

CAUSES OF CHILD NEGLECT AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN MARIGAT SUB COUNTY, KENYA AND IT'S COUNSELLING IMPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

Child neglect is a major issue and a global phenomenon affecting both developed and developing countries. In 2016, statistics from Marigat Sub County in Kenya showed rising cases of child neglect in various schools. This alarming rise in neglect has forced hundreds of girls to drop out of their school. This has prompted the leadership of Marigat Sub County into a discussion over the causes of child neglect. The purpose of this study was to establish the causes of child neglect primary schools in Marigat Sub County, Baringo County and counselling implication. The study used ex-post facto research design. Questionnaires were used to The population under study was 12,202, comprising 101 head teachers, 101 heads of counselling department, 6,456 parents and 6,240 pupils from 101 participating schools. A sample size of 384 respondents was selected from head teachers, head of counseling, pupils and parents. The sub county was categorized into three (3) regions where 90 schools were selected by stratified sampling. The total sample size was 384 respondents comprising of 90 Head teachers were chosen by simple random sampling and 90 heads of counselling department were chosen using purposive sampling from the selected schools and 102 pupils were selected by simple random sampling and 102 parents were also selected by simple random sampling. The study employed questionnaires to collect data. The validity of the research instruments was verified by the supervisors and lecturers from the Department of Psychology, Counselling and Education Foundations whose opinion and suggestion were incorporated in improving the instrument. Pilot study was done in nine (9) primary schools and 10 parents from one (1) division in Samburu County where Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient of 0.78, 0.73, 0.77 and 0.75 for questionnaires for Head teachers, head of counselling department, parents and class seven pupils was attained and accepted for it is within the recommended level. The data generated by the study was analysed using descriptive statistics namely frequencies, means and percentages and Inferential statistics. t-test was used to test for the hypotheses set at $\alpha = .05$. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 24 was utilised in data analysis. The study established that children who lacked parental care were likely to be exposed to situations that can compromise them into engaging in sexual activity leading to teenage pregnancy. It also established that knowledge acquired from guidance and counselling can be used as a teenage pregnancy preventative measure. The study recommended that both National and County Governments should create public awareness and educate parents, guardians and caregivers to firmly take charge of the custody of their children while at home and protect them from sexual abuse, sexual harassment and teenage pregnancies. Parents and guardian should guarantee the safety and health of their children while at home.

KEY WORDS: neglect, child neglect, pupils, , teachers, counselling.

Introduction

Globally, reported cases by WHO (2010) of parental child neglect are between 25-50% of all children below eighteen years. According to the statistics, it is evident that child neglect is an imminent global catastrophe. WHO also established that most female children who face neglect at childhood are likely to fall victim of the teenage pregnancy and the risk of teenage pregnancy rises with the number of adverse childhood experiences. The survival of the girls majorly depends on the government protection and also the parental care and protection by ensuring that they have a high standard of sanitation, nutrition, childcare and preventive care as indicated by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF, 2012). It is a legal requirement for all children to acquire education. The equality in education has never been achieved because of increased drop out for the girl child as a result of the early teenage pregnancy and several studies indicate that the girl child is at risk of several types of violence/abuse, negligence and exploitation (UNESCO, 2012). As a child, they require nurture from their parents/ guardian or caregivers. Parental care is required in ensuring that the girl child grows with care and protection. The girl child has several demands which need attention from the parents in order to meet them. In meeting the girl child needs one need to have personal, social and economic resources. It is always challenging to become a parent when you have not attained the adult abilities and the necessary requirements. The teenagers have problems when they get pregnant at younger age since they haven't attained certain necessary skills which ensure that the child has comfortable lives. Early parenthood drains the resources of the extended families and the larger society because it requires constant assistance from other people within the society (Kristin, Brent & Connie, 2010).

