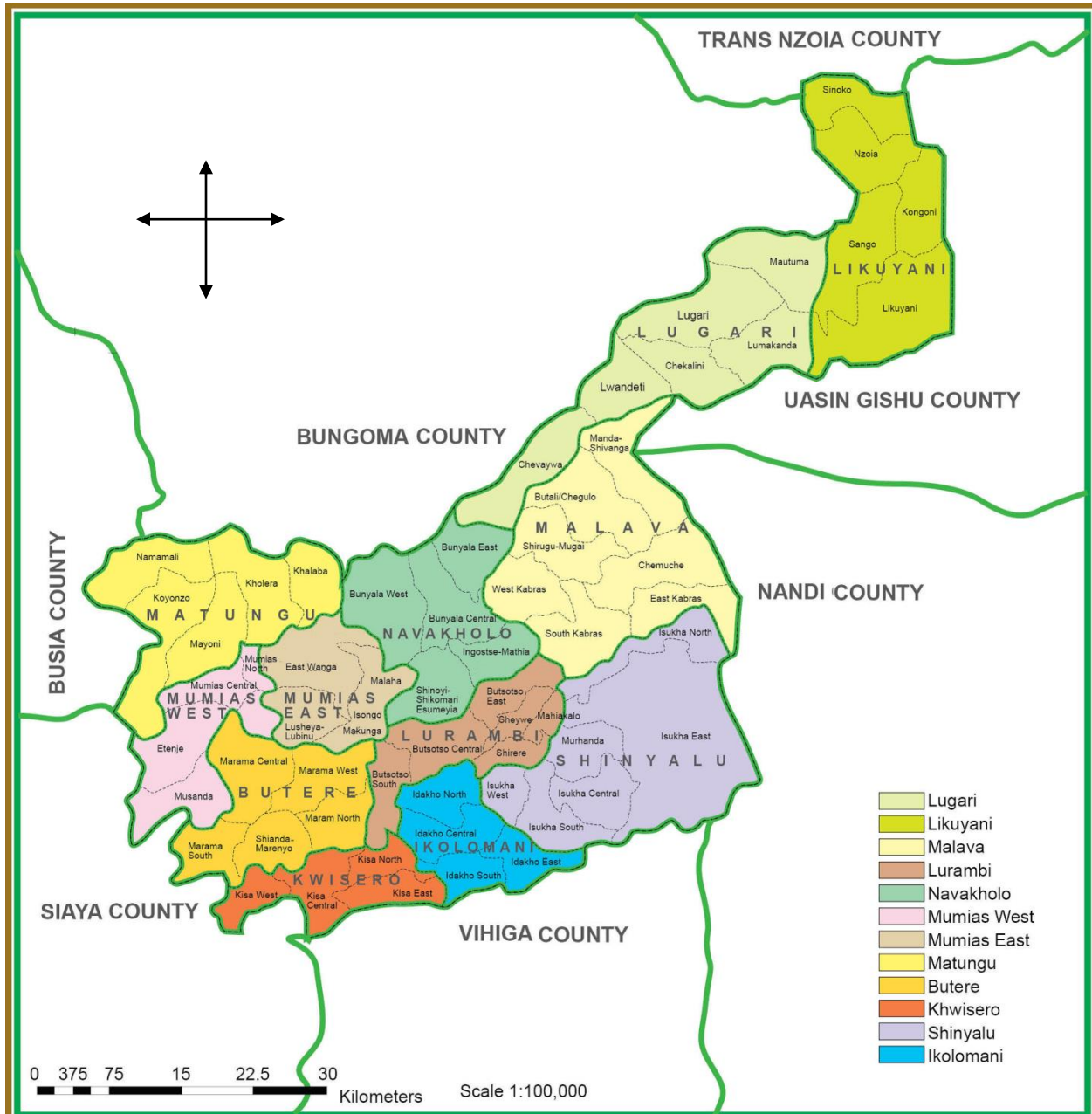
3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methods employed in the research, in order to achieve the study objectives. The section comprises of site description, research design, unit of analysis and observation, target population, sampling procedure, sources of data, data collection methods and tools, reliability and validity, methods of data analysis, and problems encountered in the field.

3.2 Site Description

Kakamega is one of the four counties of the Western Region that is; Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia and Vihiga. It is the headquarters of the national police of the entire service Western region. There are twelve administrative divisions in the county, namely; Lurambi, Lugari, Likuyani, Mumias East, Mumias West, Matungu, Malava, Butere, Shinyalu, Navakholo, Ikolomani and Kwisero. Kakamega County has seven slums, namely; Majengo, Masingo, Makaburini, Laini Moja, Kambi Miwa, Kambi Mapesa and Kambi Mawe. These are the leading locations in terms of Child Defilement. The County covers an area of 3,224.9 square kilometers, and borders Vihiga County to the South, Busia and Siaya counties to the West, Bungoma to the North, Trans Nzoia County to the North East, and Uasin Gishu and Nandi counties to the East. The County is divided into the following Sub-Counties: Kakamega Central, Kakamega East, Kakamega South, Kakamega North, Likuyani, Navakholo, Matete, Mumias, Lugari, Khwisero and Butere. A map of Kakamega County is shown in figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: A map showing Kakamega County and the neighbouring counties



3.2.1 Agro-ecological Environment

There are two main ecological zones namely; upper and lower medium. The upper covers the northern part comprising of Shinyalu, Lurambi, Ikolomani, and Malava where there is intense maize, beans, and horticultural production mainly on small scale while Likuyani and Lugari practice large scale farming. The lower zone covers major portion of the southern part which includes Mumias, Butere and Khwisero where sugarcane production is practiced and some farmers cultivate maize, sweet potatoes, tea, groundnuts and cassava.

Kakamega County is a home to a tropical forest – Kakamega Forest - covering 244.5 square kilometres. Kakamega Central Sub-counties has a small percentage of the forest on the western fringes of the Sub- County. A larger percentage of the forest is found in Kakamega East Sub-County that neighbours Kakamega Central Sub- County to the East. The forest is a habitat to many wild animals ranging from mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. The area has both exotic and indigenous plants including trees, grasses, shrubs, and crops which form tourist attraction site.

3.2.2 Demographic Factors

According to the Census report of 2019 by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the total population in the county was more than 2 million (KNBS, 2019). The growth rate of the current population in the county is estimated to be 2.5% as compared to that of the national government which is estimated at 2.3% which is considered as the highest growth rate in the country. According to Economic Survey (2014), the county has a high poverty index of 4.77 per cent (KNBS, 2014). This is attributed to its high population of unemployment (KNBS, 2009; Kakamega CIDP, 2018), thereby causing increased demand, ownership and sub-divisions of land leading to smaller uneconomical units resulting in reduced farm productivity and poverty hence putting pressure on the available social services and facilities like health and education. Because of poverty, there are high rates of illicit brew and alcohol abuse which is believed to be the root cause of many cases of child defilement in the County. Most of the people in this area are unemployed hence some do manual work at the mining sites, contractual work at building and construction sites in order to earn a living.

Kakamega County has experienced increased cases of child defilement, from about 300 in 2017 to 348 cases in 2018 (Republic of Kenya, 2018). The following is a breakdown of child defilement cases for various sub-counties the county: Kakamega Central 84, Kakamega South 11, Kakamega East 39, Kakamega North 34, Mumias 46, Butere 27, Lugari 32, Likuyani 44, Navakholo 23, Khwisero 8, while Matete sub-county had no reported cases in 2018 (Sub-counties data records Kakamega County, 2018). The county was therefore purposively selected because of its high child defilement cases compared to other counties in the Western Kenya region.

Kakamega County has 12 Police stations that were contacted in the study, one borstal institution, namely Shikusa, two child protection centres at Bukhungu stadium and Kakamega Police Station, one rehabilitation centre near Kakamega high school, one Special School for children with disabilities and more than 20 children rescue centres.

3.3 Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive survey design to explore and explain the current status of factors contributing to child defilement in Kakamega Sub County. The strategy enabled the researcher to collect in-depth empirical data about the study phenomenon and was suitable for describing actions as they were or as they happened. Descriptive survey design is suitable for answering the ‘what’, ‘how’, ‘why’, and ‘when’.

3.3.1 Unit of Analysis and Units of Observation

The unit of analysis is the major entity that is being analysed in a study. It is the ‘what’ or ‘who’ that is being studied (Straits *et al.*, 1999; Babbie, 2005). In this study, the unit of analysis was Children exposed to Defilement and the units of observation were Children’s Officers, Social Workers, Gender Police officers and Probation Officers in Kakamega County.

3.4 Target Population

According to Mason & Bramble (1997), a target population refers to all members of real or hypothetical set of people, events or objects that we hope to generalize the results of our

research. The target population in this study is defiled children. However, due to difficulties involved in accessing defiled children at their homes and/or institutional contexts, and the mandatory ethical considerations regarding interviewing of minors, the study opted for indirect data providers, namely; 60 Gender Police Officers, 12 Children’s Officers, 8 probation officers, and 36 social workers. All of whom had first-hand information on defiled children in Kakamega County due to their nature of work. In total the study had a target population of 116 respondents.

3.5 Sampling Procedure

Prior to arriving at the interview sample, different categories of respondents were purposively identified. These are: Social Workers and Children Officers probation officers and gender police officers. As Bryman (2016) observes, the objective of the purposive sampling was to identify and interview respondents with in-depth knowledge of the study subject. A perusal of the staff lists of the respective institutions yielded a target population of 116 potential respondents. Their respective distribution was 36 Social Workers, 12 Children’s officers, 8 probation officers and 60 Gender police officers. A proportionate sampling criterion was used to pick an interview sample of 86(100%) respondents. of these, 70(80%) responded as follows. 22 Social Workers, 7 Children’s Officers; 5 probation officers and 36 Gender police officers. failure by the randomly selected 16(19%) respondents to participate in the interview was as a result of their unavailability of the time of the interview and/or reluctance to respond to the data collection instrument due to unexplained personal reasons.

Once the target population had been selected purposively, stratified random sampling technique by Krejcie & Morgan (1970) was used to arrive at the final sample size. Based on the target population of 116, and using Krejcie & Morgan (1970) table of sampling theory (*see table in*

appendix III), 86 respondents were sampled. The following formula: $n_0 = \frac{(t)^2(p)(q)}{d^2}$ was

utilized in the table to obtain the various sample sizes from the 4 social categories. Based on the formula, n_0 is the sample size for categorical data; t is the value for the selected alpha level of 0.025; p is the set at an estimated value of 0.5 hence $(p)(q) = 0.25$; d is the acceptable margin of error for proportion being estimated at 0.05. The sample size obtained is illustrated in table 3.1.