A study from Smith, Romero and Alonzo (2009) discussed the relation between quality life for the children between 0 to 5years and the finding indicated that there is a correlation between being born to teen parent and quality of life. The child experiences actual abuse acts. The acts include physical, psychological or sexual acts. These acts have direct impacts to the child and it can affect the thinking pattern of the child, lead to emotional disturbances, and can be the cause of the child's stress (Briere & Elliott, 2012; Homma, 2012). The disturbance to the child can lead to relationship difficulties hence leading to having unprotected sex with results to adolescence pregnancy (Briere and et al, 2012).

According to the research conducted by the U.S. Department of Human services (USDHS) (2008), it was found that parents/guardian or caregiver who neglect, have no consistent character trait or personality attached to them. Some of the characters identified from the parents/caregivers or guardians who neglect include low self-esteem, internal believe (that any occurrence of behaviour is determined by external forces which are beyond a person's control), depression and anxiety. The study from USDHS (2008) stated that effective program which helps in preventing teenage pregnancy is the preventive program.

USDHS (2008) argued that for the world to succeed in fighting against the early pregnancy there must be the use of expert and shareholders in education, health and preventive working which leads to capable youth who are able to make safe decisions. According to USDHS there is a need to identifying and establishing a strategic plan which makes the society and the community participate in ensuring that the teenage pregnancy is reduced in the community and aligning programming efforts with those outlined as national best practices in prevention methods and outreach. USDHS argued that the rising of the child is the responsibility of the community as a whole. Also, the community is always responsible for ensuring that there is a change in the negative thoughts about

the minor. USDHS argued also that there was a need to publicize the preventive and reactive message to all fonts since it helps the communities in ensuring that the children are prevented from early pregnancy and be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions.

Statement of the Problem

There is an increasing rate of the girl's dropout in schools every year in Kenyan schools. In Marigat Sub County of Baringo County, there has been a disturbing rise in child neglect, leading to an outcry by the number of girls dropping out of school. This has raised concern among the stakeholders of the Sub County such as Education Ministry, World Vision (sponsor), parents, teachers, politicians and religious leaders into raising concern over possible causes of teenage pregnancy in Marigat Sub County. Thus, there is a need for the study he causes of child neglect among girls in primary schools of Marigat, Baringo County and its counselling implication. This will give the girl an opportunity to maximize her potential in contributing positively to family and national development.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to establish the causes of child neglect among girls in primary schools in Marigat, Baringo County, Kenya and its counselling implication.

Objective of the Study

To establish the causes of child neglect among girls in primary schools in Marigat Sub County, Baringo County, Kenya

Research Questions

The study answered the questions; what are the causes of child neglect among girls in primary schools in Marigat Sub County, Baringo County, Kenya?

Review of Related Literature

Globally, reported cases by WHO (2010) of parental child neglect are between 25-50% of all children below eighteen years. According to the statistics child neglect is an imminent global catastrophe. WHO also established that most female children who face neglect at childhood are likely to fall victim of the teenage pregnancy and the risk of teenage pregnancy rises with the number of adverse childhood experiences. The survival of the girls majorly depends on the government protection and also the parental care and protection by ensuring that they have a high standard of sanitation, nutrition, childcare and preventive care as indicated by United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF, 2012). It is a legal requirement for all children to acquire education. The equality in education has never been achieved because of increased drop out for the girl child as a result of the early teenage pregnancy and several studies indicate that the girl child is at risk of several types of violence/abuse, negligence and exploitation (UNESCO, 2012). As a child, they require nurture from their parents/ guardian or caregivers. Parental care is required in ensuring that the girl child grows with care and protection. The girl child has several demands which need attention from the parents in order to meet them. In meeting the girl child needs one need to have personal, social and economic resources. It is always challenging to become a parent when you have not attained the adult abilities and the necessary requirements. The teenagers have problems when they get pregnant at younger age since they haven't attained certain necessary skills which ensure that the child has comfortable lives. Early parenthood drains the

resources of the extended families and the larger society because it requires constant assistance from other people within the society (Kristin, Brent & Connie, 2010).