Below:

Table 3.1: Target Population and Sample Sizes

Category of Respondents	Target Population (N)	Sample Size (n)
Social workers	36	27
Children officers	12	9
Probation Officers	8	6
Gender Police Officers	60	44
Total	116	86

Source: Fieldwork data (2020)

3.6 Data Collection Methods and Tools

Data collection methods refer to the process of collecting data after the researcher has identified the type of information needed which is based on the research questions/objectives guiding the study (Fielding, 2010). The study used both primary and secondary data. Secondary data was gathered through document analysis of relevant documents, both published and unpublished materials from the library. These included government reports, minutes and policy documents, academic research reports from civil society organizations dealing with child defilement and police reports on the problem of child defilement, newspapers and journals. The researcher utilized interview schedules and questionnaires.

A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from Social workers, Children's Officers, Probation Officers and G. The tool is essential for gathering detailed information for the study. An interview schedule is person to person communication where the interviewer asks questions to elicit information or opinion from the respondents. The gesture during the interview provides crucial hidden information that could otherwise not be easy to acquire. The study used semi-structured questionnaires to collect data from respondents with in-depth knowledge on Child Defilement (that is Probation Officers Children's' Officers and Social Workers).

During fieldwork, audiotape was used to record the information, while at the same time a note taker took notes for the purpose of back-up. According to Holloway and Wheeler (2002), note taking is an important activity in data collection as a precautionary measure in the event that the audiotape accidentally got erased. There was a note taker to take notes so that non-verbal responses of the participants were captured.

The study used both primary and secondary data. Secondary data was gathered through a review of relevant documents, both published and unpublished materials from library searches, relevant journals, and websites of relevant institutions of authority on matters related to children welfare. These included government reports, minutes and policy documents, police reports on the problem of child defilement, newspapers and journals among others. A semi-structured questionnaire was used for collection of primary data.

A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from social workers, children's officers and probation officers about cases of child defilement they had handled in their various capacities. A questionnaire is a person-to-person communication where the interviewer asks questions to elicit information or opinion from the respondents. The questionnaire contained both closed and open-ended questions that were administered to Probation Officers, Children Officers and Social workers as individuals who had in-depth knowledge on child defilement in Kakamega County. The tool was structured based on the specific objectives of the study where a number of questions were directed to the respondents so that they could give their own views regarding the subject of study.

Two research assistants were recruited and trained on the research tool before they embarked on fieldwork. During fieldwork, the respondents were interviewed directly where they were expected to answer the questions as they were asked in a systematic manner. In cases where, for one reason or the other, it was not possible for the interviewer to collect data from the respondents, blank questionnaires were dropped for respondents to self-administer and then completed ones picked later. During this exercise, all the respondents were sensitized beforehand and informed of their role in the study. This ensured that they were properly acquainted with the whole process of data collection so as to provide the right information. In cases where potential respondents were not conversant with the questionnaire for self-administration, the researcher and research assistants took the respondents through the questionnaire items, as they recorded the responses. This approach was important in enabling respondents to seek clarifications before responding to the questionnaire items.

3.7 Validity and Reliability of the Instruments

3.7.1 Validity

Validity refers to the ability of a research instrument to measure what it was intended to measure. This makes it possible for the research instrument to produce consistent results when used for collection of data (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). Content validity is the extent to which an instrument measures the important aspects of concepts that developers or users purport it to assess (Patrick *et al.*, 2011). To determine the content validity of the items, the questionnaire was subjected to the university supervisor and other faculty members to establish the relevance of the items included in the questions. The questionnaire was pre-tested before being administered to the respondents. The academic supervisor and other faculty members were constantly consulted so as to improve content validity of the research tool. This further ensured that all questions were agreeable based on the research questions. A value of 0.5 was used to facilitate content validity.

3.7.2 Reliability

Reliability refers the degree to which a research too is able to produce consistent outcomes when used for data collection. That means that regardless of the number of times a research instrument is used, if it produces consistent outcomes, then the instrument has high reliability level (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). The study used test and retest techniques where the same data instrument was administered twice to the same respondents after a period of 2 weeks. If the research instrument yielded the same results, the researcher would administer them to the selected samples in Kakamega County. In this study, a reliability Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.7 or higher was considered acceptable.

3.8 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis entails categorizing, ordering, manipulating and summarizing the data and describing them in meaningful terms (Person, 2010). The collected quantitative data obtained from the completed questionnaire was subjected to editing to detect and correct errors and omissions. It was then put into categories or classes through coding, then tabulated and counted. The responses from the interview items constituted qualitative data. Quantitative data was analysed using SPSS computer software and excel worksheets and presented through frequency

distribution tables. In terms of qualitative data, the first step was to transcribe all key informants notes. This provided a complete record of the discussion and facilitated analysis of the data. The next step was to analyze the content of the transcribed notes; Krueger (1988) suggests that content analysis begins with a comparison of the answers. In addition, the researcher must consider the emphasis or intensity of the respondent's comments. Other considerations relates to the consistency of the comments and the specificity of responses in the follow up probes. Qualitative data was analysed using content analysis technique where the responses were interpreted based on the specific objectives of the study or the research questions, and presented using narratives which were embedded into the main texts.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Permission was obtained from the Department of Criminology, Institutional Research and Ethical Committee (IREC) at the University of Nairobi and a research permit from the National Council of Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). Further, ethical approval was sought from the Kakamega County Commissioner before carrying out the study. Participants were briefed on the nature of the study before the commencement of the interviews. All participants were asked for consent before participating in the study. A thumbprint was accepted for those who could not read and write. Participants in the study were informed that participation was voluntary and that no penalties would be involved with those who declined to participate. In this study there were no physical harm; however, the investigator was sensitive to psychological consequences. The study was sensitive to the participants' emotions when probing questions that may psychologically harm them.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents analysis and discussing of the study findings. The analysis contains quantitative and qualitative data and information. The latter was obtained from selected respondents as direct quotes to reinforce the general information provided by majority of the respondents.

4.2 Respondents' Background Information

The respondents' background information entailed the respondents' socio-demographic factors namely; their gender, age bracket, education level, job designation and description, the type of services offered by their organizations to the child defilement victims, and duration of respondents' service in the respective work stations.

4.2.1 Questionnaire Return Rate

From a sample size of 86 respondents who were sampled out for interviews, 70 of them were available for interview purposes. This translated to 81% response rate. The distribution of the respondents is as follows: 22 social workers, 7 children's officers, 5 probation officers and 36 gender police officers.

Table 4.1 Questionnaire Return Rate

Category	Sample Size	Response Rate	
	Frequency (n)	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Social workers	27	22	81
Children officers	9	7	78
Probation Officers	6	5	83
Gender Police Officers	44	36	82
Total	86	70	81

Of the sampled 86 respondents, 70 of them 81% participated in the study. Based on the analysis, the percentages in each category of the respondents were near equal, and this was attributed to serious efforts made to ensure that there was a high questionnaire return rate. Social workers

registered a response rate of 81 % (22), children’s officers 78 % (7), probation officers 83 % (5), and gender police officers 82 % (36) of their respective sample. Given the representative nature of the distribution of the responses against the representative sample size in each of the category, the outcome further rendered the collected data objective for answering the research questions. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) postulate that a response rate of at least 70% is excellent for giving desired results.

4.2.2 Distribution of Respondents by Gender

The respondents indicated their gender as follows:

Table 4.2 Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Male	39	56
Female	31	44
Total	70	100

Based on the analysis in Table 4.2, 56 % (39) of the respondents were male while 44 % (31) of them were female. The bias in gender distribution may be informed by the fact that generally more men than women tend to serve in the selected offices. Hence, this may be a reflection of the gender bias experienced in the wider context when it comes to employment in the security sector. Despite this disparity, this did not affect the responses provided with regard to the substantive part of the questionnaire.

4.2.3 Distribution of Respondents by Age

The respondents were asked to state their age brackets, the results are presented in Table 4.3 below.

Table 4.3 Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
20-30 years	9	13
31-40 years	34	49
41-50 years	16	23
Over 50 years	11	16
Total	70	100

As illustrated in Table 4.3, 49 % (34) of the respondents were aged 31-40 years, 23 % (16) were aged 41-50 years, 16 % (11) were over 50 years while 13% (9) of them were aged between 20 and 30 years. Based on the above distribution, a majority 72% of the officers were aged 31-50 years. This implied that most of the officers working in different capacities in the children welfare department were mature individuals who understood their respective roles well and most likely discharged their duties as expected of them.

4.2.4 Distribution of Respondents by their Level of Education

The respondents were asked to state their level of education. The results are presented in table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4 Respondents' Highest Education Level

Level of Education	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
KCPE	2	3
KCSE	25	36
Diploma	11	16
Bachelors	26	37
Masters	6	9
Total	70	100

Concerning the respondents' level of education, 37%(26) had bachelor degrees, 36%(25) KCSE level of education,16%(11) diplomas, 9%(6) masters, and 3%(2) had obtained Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) certificates. This cumulatively a majority 62 %(43) of the respondents had at least a diploma qualification hence the officers were of reasonable academic level. Only 3 %(2) of them had primary level certificates, and both served as social workers.

4.2.5 Distribution of Respondents by Job Designation

Respondents were asked to state their respective job designations, and their responses are presented in table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5 Respondents' Job Designation/Descriptions

Job Designation	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Social workers	22	31
Children officers	7	10
Probation Officers	5	7
Gender Police Officers	36	51
Total	70	100

Regarding the respondents' job designations or descriptions, 51%(36) of them were gender police officers,31%(22) were social workers, 10%(7) children's officers, and 7%(5) were probation officers. This information implies that there were more 51% gender police officers as compared to the rest of the cadres of the officers, perhaps informed by the fact that they work more directly with the children. Furthermore, more gender police officer than the rest of the cadres were more involved in cases of child defilement in Kakamega County.

4.2.6 Distribution of the Respondents by Services Rendered to Abused Children

Respondents were asked to state the kind of services their organizations offered to the victims of child defilement. Physical services entail rescuing victims from the aggressors whereas 'other' services involve aftercare services. The results are presented in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6 Respondents' Services to Abused Children

Types of Service Offered	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Physical	4	6
Psychological/Counseling	7	10
Legal	31	44
Others (Treatment & aftercare services)	28	40
Total	70	100

Based on the above statistics, 44 %(31) of the respondents offered legal services, 44 %(28) offered 'other' services which entailed treatment and aftercare services among other services. There were also respondents who offered psychological services, accounting to 10 %(7) and those that offered physical services such as providing space for the victims of child defilement to stay for some time as they recovered from the trauma. This distribution is indicative of the fact that majority victims of child defilement may be in need of legal services for effective representation in courts. The legal services entailed professional advice or legal representation whenever the victims needed to proceed to courts of law to seek redress. Psychological service entailed counseling to help defilement victims to come to terms with what befell them or the ordeals encountered.