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Causes of Child Neglect

Poverty act as a strong indicator of neglect compared to physical abuse (Reid, 2005). Drawing heavily from sociological theories explaining the causes and effects of intergenerational poverty, postulates that poverty-induced stress can cause parents to be overwhelmed and unable to materially or emotionally cater for their children (Schumaker, 2012). There is a strong connection between poverty and child neglect. Several types of research have been conducted concerning the parenting characteristics and some shows that there are no links between the hardship as a result of poverty and child neglect (Yoo & Bolger, 2004). However, the environmental model largely avoids the complex parental psychological and interpersonal factors often associated with neglect, including childhood trauma, substance abuse, cognitive deficits, and mental health concerns (Smith & Fong, 2004).

Conceptual Framework

The establishment of causes of child neglect in areas such as education, emotion, social, physical, psychological and economic provision lead to poor brain development, poor social development, poor dressing, lack of inclusion, a feeling of rejection, and lack of money and hence lack of sanitary towel. This results in poor academic performance in school which pressures children to drop out of school. Other children compensate this by engaging on attention seeking behaviours which are likely for them to engage in sexual high-risk behaviours. A child, who continuously performs poorly in school, will tend to seek self-esteem and attention elsewhere. This causes distress and mental disturbance, forcing the child to react in a way so as to ease the distress by minimizing distress by looking for love, acceptance, inclusion and approval.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study adopted the *ex-post facto* research design. Onwumere (2009) describes the *ex-post facto* research design as a design which involves the use of data, or variables, which the researcher cannot

change or manipulate. Iwueze (2009) explained that it involves the use of available data to explain past events by identifying the extent to which the data relate to the events. It is a standard experimental method of most scientific discipline, particularly the social sciences, education, and economics. Fraenkel and Wallen (2006) describes the *ex-post facto* research design as the best approach which helps in determination of relationships which have already occurred and the researcher cannot manipulated them directly. This study established the causes of child neglect among girls in upper primary schools in Marigat sub- County, Kenya

Location of Study

Marigat sub-county is Located in Baringo county. It lies between Latitudes 000 13"North and 010 40" North and Longitudes 350 36" and 360 30" East. The sub-county is made up of arid, semi-arid and the upper fertile land of Mochongoi division (GoK, 2009). It borders Baringo Central to the west, Baringo East and Laikipia to the East, Baringo North to the North and Mogotio to the South. Marigat is inhabited by the Tugen mainly from the upper regions such as south, southeast and southwest, the Njemps (Ilchamus) mainly from the lowlands and Pokot communities to the west who are mainly pastoralists. Marigat Sub County has a total of 101 public primary schools spread across the arid lands where majority of the parents are pastoralists and thus keep moving in search for pasture and water for their livestock leaving behind their children as they go herding their cattle in the vast region of the Sub County, hence failing to take their parental responsibility making. The area is rich in information on child neglect and teenage pregnancy, making it suitable for a research area. Marigat Sub County has three Divisions namely Marigat, Mochongoi Mukutani Divisions, with a total population of 109,760.

Population of the Study

Kothari (2004) defined the term target population as the whole population where the sample used in the study is drawn and the finding of the study is generalized. Also the study from Tromp and Kombo (2006) defined target population as accessible number of the targeted population from where a researcher seeks to select a sample for the study. The target population in this study comprised 101 Head teachers, 101 heads of counselling department, 6,240 pupils and 6,456 parents (GOK, 2009).

3.5 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

Schools in the Marigat Sub County were categorized into three regions based on the regional boundary. These three regions are namely Marigat, Mochongoi and Mukutani divisions.

To arrive at the sample size, the study applied the Cochran formula suggested by Gall et al., (2007) and successfully used by Mugenda and Mugenda (2009):

$$n = \frac{Z^2 Pq}{d^2}$$

Where;

n=is the desired sample size when the target population is greater than 10,000;

Z = the standard normal deviation at the required confidence level of 95%;

P= probability of success;

q = (1-p) probability of failure;

d= is the degree of accuracy required (in this case it set at 5 per cent)

Therefore: **n** = (1.96)²*(0.5) *(0.5)/0.05*0.05

n =384

Thus, the total sample size was 384 respondents as shown in Table 1

**Table 1:
Sample Size of Respondents**

Region	No. Schools	Sample schools	Head teachers	Head of counselling	Pupils	Parents
Marigat	50	44	44	44	48	47
Mochongoi	36	33	33	33	34	37
Mukutani	14	13	13	13	20	18
Total	101	90	90	90	102	102

Source: Ministry of Education Marigat Sub- County (2018).