4.2.7 Respondents' Length of Service in their Work Stations

Respondents were asked to state the period they had served in their respective work stations. A summary of their responses is provided in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7 Respondents' Period Served in Work Stations

Length of Service in Present Station	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
1-5 years	43	61
6-10 years	17	24
11-15 years	4	6
Over 15 years	6	9
Total	70	100

As illustrated in Table 4.7, 61 % (43) of the respondents had worked in their respective stations for 1-5 years, 24 % (17) for 6-10 years, 9 % (6) for over 15 years and 6 % (4) for 11-15 years. The statistical distribution in Table 4.7 indicates that cumulatively 85 % (60) of the respondents had been in their respective work stations for between 1 and 10 years. This implies that majority of the officers had stayed in their work station long enough to understand issues revolving around child defilement in the area of study. This may further be a good indicator of the fact that the government was conscious of the general welfare of the children hence the regular reshuffling of the officers working in the children department. Arguably, shuffling of employees working in the children department was likely to inject new ideas and discourage too much familiarity with specific environments by the officers.

4.3 Prevalence of Child Defilement in Kakamega County

Respondents were asked to rate the prevalence of child defilement in their jurisdictions and give reasons for their perceived ratings. Their responses are captured in Table 4.8 below.

Table 4.8 Prevalence of Child Defilement

Prevalence of Child Defilement	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Very high	7	10
High	15	21
Moderate	18	26
Low	26	37
Very low	4	6
Total	70	100

Statistics in table 4.8 indicate that 37%(26) of the respondents reported that the incidences of child defilement were low, 26%(18)said they were moderate, 21%(15)said they were high, 10%(7) said they were very high, and 6%(4) indicated that the cases were very low. Based on this distribution, it can be argued that on average the rate of cases of child defilement in Kakamega was significant 31% enough to cause concern among all the child welfare officers in the area.

Some respondents who indicated that the prevalence of child defilement is high revealed that most cases go unreported and some cases are concealed during medical examination. Therefore, it is difficult to arrive at the real number of cases from the number of cases of child defilement that occurred. This was said by respondent No. 1 who said that:

The reported cases only represent a fraction of defilement cases in our county. Most of defilement cases that occur in the villages are rarely reported to the criminal justice Agencies, since majority of the families prefers to conceal the action for fear of stigmatization associated with defilement of a child. We cannot therefore, follow on such cases unless an official complaint is lodged.

Regarding the reasons for the incidences of child defilement cases in the area of study, frequency counts 60% the respondents reported that some of the parents or guardians had abdicated their parenting roles hence exposing their children to defilers. Furthermore, there were many cases where children fell victims to their close relatives including even their own parents, hence suggesting the high level of moral decadence in society. Poverty also played a significant role in contributing to incidences of child defilement, as poor children were likely to be enticed by defilers using food or other items which appeared appealing to the children. Given the high levels of poverty in the rural parts of the county, a significant proportion of children was not attending school, which rendered them idling around most of the time, thus, exposing them to defilement by mature men in the villages.

It was also reported by 49% of the respondents that some men in the area were jobless, alcohol and drug addicts; these being behaviours that predispose them to defile minors. Besides, the rampant cultural practice of taking children who are born out of wedlock to their biological fathers tend to expose children to poor parental care and/or child defilement. In some instances, the defilers turned out to be the victims' fathers or other close family members. In some cases, reported defilements, may be as high as 200 cases per week

Another significant finding was the gender of the children mostly defiled, who happened to be entirely girls. This revelation is a reflection of the danger that faces the girl child and the risks she is exposed to when it comes to the issue of defilement. The risks may not just end in defilement, but may involve the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted

diseases in the process, as well as the possibility of contracting early pregnancies, among other serious social and health risks. However, the gender bias in terms of defiled children may have been informed by the fact that cases of defilement were not readily and openly reported, perhaps due to societal expectations of the boy child to be more independent and less vulnerable compared to the girl child.

Respondents were also asked to state the age of the children at which defilement mostly occurred. These responses are presented in table 4.9. Below:

Table 4.9 Ages of Defiled Children

Age of Defiled Children	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
0-3 years	2	3
4-6 years	5	7
7-10 years	16	23
11-15 years	37	53
16-18 years	10	14
Total	70	100

Based on the statistics in table 4.9, majority 53 % (37) of the children defiled were aged 11-15 years and the least defiled were aged 0-3 years, which accounted for 3 % (2). Also at risk were children aged 7-10 years, where 23 % (16) of the respondents confirmed that this category was actually at high risks. Ten (14%) of the respondents indicated that children aged 16-18 years stood the risk of defilement while 7%(5) of them said that children aged 4-6 years were vulnerable to child defilers. Based on the distribution, cumulatively children aged between the age of 7 and 17 years were most vulnerable to child defilers, accounting for 76 % (53) of the total responses. This may be true given that it is at this age that most adolescent females begin to show some signs of sexual maturity and yet they are vulnerable in the sense that they may still be too weak to defend themselves against sex predators. Adolescents are also more vulnerable to defilement given that this is the age at which children become more adventurous. This makes them more likely to be attracted to the opposite sex, with the possibility of some of the men turning to be child defilers. This was well explained by respondent B2 who said that:

Adolescents are susceptible to defilement compared to other age groups because of their socialization habits brought about by digital platforms. Most of the complaints received so far regarding defilement originate from social media where most of the adolescents are active; their perpetrators have realized that it is easier to target them through social media platforms such as face book.

As in other previous studies, it emerged that majority children were defiled in their early ages. This revelation is consistent with the findings of a survey on child defilement by Childline Kenya (2017) which reported that 35% of children had been subjected to at least one incident of child defilement before they turned 18 years. Furthermore, like in this study where all the respondents opined that girls were the most common victims, a study by Rassi and Nyamu (2012) established that almost 100 percent of the sexually abused children were girls, with 90% of them being slum dwellers. The study further established that young girls, especially those from the slum or other poor backgrounds, were lured by money by men who ended up defiling them.

Another important question raised with the respondents was the location of defilement. This question was central to understanding the risky environments for young children so that they can avoid getting exposed to potential sex tormentors. The responses are summarized in table 4.10. Below:

Table 4.10 Location of Defilement

Where Majority of Children are Defiled	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
At home	48	69
In school	1	1
In playgrounds	3	4
Other places	18	26
Total	70	100

From the above statistics, 69 % (48) of the respondents indicated that majority defilements took place within the home/family environment. Other risky areas for the minors were ‘other’ areas’, which included but not limited to relatives’ houses, friends’ houses, social events such as ‘disco

matangas', prayer vigils (keshas) and birthday parties for friends and other close relatives. Playgrounds and schools registered the lowest defilement locations, accounting for 4 % (3) and 1 (1%) respectively. The revelations by these statistics suggests that the issue of child defilement was becoming more complicated given that the children were no longer safe even at home or any other respected places such as churches or mosques. It also meant that some of the close relatives ended up being the child defilers since naturally children would wholeheartedly trust any male relative around them. This further implied that child welfare officers and other stakeholders such as parents or guardians need to devise more effective ways of tackling this problem. This was emphasized by respondent A4 who observed that:

Majority defilements, especially of children under the age 10 occurs at their home or residential place. The perpetrators are mainly close family members, friends and relatives whom the parents have entrusted their children with.

The above findings are in tandem with what has been documented by previous studies. For instance, a study done by Ogude (2011) on the causes of child defilement in Kenya established that the majority defilers were closely related to the victims and in most cases are never reported to the authority for action to be taken. The author also noted that house-helpers, who may be grouped under 'other' in this study, also were perpetrators of child defilement. The study also indicated that some defiled minors choose to keep to themselves.

Contrary to common belief, homes are no longer safe havens for children, since it emerged in this study that 69% of the defilements took place at home. In fact, Cradle (2007) indicated that homes accounts for almost 75% of the contexts of defilement. This implies that the Kenyan child is not safe at home, in the community, or in school. A report by the Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC) and Childline Kenya (2013) stated that children under the age of 15 were abused mainly in Western Kenya by people of high social standing. Respondents were also asked to state the most common perpetrators of defilement in their respective areas. This question was important in identifying individuals who posed the greatest dangers to children, when it came to the question of child defilement. The results are presented here as follows:

Table 4.11 Perpetrators of Child Defilement

Perpetrators of Child Defilement	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Neighbors	36	51
Teachers	0	0
Religious leaders	2	3
Law enforcers	2	3
Close family members	19	27
Other persons	11	16
Total	70	100

Based on the statistics in table 4.11, the most common perpetrators of child defilement were neighbors, accounting for 51 % (36). Close family members were also notorious in defiling children, since they accounted for 27 % (19) of the respondents. There were also ‘other’ perpetrators who included guardians, friends to the children or friends to their parents, and strangers, who together accounted for 16 % (11). Religious leaders and law enforcers were ranked the least, with each accounting for 3 % (2) of the total responses. No respondent thought that teachers were responsible for child defilement. Although this might not be true, it was more likely that defilement by teachers may go unreported due to intimidation by the defilers, or due to fear that the teachers in question could fail the victims in class. Furthermore, neighbours and close family members easily won the trust of children thereby taking advantage of that trust to defile them.

These findings were a reflection of what previous empirical studies have indicated in terms of the common perpetrators of child defilement in society, where neighbours and close family members have often taken the lead. This is informed by the fact that children easily trust neighbours and close family members such as cousins and uncles who sometimes end up defiling them. The implication of this trend is that parents and guardians to children must be more vigilant and ensure that their children are not granted lots of freedom to mingle freely with neighbors or some relatives, without any caveats. In fact, respondent A4 observed that:

We have always suspected neighbors and close members especially fathers, uncles and cousins to be perpetrators of defilement. In fact, some fathers who have long separated and stay with their children turn to them for sexual satisfaction. Most parents have religiously entrusted the bodaboda men with their children to take them to and from school as the parents go to work and as a result, they end up defiling the children. This needs to stop as some of them take advantage and defile the children in this case both boys and girls.

Respondents were asked to state the age brackets of child defilers. This was critical for determining risky age categories so that the children can be guarded against such people. Table 4.12 Presents a summary of these responses.

Table 4.12 Age Bracket of Child Defilers

Age Bracket of Defilers	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
18-22 years	15	21
23-27 years	21	30
28-32 years	6	9
33-37 years	13	19
38 and above years	15	21
Total	70	100

The most common 30%(21) defilers were aged 23-27 years while the least were aged 28-32 years; a group which attracted 9%(6) responses of the totals. The age groups of 18-22 years and 38 & above years ranked second, with 21 %(15) responses each. These were followed by individuals aged 33-37 years, which attracted 19 %(13) responses. The relatively youthful ages of defilers may be explained by the fact that this group is composed mostly of persons with no regular economic activities, thus using most of their time idling around. This situation was likely to predispose them to defiling children and other criminal activities.