Simple random sampling method was used to select the sample from pupils and parents from targeted schools selected by random sampling method in the sub county, targeting all primary schools (public and private schools), While Head teachers and head of counseling department were chosen using purposive sampling method from schools selected. According to Kothari (2004), the main factor considered in determining the sample size is to keep it manageable with a minimum amount of research effort. This enables the researcher to obtain detailed data at affordable costs in terms of resource, time and finances. In the views of Tromp and Kombo (2004) a suitable sample size is a representative of the target population in major characteristics. The larger the sample, the more representative it is to the target population. The Krejcie and Morgan formula (table with generated figures) (1976) was used to select 90 Head Teachers, 90 heads of counseling department, 102 class seven pupils and 102 parents from the Marigat Sub County making a total sample size of 384 respondents

Instrumentation

Questionnaires were developed which entailed demographic characteristics of respondents and causes of child neglect. The instruments were administered to head teachers, heads of counselling department, parents/ guardians and class seven pupils.

Validity of the Research Instrument

According to Mugenda and Mugenda, (1999) validity answers the question: whether the findings are true. The validity of the instruments was verified by supervisors and experts from the Department of Psychology, Counselling and Education foundation who are the authorities in the area of study.

Reliability of the Research Instruments

Questionnaires were developed, and piloted in nine (9) primary schools in Samburu County which had similar characteristics as those in Marigat Sub County. The pre-test sample was 10% of the sample size as suggested by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003). Nine (9) head teachers, Nine (9) heads of department, 10 pupils and 10 parents/ guardians were in the pre-test sample. Internal consistency of the questionnaires were tested and the calculated Cronbach's alpha Reliability coefficient was 0.78, 0.73, 0.77 and 0.75 for questionnaires for Head teachers, head of counselling department, class seven pupils and parents/guardians respectively.

Data Collection Procedure

An introductory letter was collected after approved by the university Board of Postgraduate Studies which was used as evidence for appropriately going through the procedure and method of doing research which was then submitted to National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI where a research permit was issued. Research permission was then obtained from Baringo County Commissioner through the County Director of Education to conduct research in Marigat Sub County. The County Director of Education wrote an introductory letter to Head Teachers of the schools under study, to allow the researcher to conduct research. Questionnaires were administered to Head teachers, Heads of counselling department, class seven pupils and parents guardians at a specified time within the same period. The questionnaires were collected and assembled for analysis by the researcher.

Data Analysis

Information obtained was collected, sorted, classified, coded and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 24 computer programme .Data was presented in descriptive form (frequencies and percentages) and inferential statistic (t-test) at $\alpha = .05$ was used to test the relationship between the study variables as to establish whether there was any relationship between child neglect and teenage pregnancy among girls in primary schools of Marigat Sub County, Baringo County, Kenya and also to establish whether counselling among girls had any significant influence on teenage pregnancy among girls in upper primary school in Marigat Sub County.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

This section presents analysed data, interpreted findings, discussed the findings and made inferences based on the study findings presented.

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The individual factors examined in the study included gender and age group of all the respondents. Pupils were also requested to indicate the type of school they attended.

Gender of the Respondents

The study respondents were pupils, parents, head teachers and school counsellors who provided information on the causes of child neglect in primary schools in Marigat sub county, Kenya, and its counselling implication.

The study involved 384 respondents, both male and female as presented on Table 2

Table 2:
General Information of the Respondents

Type of respondent	Male	Female	Total
Pupils	30	72	102
Parents	49	53	102
Head teachers	87	3	90
School counsellors	43	47	90
Total	209(54.43%)	175 (45.57%)	384 (100%)

(N=384)

Table 2 shows the gender of respondents as 209 male and 175 female, representing 54.43% and 45.57% of the sample size respectively. Only three female head teachers filled the questionnaire as they were the only female teacher promoted to headship.

Age of the Respondents

Understanding causes of child neglect requires knowledge of the ages of target populations. The age of the Respondents are presented in Table 3

**Table 3:
The Age Group of Respondents in the Study**

Age group	Frequency per each category				Total	Percentage (%)
	Counsellors	Pupils	Head teachers	Parents		
11-15 years	0	76	0	0	76	19.79%
16-21 years	0	26	0	0	26	6.77%
22-30 years	20	0	0	35	55	15.06%
31-40 years	35	0	37	24	96	24.74%
41-50 years	25	0	26	29	80	21.61%
51 years and above	10	0	27	14	51	13.28%
Total	90	102	90	102	384	100%

N=384

Table 3 shows respondents of different age groups, ranging between 11 years old to above 51 years of age. This included pupils, representing adolescents, who were the main target group of this study. The study also incorporated adults out of the 384 respondents, out of the total respondents, 102 of them were pupils, representing 27.4% of the sample size. The 102 pupils included 30 males and 72 females. They were aged between 11 to 21 years, in which 76 pupils of them were between 11-15 years and 26 pupils were aged 16-21 years representing 6.77%. About 102 parents chosen randomly were interviewed. The male parents were 49 while female parents were 41, representing a proportion of 54.43% and 45.57% respectively. Parents who participated in the study were aged between 22 and above 51 years of age. The majority (35 of them), were between the age of 22-30 years (these were guardians of the pupils who were left with the responsibility for these children after their parents died or some are children of parents with drug issues), followed by the age group between 41-50 years, who were 29 of them. About 24 of the parents were aged between 31-40 years while 14 parents were aged 51 years and above.

Head teachers and school counsellors were also interviewed in this study. They consisted of 87 male head teachers and 43 male counsellors. The female head teachers were three (3), while the female counsellors were 47. The head teachers and school counsellor were within the age bracket of 26 to 51 years. There were 20 school counsellors within the age bracket of 22-30 years, while 35 of them were in the age bracket of 31-40 years. Between 41-50 years, there were 25 school counsellors and 26 school heads. Majority of the school heads and school counsellor were in the age bracket of 31-40 years, accounting of 35 and 37 respectively. In the age between 41-50 years, 25 school counsellors and 26 school head teachers were involved in the study while another 10 counsellors and 27 heads were 50 years and above.

Type of School Attended

The type of school the pupil's respondents attend was an important consideration as this would help understand the influence on child neglect. Figure 2 illustrates the type of schools the pupil respondents attended.