Respondents were also asked to indicate how many of the victims known to them, stayed with family members, volunteers, rescue centers, foster parents or guardians, or any other close member of the society. A summary of these responses is presented in table 4.13 below.

Table 4.13 Whom do the Victims of Defilement Stay with?

Whom Victims stay with	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Family member	33	47
Volunteers	5	7
Rescue center	3	4
Foster parent/ guardian	7	10
If any other persons (pastor, imam etc.)	22	31
Total	70	100

Based on the statistics on table 4.13 above, close to one-half 47 % (33) of the victims of defilement stayed with a family member. Furthermore, other trusted members of the society who were grouped under ‘other’ persons hosted 31% of the victims of defilement. These may be members of the clergy such as the pastors, padres, imams and other such people in religious leadership. The least popular avenue for seeking refuge for victims of defilement were rescue centers and volunteers, accounting for 4%(3) and 7%(5) of the responses respectively. The popularity of families or homes as safe havens for victims of defilement did not appear something out of the ordinary especially given that most children are defiled at home where they remain staying even after the incidences have become public and reports handed to law enforcement personnel. Religious leaders also offered solace to the victims including giving them temporary shelter.

4.4 Factors Contributing to Child Defilement in Kakamega County

Respondents were also asked for their opinions regarding some documented propositions on assumptions that contribute to child defilement. The results showed that there were several contributory factors to defilement of children in Kakamega County. However, the study picked on specific propositions on which the opinions of the respondents were sought. These bordered on the environment in which the child was raised, the socio-economic situation of the home where the child was brought up, parental care or the lack of it, issues of sex and sexuality, information from the people living with the child, and exposure of the child to sexual violence. The propositions also touched on the failure of caretakers of the children from reporting any

instances of defilement, so that appropriate actions can be taken in a timely manner, so as to discourage repeat of the same in future. The results are presented in table 4.14. Below:

Table 4.14 Factors that Contribute to Child Defilement

Statement	1= strongly disagree	2= disagree	3= neutral	4= Agree	5= strongly agree	Total
	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)	f (%)
A majority of defiled children come from poor family backgrounds	1 (1)	2 (3)	3 (4)	25 (36)	39 (56)	70 (100)
Children raised by single parents are mostly defiled	2 (3)	9 (13)	18 (26)	31 (44)	10 (14)	70 (100)
Parents have neglected their parental roles	4 (6)	2 (3)	13 (19)	25 (36)	26 (37)	70 (100)
Majority parents shy away from discussing reproductive health issues with their children, as they considered it a taboo topic	1 (1)	4 (6)	5 (7)	36 (51)	24 (34)	70 (100)
Children who witness sexual violence at home are at more risk of defilement	2 (3)	18 (26)	7 (10)	21 (30)	22 (31)	70 (100)
Children who spent most of their time with other children are least likely to be defiled	2 (3)	16 (23)	17 (24)	26 (37)	9 (13)	70 (100)
Girls are mainly perceived as a source of wealth/ income, hence likelihood of early marriages	10 (14)	18 (26)	20 (29)	11 (16)	11 (16)	70 (100)
The local community shy away from reporting defilement cases for fear of stigmatization or superstitious reasons	4 (6)	12 (17)	11 (16)	28 (40)	15 (21)	70 (100)
If any other, (identify and rank)	61 (87)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	8 (8)	70 (100)

From the statistics in table 4.14, 92 % (64) of the respondents agreed that majority of defiled children come from poor family backgrounds. A similar trend was reported to be the case among children raised by single parents, according to 58 % (41) of the respondents. Also, 73 % (51) of the respondents were of the view that parents have neglected their parental roles, thus exposing their children to sexual abuse. This may be attributed to the fact that some of the parents are too busy in their daily work to pay enough attention to their children. A similar leaning was observed regarding the proposition that communities and parents shy away from discussing sexual matters and reproductive health issues with their children, since they considered it a taboo. The attitude

therefore, exposes the young children to sexual abuses from people who were likely to take advantage of their ignorance on sexual matters and end up defiling them.

It also emerged that children who witness sexual violence at home are at more risk of being victims of defilement, as echoed by 61 %(43) of the respondents. Such children were likely to erroneously think that it is fashionable to engage in sex even at tender age. Also, children who spent most of their time with other children are least likely to be defiled, as echoed by 50 %(35) of the respondents. There were also some parents who encouraged their girl children to engage in sex with older men or even married them off in exchange for money. In this sense girls were viewed by their parents or guardians as a source of income hence standing higher risks of defilement through teenage marriages. Among those interviewed, 32 %(22) of them opined that young girls were being exposed by their parents to defilement by men who appeared to ‘buy’ the latter. Furthermore, 30 %(28) were not in agreement with this suggestion while 29 %(20) expressed neutral responses. Communities in Kakamega County are also thought to shy away from reporting defilement cases for fear of stigmatization and/or an ill omen befalling the family. This was more so, if the perpetrators were of a higher social standing in the society. In fact, 43 (52%) of the respondents agreed that this was actually happening, 23 %(16) denied while 16 %(11) of them neither agreed nor disagreed. The presence of neglect parenting style in Kakamega County is mostly influenced by high poverty level.

Some parents hardly have time with their children, as they are busy eking out a living while in other instances, some parents force their children to hawk which tends to expose them to sex pets. In fact, respondent No. D4 opined that:

Some parents have left their children under the care of their neighbors as they are unable to employ a caregiver and the neighbors have taken advantage to defile the children by luring them with sweets, drinks and chips. So, we advise parents to be careful with whoever their children are spending time with, since children tend to keep company with their fellow children and not adults.

4.5 Contribution of HIV/AIDS to Child Defilement

It also emerged that HIV and AIDS contributed to incidents of child defilement in this community. On a 5-point Likert scale, the respondents expressed varied views as follows:

Table 4.15 HIV/AIDS Contribution to Child Defilement

HIV/AIDS Contribution to Defilement	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Very high	14	20
High	12	17
Moderate	19	27
Low	12	17
Very low	13	19
Total	70	100

Based on the above statistics, 27 % (19) of the respondents opined that HIV/AIDS contribution to child defilement was to a moderate extent, 20 % (14) to a very high extent, 19 % (13) very low extent, and 17 % (12) each high and low extent. Generally, a significant proportion 37% of the respondents felt that HIV/AIDS contributed to child defilement. It was also reported that some HIV+ child defilers believed that having sex with children would lessen their viral effect hence this encouraged them to defile children. This was however the views expressed by the respondents but not scientifically proven fact. Respondent No.C1 said that:

Even though this culture and belief practices is common in South Africa, some of the Kenyan men have been practicing it especially among virgins. Since it is difficult to find a virgin over 18 years, the perpetrators tend to target young children with the hope of achieving negative HIV results.

4.6 Family Disintegration and Child Defilement

Respondents were asked to state the relationship between broken families and child defilement based on a 5-point Likert scale and the results were as follows:

Table 4.16 Relationship between Broken Families and Child Defilement

Broken Families & Child Defilement	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Very high	18	26
High	31	44
Moderate	15	21
Low	6	9
Total	70	100

Based on the responses in table 4.16, majority of the respondents 70% felt that the contribution of broken families to child defilement ranged from high to very high extent. Fifteen percent (21%) attributed it to a moderate extent, 9 % (6) to a low extent, and none of them (0%) thought that the effect was to a very low extent. From this distribution, generally a greater majority of the respondents, which accounted for 70 % (49), felt that broken families highly influenced child defilement. Children from broken families were left vulnerable, thus leaving them with no one to give them direction and shield them against defilers and other community members who may not have good intentions for them.

In most cases, defiled children without parental support are deprived materially and psychologically. Material aspects include sanitary towels, counseling services and proper socialization. These leaves victims more predisposed to seeking support from those who have the means. Who in turn are likely to lure the children into illicit sex, using monetary and/or fall prey to defilers due to material baits.

For purposes of getting clear and definite responses on the relationship between family relations and child defilement, a focus was also given on how family disintegration influenced child defilement. This situation contributed to children being defiled by members of the community who took advantage of the vulnerability of the victims. Based on varied domains on this factor, 60 % (42) of the respondents thought that family disintegration highly contributed to child defilement. Fifteen (21%) of the respondents said that the influence of family disintegration on

child defilement was to a moderate extent, 13%(9) said the influence was very high, 5%(4) was low while none of them thought that the influence was to a very low extent.

Regarding the kind of family/parental deprivations experienced by sexually defiled children, one of the Children Officers had the following to say:

A number of children who have been defiled end up being traumatized, with some of them even being stigmatized by their own parents and relatives. This kind of experience even makes some of the children to drop out of school and end up in the streets. Where the children have been defiled by a close family member or their own fathers, they end up distancing themselves from their perpetrators and this means that if it was the parent then the victim is not able to receive the care needed for effective healing process. Such children may continue to suffer psychologically for a long time.

In a general sense, family disintegration had a high influence on child defilement since respondents who considered it to be high and very high accounted for 73%(51) of the total responses. This was partly attributed to the fact that a number of families were headed by single parents such that, it was difficult for them to win bread and give proper advice to their young daughters whenever they were faced with issues of child defilement. The resultant confusion left the victims of defilement even more vulnerable as other older members of the communities were likely to lure them into further defilement in the guise of helping them.

It further emerged that broken families often tend to render children more vulnerable due to inadequate family care, thus exposing them to potential sexual abusers. According to the respondents, there were many cases where by the victims had been exposed to defilement due to parental separation.

4.7 Drug and Substance Abuse and Child Defilement

Respondents were asked to rate drug and substance abuse in their area. Based on a 5-point Likert scale, the responses are summarized in table 4.17. Below:

Table 4.17 Prevalence of Drug Abuse on Child Defilement

Prevalence of Drugs	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Very high	14	20
High	26	37
Moderate	21	30
Low	7	10
Very low	2	3
Total	70	100

From the analysis on Table 4.17, 57 % (40) of the respondents thought that the prevalence of drugs and substance in the area was high or very high, 30 % (21) moderate, 13 % (9) low or very. Regarding how exactly specific relationship between drug and substance abuse and child defilement in the community, it was reported that there were many drug peddlers and addicts who defiled children. Furthermore, bhang was commonly planted in the area, which made it easily available to criminals who defiled children. Some of the separated or divorced male parents also abused drugs in order to hide their sexual abuse to their children.