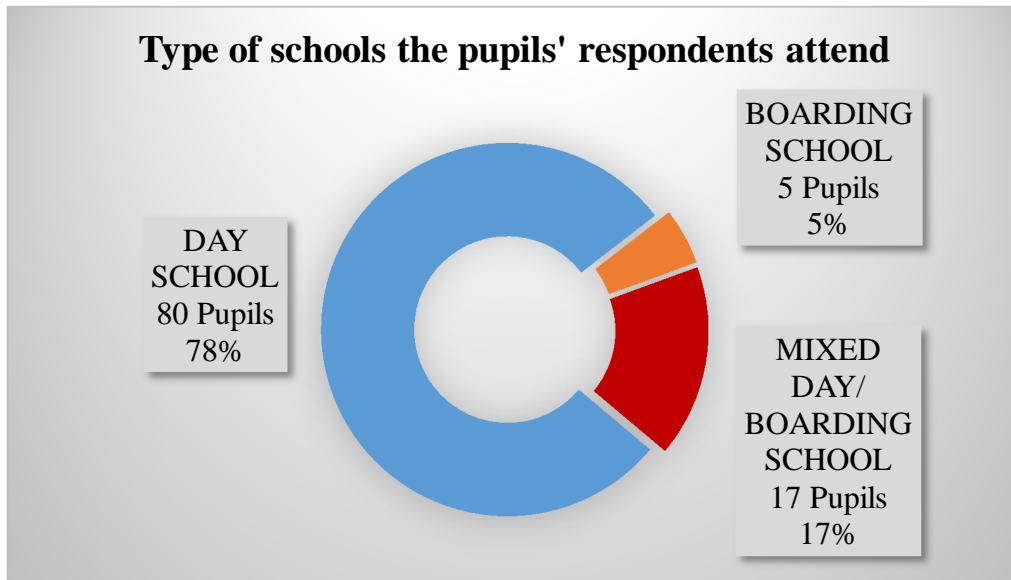


Figure 1: Type of Schools the Pupils' Respondents Attended

The researcher found out that pupil respondents were in a mixed boys and girls schools. About 78% of the respondents, that is 80 pupils, were in day school, while 5% (or 5 pupils) attended boarding schools. On the other hand, 17 pupils, consisting of 17% of the pupils interviewed were in a mixed-day and boarding school

Causes of Child Neglect among the Respondents

The first objective for this study was to establish the causes of child neglect in Marigat Sub-County, Baringo County. The study established the causes of child neglect as follows;

Lack of Appropriate Supervision and Parental Absenteeism

In the study, pupils indicated the average time in a day they spend with their parents. This 'time' was considered as important in the sense that it only accounted to the time parents/guardian spent exclusively with the pupil as opposed to having interferences from electronic gadgets or working at home. The results were presented in Figure 3.

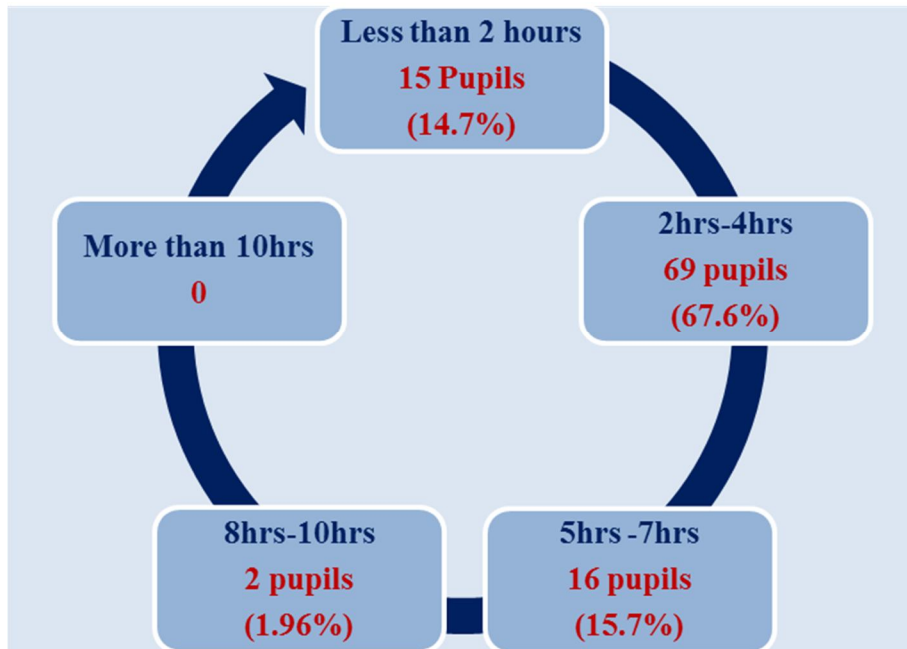


Figure 2: Average Quantity of Time in a Day Pupils Spend with Parents

A quality time is considered as the bonding time between parent and pupil. About 14.7% of the respondents, which consist of 15 pupils, indicated to spending less than two hours with their parents, 69 pupils (67.6%) indicated 2-4 hours, 16 pupils (15.7%) said 5-7 hours while 2 pupils (1.96%) indicated 8-10 hours. None of the pupils spends more than 10 hours with their parents or guardians.

In today's world, as parents and guardians chase their career goals, they have found themselves so much absorbed into their work that they hardly find any time to spend with their children. In other situation, the high cost of living the country is currently facing have forced parents to find a side job, besides their main job. This has increasing parental absenteeism as they spend more time outside the home trying to earn a living and support their children. This importance of parental time devoted to children for child outcomes has long been recognized in the literature, both its social and economic aspect. During adolescence, family and environment influence significantly skill formation. Parenting and parental quality of time spend with ttheir children play a crucial role (Dotti Sani and Treas 2016; Francesconi and Heckman 2016, Carneiro and Ginja 2015), which can even be more important than formal education (Fiorini and Keane 2014).

Parental - Child Relationship

In an effort to investigate the parent-child relationship in Marigat Sub County, the parents who participated in study were questioned in this regard. The responses were recorded as in table 4

Table 4:
Parents’ Response on Key Communication Factors

Frequency of Parents on Child-Parent Communication		
Frequency of communication	Inquires about your child or children well being	Discuss sex related matters with your child
Almost never	28 (27%)	43(42%)
Once or twice per year	6 (6%)	37(36%)
Every few months	18(18%)	8(8%)
Monthly	24(24%)	4(4%)
Weekly	18(18%)	8(8%)
Daily	8(8%)	2(2%)
Total	102 (100%)	102 (100%)

Table 4 shows clearly that 28 (27%) of parents almost never talk to their children on their well-being while 43(42%) almost never discusses sex related matters with their children. Eight (8%) inquires daily about their children well-being and two (2%) discuss sexual related matters with their children on daily basis. This paints a picture of strained relationship between parents and children. To investigate further, parents were asked to what extent they know how their children are doing socially both at home and at school. Figure 4 shows the responses.

Figure 4:
Parents’ knowledge on how their children are faring socially both at home and in school

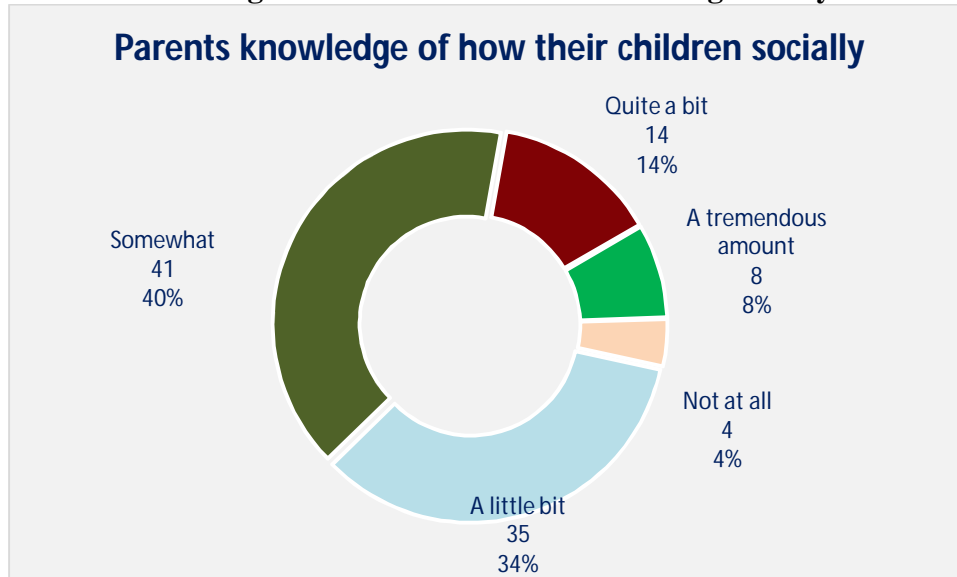


Figure 3: Parents Knowledge of How their Children Socialise both at Home and in School

On knowledge of how their children are faring both at home and in school, eight (8) (8%) of parents are aware of how their children are faring on, but majority of parents 41 (40%) were somewhat not aware indicating that most parents have abandoned their parental responsibility completely, a sign of child neglect. Many different relationships are formed over the course of one’s life span, the relationship between parent and their child is the most important relationship (Steinberg, 2001). Parent-child relationship can be described as the socialization between parent and child (Sears, 2002). It nurtures the physical, emotional, and social development of the child. Bean (2004) suggested that when parent-child connectedness (PCC) is high, the emotional context in a family is

high in affection, warmth, and trust. At this state, parents and children might have a better relationship as they enjoy having activities together and are more likely to communicate openly. Through communication, as the basis of the motivational process, parents can identify, know and then satisfy the real needs of children and discuss private issues like issues of sexuality.