Respondents were asked to state the influence of specific drugs/substances on child defilement. This question was intended to gauge the extent to which some of the commonly abused drugs and substances influenced child defilement. These drugs included alcohol, bhang, glue sniffing, cocaine and narcotics, and others. A summary of the results is presented in table 4.18. Below:

Table 4.18 To what extent does each of the listed drugs influence Child Defilement

Types of Drugs	1= Very low	2= Low	3=neutra 1	4= High	5= Very high	Total
Alcohol	3 (4)	14 (20)	9 (13)	24 (34)	20 (29)	70 (100)
Bhang	7 (10)	4 (6)	19 (27)	24 (34)	16 (23)	70 (100)
Glue	35 (50)	15 (21)	11 (16)	4 (6)	5 (7)	70 (100)
Cocaine and narcotics	41 (59)	9 (13)	9 (13)	9 (13)	2 (3)	70 (100)
Other (specify)	70 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	70 (100)

Results on table 4.18 indicate that 63 %(44) of the respondents considered the contribution of alcohol abuse to child defilement to range from high to very high. However, 24 %(17) of them did not see it as a major factor. But 13 %(9) of the respondents not sure (neutral) if alcohol abuse let to child defilement. With regard to bhang majority of the respondents (57%) rated it from high to very high. On the other hand, majority of the respondents (71%) and 72%, respectively thought that sniffing glue, and use of cocaine and narcotics did not influence child defilers to commit the crime.

Generally, respondents indicated that drug and substance abuse highly contribute to child defilement in the sense that when parents or guardians got drunk, their moral inhibitions are lowered thus rendering children vulnerable to abuse from their otherwise responsible parents. Furthermore, while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs and substances, some parents take advantage of their children by abusing them sexually. To emphasize how specifically drug and substance abuse contribute to incidents of child defilement in the community, Thomas (not his real name) who is a Gender Police Officer, had this to say:

In the course of duty, we have encountered several cases where parents or close relatives defiled their own children or nieces when they are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, such as bhang. Cases have also been reported of parents or guardians who got drunk and forgot their responsibilities to the children they were taking care of. In such instances, children were likely to fall victim to defilement by neighbors or other rogue relatives because their caregivers did not play their parenting role appropriately. It is for such reasons that we always urge parents or caregivers to always try to be close to their children since it is the only way they can be able to understand what kind of dangers the children may be exposed to.

On a similar note, Margaret (not her real name), a Children Officer with over 10 years of experience in the Children Department, said the following regarding the relationship between drug and substance abuse and child defilement in Kakamega County:

There are several parents in this county who, out of desperation, have turned to drug and substance abuse. Some of them spend a good part of their time outside their homes drinking. When they return home from their drinking sprees, they

tend to abuse their children sexually. We have even received cases where some of these children have been impregnated by their fathers or elder brothers. This is actually a reality that too much indulging in alcohol and drug consumption predisposes parents and other adults to child defilement. We only wish that such behaviors could be avoided in order to address the root cause of child defilement.

4.8 Influence of Personal Factors on Child Defilement

Respondents were asked to explain the extent to which specific factors relating to personal circumstances contributed to child defilement. The factors included absence of moral inhibition, motivated perpetrator, drug and substance abuse, and absence of a caregiver among others. Based on a 5-point Likert scale, the results obtained from a 5- point Likert Scale measurement is summarized in table 4.19. Below:

Table 4.19 Extent to which Personal Factors Contribute to Child Defilement

Statement	1= Very Low	2= Low	3= neutral	4= High	5= Very High	Total
Absence of moral inhibition	2 (3)	2 (3)	26 (37)	26 (37)	14 (20)	70 (100)
Motivated perpetrator	9 (13)	7 (10)	12 (17)	28 (40)	14 (20)	70 (100)
Family history	15 (21)	14 (20)	26 (37)	10 (14)	5 (7)	70 (100)
Drug and substance abuse	2 (3)	4 (6)	26 (37)	14 (20)	24 (34)	70 (100)
Absence of a caregiver	3 (4)	6 (9)	4 (6)	28 (40)	29 (41)	70 (100)
If any other (identify and rank)	68 (97)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	0 (0)	70 (100)

Based on table 4.19 summary, 57% (40) of the respondents thought that the extent to which absence of moral inhibition contributed to child defilement ranged from high to very high, 37% (26) neutral, whereas 6% (4) did not think it was a contributing factor. According to them, in a society where there are few positive role models, children were likely to embrace vices such as stealing and prostitution, as virtues. Furthermore, 60 % (42) of those interviewed agreed that motivated perpetrators contributed to child defilement, while 23 % (16) of them disagreed. On the other hand, 17 % (12) of the respondents had a neutral stand regarding the influence of

motivated perpetrator on child defilement. Regarding family history, 41 %(29) of the respondents were of the view that this was not a serious influencer of child defilement. This meant that child defilement was not defined by family history but by family circumstances, such as poverty, absence of a caregiver, positive role model and abusive parents among others.

Drug and substance use was also viewed as a contributor to child defilement, with 54 %(38) of the respondents expressing this view. It was generally argued that some defilers subscribed to the superstitious belief or advice that having sex with minors would cure them from chronic diseases such as HIV/AIDS. Some of the perpetrators were motivated by the wrong assumption or belief that having sex with young children would pave their ways into wealth and greatness in society.

Regarding family history of the child, 35 %(29) of the respondents disagreed that this had any influence on child defilement while 37 %(26) held neutral grounds. Only 21 %(15) agreed that family history had anything to do with child defilement. However, some of the respondents observed that repeated cases of child defilement occurred in families that historically faced such challenges. Drug and substance abuse played a significant role on child defilement, with 54 %(38) agreeing with this account while 37 %(26) neither agreed nor disagreed. Only 9 %(6) of the respondents disagreed that drug and substance abuse did not influence child defilement in any way. The absence of a caregiver to the child was another factor that contributed to child defilement where 57 (81%) agreed with the question. Only 13 %(9) of the respondents disagreed with this question while 6 %(4) of them held neutral grounds. However, an overwhelming majority of respondents discounted the attribute of other factors as being contributors to child defilement.

Asked to state how exactly drug and substance abuse contributed to child defilement, the respondents said that drugs caused the defilers to lose any sense of shame and to see the children as mature women. Furthermore, children from poor family backgrounds were easily lured into sex by drug abusers whose libido was often heightened by the substance use. There was also the question of sex for gifts, which some of the drug abusers were well-known for. This was aggravated by the vulnerability of most children in rural areas especially given the absence of parents to protect and/or warn them to be wary of strangers who could easily take advantage of their vulnerable situation and end up defiling them. From the statistics on table 4.21, an

overwhelming percentage of children lacked mentorship and guidance from caregivers. This situation may have made the children more vulnerable to potential child defilers.

4.9 Impact of Socio-Cultural Factors on Child Defilement

Using a Likert scale, respondents were asked to give their opinions regarding various propositions touching on socio-cultural factors. These included teenage marriages, traditional belief systems, and assured cure of HIV/AIDS, among others, their responses are as summarized in the table 4.20. Below:

Table 4.20 Influence of Socio-Cultural Factors on Child Defilement

Extent to which child defilement is associated with socio-cultural factors	1= Very Low	2= Low	3= neutral	4= High	5= Very High	Total
Teenage marriages	11 (16)	15 (21)	8 (11)	23 (33)	13 (19)	70 (100)
Cultural rites of passage	15 (21)	7 (10)	30 (43)	13 (19)	5 (7)	70 (100)
Traditional belief system	9 (13)	14 (20)	16 (23)	23 (33)	8 (11)	70 (100)
Assured cure of HIV/AIDS	20 (29)	11 (16)	14 (20)	9 (13)	16 (23)	70 (100)
Other cultural factors	70 (100)	0 (0)	0 (0)	(0)	0 (0)	70 (100)

Teenage marriages emerged as one of the contributory factors to child defilement, given that the majority, 52 % (36) of the respondents considered its influence as high or very high. The reason being that: as teenagers experience changes in their bodies, they tend to rush into experiencing sex and early/teenage marriages as a means of satisfying their curiosity and actualizing their sexual desires. However, any marriage contracted with a minor- child below the age of 18 years, is illegal and is thus sanctioned as child defilement in Kenyan law. Unfortunately, these cases were common in Kakamega County, hence increasing cases of child defilement in the county.

Although cultural rites of passage also influenced child defilement, only 26 % (18) of the respondents saw it as a problem. This is related to instances whereby children may indulge in sex as proof of their maturity or adulthood. This may occur as a consequence of peer-pressure and/or

peer influence, where other children may push their friends to engage in early sex so as 'belong'. Despite the study findings indicating that this was not very common, some respondents actually indicated that this could be one of the major cause of defilement. There were instances whereby young girls 'offered' themselves to men to gain acceptance or status with their peers or friends. It is uncommon that peer influence also tend to drive some young adults to defile children as opined by respondent A 23 as follows:

Most of the young men found guilty of child defilement do admit that their friends influenced them to defile children and they have found themselves committing such crimes. One of them indicated that he drugged a 14-year girl before he defiled her due to peer pressure.

A similar trend was witnessed regarding traditional belief systems, with 44 %(21) of respondents conceding that this was actually a problem, though 33 %(23) did not think so. However, 23 %(16) were neutral. In this sense, a certain percentage of young girls are set apart for older men, which led them to engage in sex before the girls mature up. This meant that the girls were sexually abused in the name of fulfilling certain cultural demands. Hence, this counted as defilement since the children are usually underage. Regarding the belief that HIV/AIDS cure was associated with child defilement in Kakamega County, 45 %(31) of the respondents disagreed while 36 %(25) agreed and 20 %(14) were neutral in their responses. No other socio-cultural factors were associated with child defilement in the county. It however came out clearly that some confessions had been witnessed regarding cases of child defilement associated with 'healing' of HIV/AIDS.

4.10 Effect of Economic Factors on Child Defilement

Respondents were asked to state the extent to which specific economic factors contributed to child defilement in the county. This included poverty, unemployment, landlessness, and any other. On a 5-point Likert scale, the responses were summarized on table 4.21 below as follows.

Table 4.21 Influence of Economic Factors on Child Defilement

Statement	1= Very Low	2= Low	3= neutral	4= High	5= Very High	Total
Poverty influence child defilement	2 (3)	0 (0)	3 (4)	25 (36)	40 (57)	70 (100)
Unemployment influence child defilement	2 (3)	0 (0)	11 (16)	42 (60)	15 (21)	70 (100)
Landlessness influence child defilement	21 (30)	15 (21)	14 (20)	10 (14)	10 (14)	70 (100)
Other factors influence child defilement.	68 (97)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	70 (100)

Based on the findings on table 4.21, poverty and unemployment were the most popular economic factors that influenced child defilement in Kakamega County. 93% (Sixty-five) of the respondents agreed that poverty contributed to child defilement. Only 3 % (2) of the respondents disagreed, however, 4 % (3) were neutral. On unemployment, 81 % (57) of the respondents agreed that this was significant contributing factor while only 3 % (2) disagreed and 16 % (11) were neutral. Regarding landlessness however, 51 % (36) of the respondents disagreed, against 28 % (20) of them who agreed that this was a significant influencer of child defilement. Fourteen (20%) of the respondents were neutral. Regarding the relationship between child defilement and poverty and unemployment on the one hand, respondents had this to say about it, especially respondent No. A6 said that:

Majority of the girls were defiled due to poverty in their household. Causes of adolescents abandoning school and there after seeking employed as house helps led to most of them being defiled by husbands or sons of their bosses. Such cases are usually kept secret and the adolescents are threatened to silence.

Additionally, respondents indicated that high levels of poverty influenced early marriages among other related actions by children. On the issue of landlessness, they were of the view that congested in overcrowded slums increases the chances of lawlessness such as child defilement

incidences. Furthermore, landlessness causes families to be largely vulnerable and to lose their sense of identity and attachment thereby exposing children to defilers as people live in inadequate and/or congested housing. Important also to note is the fact that poverty and unemployment were two twin evils which exposed entire families to exploitation of all kinds ranging from economic to sexual ones.

4.11 Ability of Parents/Guardians to Cater for Defiled Children

Ordinarily, defiled children end up devastated, especially in circumstances where their parents or guardians are not in a position to meet their basic needs, including emotional necessities such as counseling and parental advice. Their basic needs were categorized as food, clothing, school fees, adequate shelter, parental or caregiver protection and other requirements. Based on a 5-point Likert scale, these responses are summarized in table 4.22 as follows:

Table 4.22 To what extent are Parents/Guardians’ able to Cater for Defiled Children’s Needs

Defiled Children’s Needs	1= Very Low	2= Low	3= neutral	4= High	5= Very high	Total
Food	11 (16)	3 (4)	21 (30)	18 (26)	17 (24)	70 (100)
Clothing	8 (11)	8 (11)	23 (33)	16 (23)	15 (21)	70 (100)
School Fees	15 (21)	8 (11)	16 (23)	14 (20)	17 (24)	70 (100)
Adequate Shelter	5 (7)	10 (14)	22 (31)	24 (34)	9 (13)	70 (100)
Parental/caregiver protection	11 (16)	6 (9)	14 (20)	15 (21)	24 (34)	70 (100)
Any other	68 (97)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	70 (100)

Based on the statistics in table 4.22 above, 50 % (35) of respondents agreed that the parents or guardians were able to meet the needs of defiled children in terms of food. 30% (Twenty-one) of those interviewed were neutral, neither agreeing nor disagreeing while 20 % (14) of them disagreed. On clothing, 44 % (31) of the respondents thought that the parents or guardians were able to meet these needs while 22 % (16) disagreed and 33 % (23) held neutral views. Regarding

school fees, 44 %(31) of the respondents agreed while 32 %(23) disagreed that parents or guardians were actually able to meet these needs for their defiled children. 23% (Sixteen) of the respondents did not agree or disagree with this view; they were neutral in their responses. About adequate shelter, 47 %(33) of the respondents agreed that parents/guardians were able to afford, 21 %(15) disagreed, while 31 %(22) were neutral in their responses. On parental/caregiver protection, 39 (55%) agreed, 25 %(17) disagreed, while 20 %(14) held neutral grounds.

To the extent that some parents and/or guardians were unable to provide for their children left the latter vulnerable hence likely to be influenced by child defilers through gifts, such as money, food clothing and ornaments. Some of the families due to socio-economic factors have found themselves unable to provide their children with basic needs especially foods. Some adolescents due to peer pressure and love for fashions especially clothing have exposed themselves to perpetrators of defilement. Further, lack of adequate shelter has been associated with child defilement cases. Respondent No. D4 had this to say about it:

One of the parents with whom am handling a child defilement case with, indicated that his space was limited, he requested a neighbor to offer her daughter shelter just to be defiled by the neighbor's son. The neighbor dismissed the allegations but medical reports proved otherwise.

4.12 Challenges Experienced by Victims of Defilement and their Families.

Respondents were asked if the victims of child defilement in Kakamega County faced any challenges, and all the respondents unanimously said yes. Furthermore, there were specific challenges that victims of child defilement encountered. The respondents indicated that one of the most common and serious challenge was the failure by the victims to launch legal claims with the authorities. Even those who initiate cases do not often pursue it to its logical conclusions due to intimidations or threats from suspects. Hence, the implanted fear ends up preventing the victim from seeking and/or attaining justice. In fact the majority (54%) child defilers were close family members who often pressurize the victims' parents or guardians to settle the matter out of court, is a further hindrance to the search for justice. In some instances, the perpetrators took advantage of the disadvantaged economic status of the victims' families by offering token to them to keep quiet, hence leaving the offence to just die out. In addition, rejection of the victims

by the community, loss of self-esteem, and lack of rescue centers to accommodate victims as they recover, presented enormous challenges to child defilement victims and their families.

Additionally, respondents indicated that some of the victims’ parents or guardians did not understand the intricate processes of the criminal justice system and this hindered them from reporting defilement cases to the relevant authorities or if they did, they sometimes failed to make follow-ups due to the complex and tiresome process of seeking justice. It also emerged that there were instances where witnesses withdrew from the cases and refused to testify in courts hence resulting in termination of majority cases of defilement. Some of the witnesses withdrew from testifying due to pressure from, or bribery by the defilers, or as a result of the victims’ parents or guardians compensating them for their time in lengthy court processes.

Besides giving respondents the freedom to state the types of challenges the victims of child defilement faced, they were also asked to give their opinions on specific propositions. They were asked to indicate the extent to which the victims of defilement experienced the challenges. Based on a 5-point Likert scale, the respondents were asked to give their opinions regarding propositions as presented in table 4.23. Below:

Table 4.23 To what extent do the Victims of Defilement encounter the following challenges

Statement	1= Very Low	2= Low	3= neutral	4= High	5= Very High	Total
Hostility from family, community and the police	3 (4)	9 (13)	21 (30)	28 (40)	9 (13)	70 (100)
Inefficient Legal system	11 (16)	8 (11)	18 (26)	20 (29)	13 (19)	70 (100)
Limited awareness about defilement	4 (6)	2 (3)	11 (16)	25 (36)	28 (40)	70 (100)
Lack of treatment and rehabilitation services	6 (9)	3 (4)	26 (37)	15 (21)	20 (29)	70 (100)
Other challenges	68 (97)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)	70 (100)

Hostility from family, community and/or the Police was one of the serious challenges encountered by victims of child defilement in Kakamega County. Among those interviewed, 53 %(37) of them agreed, 30 %(21) did not agree or disagree, while 17 %(12) disagreed that this was the case. Similarly, inefficient legal system contributed to the frustrations of the victims of child defilement in the county, where 48 %(33) agreed, 27 %(19) disagreed while 26 %(18) held neutral grounds. On the same note, limited awareness of defilement as being a criminal offence caused a major challenge to the victims of defilement. Among those interviewed, 76 %(53) agreed, 16 %(11) held neutral grounds and 9 %(7) disagreed that this was actually a big challenge.

Similarly, lack of treatment and rehabilitation services posed a serious challenge to the victims, with 35 (50%) of the respondents agreeing, 37 %(16) opting to remain neutral about it, whereas 13 %(9) did not see it as a major challenge. Thus, the implication of the above findings is reporting of defilement instances often depends on the circumstances families or victims found themselves. For instance, some of them decided to keep the matter to themselves for fear of admonitions by those around them. To put into clearer perspectives the challenges faced by victims of defilement, Komu (not his real name), a social worker who has worked in Kakamega County for more than 13 years, had the following to say:

A number of victims of child defilement have been adversely affected by this kind of crime for failure to report to the relevant government authorities so that the perpetrators can be apprehended to face the law. Without being apprehended as a warning to them, some of the perpetrators walking freely outside there sometimes continue to intimidate the victims and their family members, hence traumatizing them even more. This kind of trend makes it difficult for the government to get a lasting solution to child defilement.

4.13 Solutions to Child Defilement Problem

Despite a number of challenges that defiled children faced, there were services available for them to help them cope or seek redress. Some of these services included counseling services, legal representation and child protection units, legal rescue centers, gender recovery centers, as well as counseling services and foster care placements. These would enable the victims deal with

their psychological, legal, physical, and other needs that were instrumental in their recovery processes. However, inadequate services seemed to hamper efforts of effectively handling defilement cases.

Furthermore, there were mechanisms and strategies through which the child defilement menace could be controlled in the county. These include networking programs between stakeholders and the community; involving children in the fight against child defilement through sensitization initiatives; availing adequate facilities to all stakeholders to address the issue of child defilement, and expediting child defilement cases. In addition, there is need for aggressive awareness campaigns, proactive and faster legal systems.

It is also imperative to strengthen the existing legal services through capacity building of the officers tasked with preventing and prosecuting cases related to child defilement. Additionally, it was important to construct rescue centers which would allow proper investigation into defilement cases and ensure that defilers do not escape punishment through long and convoluted court process. As some of the common culprits in child defilement, the boda boda riders should be sensitized on the need to respect children rights by desisting from engaging in underage sex with young girls.

Most important however, is ending of the child defilement menace, which requires strict pursuance of defilement cases through thorough investigations where all key players are actively involved. Some of the respondents felt that instilling of high morals into the society through consistent and strict religious teachings would decisively end child defilement. This move will also increase the presence of role models from whom the children will learn to avoid underage sex. This would also be geared towards raising children to be God-fearing hence always following the righteous path of high morality. Total eradication of drugs and alcohol is also another way of dealing a permanent blow to the child defilement menace. Additionally, ending some of the cultural practices such as female genital circumcision (FGM) would help to keep children in check so that they do not long to have teenage sex in the belief that once they are circumcised, regardless of age, they are grown-ups entitled to have sex. Involvement of all community stakeholders in the fight against child sex is also the surest way of dealing with child defilement.

Findings by this study, largely and generally agree with those of other previous studies on the subject of child defilement. For instance, Mwiti (2006) admitted that fighting child defilement needed a holistic approach rather than institutions and individuals dealing with the menace singlehandedly. This is also the position advanced by UNICEF which advocates for all institutions to work harmoniously to end the problem of child defilement and other similar abuses meted on children. Even as the cases of child defilement continue to increase in most parts of the world, respectively societies should come to the realization that immediate family members are the common perpetrators of this vice, hence a more holistic approach is required to deal with the problem.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study, as well as suggestions for future studies. This is done in line with the objectives of the study, whereas recommendations and suggestions for future studies are based on the specific findings of the study.