Head Teachers and Heads of Counseling Department Opinion on Causes of Child Neglect

The study further established from head teachers and head of counseling department about the causes of child neglect in their area and the Table 5 gives the number of respondents per item and percentage score per item as follows.

Table 5:
Head Teachers and Heads of Counseling Department Opinion on Causes of Child Neglect in Marigat Sub County

	5		4		3		2		1	
Causes of child neglect	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Poor social skills and unloving relations	126	70	29	16	9	5	9	5	7	4
Substance abuse among parents	140	78	29	16	5	3	3	2	2	1
Misconception about child development and lack of empathy	166	92	14	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parental problems	146	81	32	18	2	1	0	0	0	0
Domestic violence	166	92	7	4	4	2	4	2	0	0

Key: 5-strongly agree 4- agree 3-not sure 2-disagree 1-strongly disagree

Table 5 show that majority, 70 %(126) and 16 % (29) of head teachers and head of counseling department strongly agreed and agreed respectfully that poor social skills and unloving relations are a cause for child neglect. Majority, Majority of the head teachers and guidance and counsellors 92 %(166) strongly agreed that misconception about child development and lack of empathy is a cause of child neglect while eight (8) %(14) agreed. In relation to parental problems, majority 81 %(146) and 18 %(32) of the head teachers and guidance and counsellors strongly agreed and agree respectfully that parental problems is a cause of child neglect. Responses from the head teachers and heads of counseling department viewed domestic violence as a cause of child neglect as indicated in Table 4.4. 92 % (166) strongly agreed forming the majority opinion while four (4) % (7) agreed, two (2) % (3) are not sure and two (2) % (3) disagreed that domestic violence is a cause for child neglect.

It's evident from Table 5 that most head teachers and heads of counseling department are in agreement that the causes of child neglect are poor social skills and unloving relationships, substance abuse among parents, Depressed parents, misconception about child development and lack of empathy by parent, parental problems, and domestic violence among parents.

CONCLUSION

The study made the following conclusions;

- i. Parents/ guardians have poor quality time and strained relationship with their children.
- ii. That parents have abandoned their parental responsibility as indicated by the minimum quality of time spent with their children, lack of proper supervision, poor living arrangements and poor social skills, unloving relations, misconception about child development and lack of empathy to their children.
- iii. Economically poor and marginalised communities are prone to high rate of child neglect.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The Government should create public awareness and educate parents, guardians and caregivers to firmly take charge of the custody of their children while at home and protect them from sexual abuse, sexual harassment and teenage pregnancies.
- ii. Parents/guardians should develop and create quality time and mend strained relationship with their children while at home by have common activities that encourages cooperation among them.
- iii. Parents should up hold their parental responsibility as indicated by providing proper supervision, organise safe living arrangements where boys and girls spent their night
- iv. National and County Governments should develop policies that empower poor and marginalised communities which are prone to high rate of child neglect. Economic empowerment of the area community and diversification of economic activities other than livestock farming to include crop and fish farming through irrigation and building fish ponds respectively to settle them at a particular area so as to concentrate in the welfare of their families to reduce neglect and teenage pregnancy.
- v. Schools should organize regular guidance to parents through parents, teachers association (PTA) to make them aware of challenges young girls go through and educate them on ways of assisting their children resolve their issues. Parents should be encouraged to spend more quality time with their own children to cultivate a culture of free communication. This will enable parents understand and meet their needs of their children.

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