This study set out to investigate the prevalence of child defilement in Kakamega County. Its specific study objectives were to assess the prevalence of child defilement, establish personal, socio-cultural, and economic factors that contribute to child defilement, ascertain the extent to which substance abuse; HIV/AIDS and family disintegration contribute to child defilement, and elicit suggestions for combating the social vice in the County.

5.2 Summary of the Findings

Key findings are summarized systematically as per the study objectives namely: personal, socio-cultural, and economic factors contributing to child defilement; influence of substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and family disintegration and suggestions for combating child defilement.

5.2.1 Prevalence of Child Defilement in Kakamega County

A significant proportion 37% of respondents was of the views that child defilement was prevalent in Kakamega, hence high enough to cause a great concern among all the child welfare officers. Some of the parents had abdicated their parenting roles hence exposing their children to defilers. High levels of poverty also played a significant role in contributing to incidences of child defilement as poor children were being enticed by defilers using food or other valuable items in exchange for sex. Alcoholism, drug abuse and joblessness among most men made them freely loiter around, thus posing high risks to minors as their defilers. Almost all victims of child defilement were girls, a reflection of the danger that faces the girl child and the risks she is exposed to when it comes to the issue of defilements.

Cumulatively, children aged 7 to 17 years were most vulnerable to child defilers, accounting for 76 %(53) of the total responses. From the statistics, 69 %(48) of the respondents indicated that majority child defilement cases took place at home, thus portraying the homestead as not a very secure place for children, as would be commonly believed. Further, statistics indicated that 51 %(36) child defilers were neighbors while 27 %(19) were family members.

5.2.2 Personal, Socio-Cultural, and Economic Factors Contributing to Child Defilement

Objective 2 of the study was to examine how personal, socio-cultural, and economic factors influenced child defilement. This meant that a child's economic, social and cultural predisposition greatly contributed his/her safety, or the lack of it.

Socio-cultural and Economic Factors

Based on the statistics, 92 %(64) of the respondents agreed that majority of defiled children come from poor family backgrounds. Similarly, children raised by single parents were mostly defiled, with 58 %(41) agreeing with this proposition. Also, 73 %(57) of the respondents agreed that the respective parents neglect their parental roles, hence exposing their young children to sexual abuse. A similar leaning was observed regarding the proposition that communities and parents shy away from discussing sexual reproductive health issues with their children, which they probably consider as a taboo subject. This tends to expose young children to sexual abuse from people who are likely to take advantage of their ignorance on sexual matters and end up defiling them.

Personal Factors

It also emerged that children who witness sexual violence at home are at more risk of being victims of defilement, with 61 %(43) of the respondents agreeing to this. It also turned out that children who spent most of their time with other children are least likely to be defiled, with 50%(35) of the respondents agreeing with the relevant proposition. Some parents also encouraged their young girls to engage in sex with older men or even marrying them off in exchange for money and/or assets. Accordingly, some youthful girls were being exposed by their parents to defilement by men who appeared to have money to 'buy' them for sex. It also emerged

that some parents/guardians possibly shy away from reporting defilement cases for fear that bad things might happen to them if they reported. This fear therefore exposed defilement victims to more suffering, both psychologically and socially.

5.2.3 Influence of Substance Abuse, HIV/AIDS and Family Disintegration on Child Defilement

Substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and family disintegration played a significant role on child defilement.

Substance Abuse

It emerged that there were many drug peddlers and alcohol dealers and addicts who defiled children when they were under the influence of the stuff. Furthermore, bhang was commonly planted in the area, which made it easily available to criminals who defiled children. Due to the influence of drugs and alcohol, some parents/guardians abdicated their parental responsibilities, thus exposing their children to child defilement. It also emerged that some parents and/or guardians were influenced by drugs and alcohol to defile their own children. Additionally, drugs caused the defilers to lose any sense of morality and saw the children as mature women.

HIV/AIDS

The study also revealed that some HIV+ child defilers believed that having sex with children would lessen their viral load, with 37% respondents having this opinion. Furthermore, broken families as a result of HIV/AIDS infections highly contributed to child defilement, as one parent was likely to be absent from the children's life. Material deprivations, such as lack of sanitary towels, lack of counseling services and proper socialization, left victims more predisposed thereby tempted to seek support from those who have the means, which exposed them to child defilement.

Family Disintegration

Teenagers growing up in broken families stood high risk of being defiled by some community members who took advantage of their vulnerability, with 43% respondents expressing this

opinion. Teenage marriage was one of the contributory factors for child defilement, since as teenage girls experienced changes in their bodies, they are likely to rush into experiencing sex and early/teenage marriages as a means of satisfying their curiosity and/or actualizing their sexual desires.

5.2.4 Suggestions for Combating Child Defilement

A number of mechanisms and strategies can help in combating child defilement. Some of these included enhanced counseling services, reliable legal avenues and establishment of child protection units, legal rescue centers, as well as gender recovery centers. These will enable victims deal with their psychological, legal, physical, and other needs that were instrumental in their recovery processes.

Other suggested mechanisms and strategies through which to deal with child defilement menace included networking programs by all community stakeholders, sensitization initiatives, and expediting child defilement court cases. In addition, there was need for aggressive awareness campaigns, proactive and faster legal systems for speedy legal justice. Capacity building of the officers tasked with preventing and prosecuting cases related to child defilement was also critical. Total eradication of drugs and alcohol was also another way of dealing a permanent blow to the child defilement menace. Additionally, ending some of the cultural practices such as female genital circumcision (FGM) would help to keep children in check so that they do not long to have teenage sex with the wrong thinking that once they are circumcised, regardless of age, that they are grown-ups entitled to have sex. Involvement of all community stakeholders in the fight against child sex was also the surest way of dealing with child defilement.

5.3 Conclusions

It was therefore, concluded that a concerted effort by all key stakeholders is essential to combating child defilement. The county government must therefore work closely with the national government in order to eradicate poverty which seems to be a contributor to child defilement. The findings also seem to suggest that substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and family disintegration were significant contributors to child defilement, hence the need for the

government to enhance its fight against poverty, alcohol and drug abuse as the root cause to the spread of HIV/AIDs and family break-ups.

5.4 Recommendations

Given the study findings and conclusions arrived at above, the study recommends as follows:

1. There is need for the County Children office to collaborate closely with the national government in order to focus more on the welfare of children and thus minimize cases of child defilement.
2. All key child welfare stakeholders, such as children's officers and gender police officers, should devise a holistic approach for combating child defilement, especially in rural areas where teenage sex is more rampant.
3. The county government should encourage sex education among young people in order to discourage them from engaging in careless sex which may predispose them to social dangers. Children's awareness of their sexuality will also enable them to know the importance of reporting instances of child defilement to the relevant authorities, thus facilitating prompt action against the perpetrators.
4. Since the Government already has formal mechanisms for defending the rights of children, it should work closely with the public so as to formulate and implement collaborative programs and strategies for eradicating child defilement from the community.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

The study identified the following as being areas for future research:

1. A large-scale study of the prevalence, causes, detection and eradication of child defilement should be conducted. This will give a more holistic pattern of the vice in the country.
2. A comparative study of factors influencing child defilement in the rural areas of Kenya.
3. A study on the effectiveness of multi-agency approach in addressing child defilement in Kenya. This will help to craft a holistic approach for addressing child defilement problem in the country.

4. A survey of child defilement incidence at the location and sublocation levels would assist in mapping out the hotspots and thus facilitate targeted deployment of resources for eradicating the social vice.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: Questionnaire for Social Workers, Probation, Children’s and Gender Police Officers.

I am Everlyne Kemunto Omari, a Masters student in Criminology and Social Order at the University of Nairobi. I am conducting a study on the problem of child defilement in Kakamega County. Kindly, note that any information you volunteer will remain confidential and will only be used for academic purposes. I would therefore, be very grateful if you spare a moment of your time and provide the information being sought. Kindly note that the information sought has to do with children who have been defiled by Adults.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

1. Respondents name (optional).....

2. Indicate your gender.

Male ()

Female ()

3. What is your age bracket?

20-30 years ()

31-40 years ()

41-50 years ()

Over 50 years ()

4. What is your highest education level?

KCPE ()

KCSE ()

Diploma ()

Bachelors ()

Masters ()

5. What is your job designation and description?

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6. What services does your organization/office provide to defiled children?

- A. Physical ()
- B. Psychological ()
- C. Legal ()
- D. If any others, specify.....

7. How long have you worked in your present work station (in years)?

PART A: MAGNITUDE OF CHILD DEFILEMENT.

8. In a 5-point Likert scale (where 1=very low, 2=low, 3=moderate, 4=high, and 5=very high), rate the prevalent of child defilement in your station/ area.

- (5) Very high ()
- (4) High ()
- (3) Moderate ()
- (2) Low ()
- (1) Very low ()

(ii) Give reasons for your rating.....

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9. How many cases of child defilement were reported in your police station/ area in the last one year----- in the last one Month.....?

10. What is the age group of children most defiled in your station/ area?

- a) 0-3 years
- b) 4-6years
- c) 7-10years

- d) 11-15years
- e) 16-18years

11. Where are the majority of the children defiled?

- a) At home
- b) In school
- c) In playgrounds
- d) Others (please specify)_____

12. Who are the most common perpetrators of defilement in this area?

- a) Neighbors ()
- b) Teachers ()
- c) Religious leaders ()
- d) Law enforcers ()
- e) Close family members ()
- f) If any others specify

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14. What is the age bracket of the defilers?

- a) 18-22
- b) 23-27

- c) 28-32
- d) 33-37
- e) 38 and above

15. How many of the victims known to you stay with the following?

- Family member
- Volunteers
- Rescue center
- Foster parent/ guardian
- If any other, specify.....

PART B: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CHILD DEFILEMENT IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY.

16. Indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

S/No.	Statement	Response					
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
a.	A majority of defiled children come from poor family backgrounds.						
b.	Children raised by single parents are mostly defiled.						
c.	Parents are neglecting their parental roles.						
d.	Communities and parents shy away from discussing sexual reproductive health with their children, considered a taboo						

S/No.	Statement	Response					
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
e.	Children who witness sexual violence at home are at more risk of being victims of defilement.						
f.	Children who spent most of their time with other children are least likely to be defiled.						
g.	Girls are seen as a source of income and young girls are given to old men as wives.						
h.	Communities in Kakamega County shy away from reporting defilement cases for fear that bad things might happen to them if they report.						
i.	If any other, (identify and rank)						

PART C: FAMILY DISINTEGRATION AND CHILD DEFILEMENT.

18. (i) To what extent are victims of defilement likely to come from broken families?

(5) Very high ()

(4) High ()

(3) Moderate ()

(2) Low ()

(1) Very low ()

(ii) What family/parental deprivations are experienced by sexually defiled children? (Explain).

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19. (i) To what extent is family disintegration to blame for child defilement ?

- (5) Very high ()
- (4) High ()
- (3) Moderate ()
- (2) Low ()
- (1) Very low ()

(ii) Give reasons for your rating.....

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22. How exactly, does drug and substance abuse contribute to incidents of child defilement in this community? (Explain).

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PART E: PERSONAL FACTORS AND CHILD DEFILEMENT.

23. (i) In a 5-point Likert scale where 1=very low, 2=low, 3=moderate, 4=high, and 5=very high, indicate the extent to which each of the following factors contribute to child defilement in this area?

Personal factor	1	2	3	4	5
Absence of moral inhibition					
Motivated perpetrator					
Family history					
Drug and substance abuse					
Absence of a caregiver					
If any other (identify and rank)					

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PART G: ECONOMIC FACTORS AND CHILD DEFILEMENT.

25. i) In a 5-point Likert scale (where 1=very low, 2=low, 3=moderate, 4=high, and 5=very high,) indicate the extent to which each of the following economic factors contribute to child defilement in this area?

Economic Factors	1	2	3	4	5
Poverty					
Unemployment					
Landlessness					
If any other (identify and rank)					

(ii) Explain each of your ranking above?

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(iii) Rank the factors from the highest to the lowest contributor to child defilement?

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26. In a 5-point Likert scale (**where 1=very low, 2=low, 3=moderate, 4=high, and 5=very high**), to what extent are the parents/guardians /caregivers of defiled children meeting their basic needs from their income?

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Food					
Clothing					
School fees					
Adequate shelter					
Parental/caregiver protection					

Lack of treatment and rehabilitation procedures					
Other (specify)					

28. What factors discourage victims/parents/ guardians from seeking child defilement protection services (explain)?

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29. What support programmes and services are available to victims of child defilement in this area (enumerate)?

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30. How can the defilement menace be controlled in this area (Explain)?

APPENDIX II: Krejcie & Morgan 1970 Sampling Table

Table 3.1									
<i>Table for Determining Sample Size of a Known Population</i>									
N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	346
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	354
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	170	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	180	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	190	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	200	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	370
65	56	210	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	220	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	230	144	550	226	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	240	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	250	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	260	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	254	2600	335	1000000	384

Note: N is Population Size; S is Sample Size *Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970*

Appendix III: Introduction Letter from the Department

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

INTERNAL MEMO

FROM: THE COORDINATOR, MODULE II PROGRAMME, SOCIOLOGY **DATE:** 12/8/2014

TO: Everlyne Kemonto Omari

REF: UON/CHSS/FA/SOC/ADM5 VL3

SUBJECT: ALLOCATION OF M.A. PROJECT SUPERVISORS

Through this memo and in response to your request, I wish to inform you that the Department has appointed **Dr. Chepkonga** as Supervisor for your M.A. Project Paper entitled; " **Factors contributing to child defilement at Gitari Marigu slum, Dandora Nairobi County**

You are advised to contact him immediately after the receipt of this memo to discuss the modalities of supervision as you write the paper.

Please note that you are expected to complete your paper within a minimum of one (1) semester and a maximum of two (2) semesters.

Thank you,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
13 AUG 2014
P. O. Box 30197,
NAIROBI

Mr. Allan Korongo
Coordinator, Module II Programme, Sociology.

C.c. Supervisor – Dr. Chepkonga

Appendix IV: Authorization From County Children's Officers



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Telegrams: "COUNTY CHILDREN"
Kakamega
Telephone: 0202037513/0726018528
Email: kakcountvchildren@gmail.com

COUNTY CHILDREN'S
OFFICE,
KAKAMEGA COUNTY,
P.O. BOX 689-50100,
KAKAMEGA

REF:KAK/CCC/ADMIN/1/35/(6)

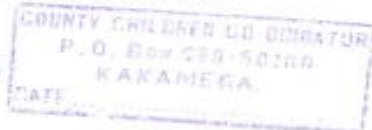
Date:17/ 10/2019

Everlyne Omari,
University of Nairobi,
P.O Box 30197,
Nairobi.

Ref: Research Authorization:

Following your request to be allowed to conduct the study and collect data/information required from various children officers in the sub counties of Kakamega County. You are therefor allowed to visit the said children officers in the sub counties and ask the officers to accord you the necessary cooperation.


Masika R Wasike,
County Coordinator,
Children Services,
Kakamega.



Appendix V: Authorization Letter from University of Nairobi to Collect Data



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY & SOCIAL WORK

Fax 254-2-245566
Telex 22095
Varsity Nairobi Kenya
Tel. 318262/5 Ext. 28167

P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi
Kenya
Email: dept-sociology@uonbi.ac.ke

October 1, 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: OMARI KEMUNTO EVERLYNE - C50/73643/2012

Through this letter, I wish to confirm that the above named is a bonafide postgraduate student at the Department of Sociology & Social Work, University of Nairobi. She has presented her project proposal entitled; "Factors Contributing to Child Defilement in Kakamega County."




Everlyne is required to collect data pertaining to the research problem from the selected organization to enable her complete her thesis which is a requirement of the Masters degree.

Kindly give her any assistance she may need.

Thank you.


Prof. C.B.K. Nzioka
Chairman, Department of Sociology & Social Work

Appendix VI: Research Permit

 REPUBLIC OF KENYA	 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Ref No: 896819	Date of Issue: 10/October/2019
RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
<p>This is to Certify that Miss., Everlyne Omari of University of Nairobi, has been licensed to conduct research in Kakamega on the topic: FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CHILD DEFILEMENT IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY for the period ending : 10/October/2020.</p>	
License No: NACOSTI/P/19/2051	
896819 Applicant Identification Number	 Director General NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
	Verification QR Code 
<p>NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.</p>	

Appendix VII: Authorization Letter from County Commissioner, Kakamega County

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**THE PRESIDENCY
INTERIOR AND CO-ORDINATION OF
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

Telegrams "DISTRICTER" Kakamega
Telephone 056 -31131
Fax 056 - 31133
Email: cckakamega12@yahoo.com
When replying please quote

COUNTY COMMISSIONER
KAKAMEGA
P O BOX 43 - 50100
KAKAMEGA.

Ref: ED/12/1/VOL.IV/21

Date: 14/10/2019

**EVERLYNE OMARI
UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
P O BOX 30197
NAIROBI**

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your authorization vide letter Ref: NACOSTI/P/19/2051 dated 10th October, 2019 by NACOSTI to undertake research on "*Factors Contributing to Child Defilement in Kakamega County.*"

I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to carry out the research on the same.


COUNTY COMMISSIONER
KAKAMEGA COUNTY
V. CHERONO
FOR: COUNTY COMMISSIONER
KAKAMEGA COUNTY

Appendix VIII: Authorization Letter from County Probation Officer, Kakamega County

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND CO-ORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
PROBATION AND AFTERCARE SERVICE**

Website: probation.go.ke
E-mail: Kakamega.county@probation.go.ke

COUNTY PROBATION OFFICE
P. O. Box 244-50100
KAKAMEGA.

When replying please quote

Ref: No. PS/11/3/Vol.I/3

Date: 18th October 2019

To All Officers in-charge of Probation Stations
KAKAMEGA COUNTY

RE: REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH BY MISS EVERLYNE K. OMARI

The above named is a student at the University of Nairobi undertaking a Masters Degree in Criminology and Social Order.

As part of the requirements for completion of her degree programme, she is required to prepare a research project.

Officers working in your stations have been identified as respondents in her study. You are hereby asked to allow her to collect data in your stations between now and 26th October 2019. Provide her with all the necessary support in this regard.


COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PROBATION,
KAKAMEGA.
KENNEDY ACHUNGO
COUNTY PROBATION DIRECTOR
WESTERN REGION.

Appendix IX: Letter of Conduct Research from County Director Education, Kakamega County

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KAKAMEGA**



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Telephone: 056 31125
E-mail: pdmswestern@gmail.com
Website : www.kakamega.go.ke
When replying please quote
Ref : CGK/MOH/CDH/1/9/441

**THE COUNTY DIRECTOR
P O BOX 2309- 50100
KAKAMEGA**

DATE:16th OCTOBER, 2019

To
The Medical Superintendents,
Kakamega County

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION – FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CHILD DEFILEMENT IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY

Miss. Everlyne Kemunto, of Nairobi University University, Department of Sociology undertaking a Master's degree course in Criminology and Social Order, is hereby approved by the County Department of Health Services to carry out the aforementioned Research. This is following NACOSTI authorization license no. NACOSTI/P/19/2051 dated 10th October, 2019.

She is instructed to remain within the confines of the Research Protocol as has been underscored in the ethical approval. She is to submit an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to the County Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator, Department of Health Services, Kakamega County.

Kindly accord her the necessary assistance she carries out the research.

Thank you

Dr. John Tolo Boston Otieno,
County Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Co-ordinator,
Department of Health Services,
KAKAMEGA COUNTY.



Appendix X: Authorization Letter from Sub County Commander, Kakamega

KENYA POLICE SERVICE

Telegrams: "POLICE"
Telephone: 05631486 EXT 351
When replying please quote
Ref. C/GEN/6/11/VOL.VI/30



SUB COUNTY POLICE HQRS
P. O. BOX 23-50100,
KAKAMEGA

DATE 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

NO.235528 IP/W Everlyne Kemunto Omari

The Officer Commanding Police Station,
P.O. BOX 23 – 50100,
KAKAMEGA.

RE: REQUEST TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

Reference is made to your letter dated 3RD September, 2020 on the above matter.

Please be informed that your request to conduct research and collect data from police officers has been approved. Ensure the research work does not interfere with the smooth running of your office.

County Commander Kakamega letter C/GEN/6/11/VOL.II/118 dated 8th September, 2020 refers.


CHARLES WALUMBE
FOR :SUBCOUNTYPOL KAKAMEGA CENTRAL

Appendix XI: Authorization Letter from County Director of Education, Kakamega County

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING AND BASIC EDUCATION

Telephone: 056 -30411

Fax: 056 – 31307

E-mail: rceducation2016@gmail.com

When replying please quote our Ref.

County Director of Education

Kakamega County

P. O. BOX 137 - 50100

KAKAMEGA

REF: WP/GA/29/17/VOL.V/58

16th October, 2019

Everlyne Omari

University of Nairobi

P. O. Box 30197 - 00200

NAIROBI

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

The above has been granted permission by National Council for Science & Technology vide letter Ref. NACOSTI/P/19/2051/221583 dated 10th October, 2019 to carry out research on "**Factors contributing to child defilement in Kakamega County, Kenya**" for a period ending 10th October, 2020.

Please accord her any necessary assistance she may require.

DICKSON O. OGONYA
COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
KAKAMEGA COUNTY



CC

The Regional Director of Education

WESTERN REGION