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PARENTAL ABSENTEEISM: CHILD NURTURANCE AND SOCIALIZATION IMPEDES IN BIBIRIONI WARD, KIAMBU COUNTY, KENYA

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Abstract: *Undoubtedly, the changing dynamics of the families from heterogeneous to homogeneous structure, the effects of globalization, technology, economy and social changes have adversely affected parenting. Parents have consequently become absent in their children's lives in order to fit to these dynamics. The consequences of this parental absenteeism is massive juvenile delinquencies both at home and in the institutions in which their children are enrolled. Juvenile delinquency in many parts of the world is rising alarmingly. This then begs the question whether some systems within the society are not working properly. With the family being central, parental absenteeism is therefore put on perspective. The main objective of this study was to establish whether parental absenteeism impedes nurturance and socialization of children. This was scrutinized by use of two relevant and complimentary theories namely: parenting styles theory and Social control theory. Parenting styles theory has authoritative, authoritarian and permissive styles as the main tenets while the Social control theory captures the social bonds of the 'significant other' of an individual. The family is such an institution in which a child is to be nurtured and socialized. This study was done in Bibirioni Ward of Kiambu County. The study adopted mixed research design which embraced both qualitative and quantitative methods. The target population was children of between 10 and 17 years of age, parents, caregivers to the children, area children's officers, religious leaders and local administrators. Using Glen sample table with $\pm 10\%$ precision levels and 95% confidence level $P=0.5$, I used a sample size of 100 respondents from a total population of 21,000 residents of Bibirioni Ward. Random sampling was employed to select the parents and children respondents. Purposive sampling was used to select key informants who included children's officers, teachers, religious leaders, caregivers and area administration officers. Data was collected through interviews, content analysis and key informants methods. It was then coded and classified on the basis of common characteristics or attributes. Themes were generated and explained through statistics attributes and thematically presented for qualitative method. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze quantitative data and presented in graphs, charts and tables. The findings revealed that parental absenteeism impedes nurturance and socialization of children consequently leading to juvenile delinquencies and other externalizing and internalizing behavior problems like low school performance, stress and withdrawal.*

Key Words: Parental Absenteeism, Child, Nurturance, Socialization, Juvenile Delinquency

1.1 Background of the Study

Parenting is an enormous task globally. In order for the society to have responsible members, the family is central in nurturing and socializing its members towards that goal. Irrefutably, the society has a collective duty of ensuring that its members are positively nurtured and socialized in order for them to give their positive contribution to the society. Parents are the first people charged with this massive task of bringing up responsible members of the society. They are the first teachers who nurture and socialize the children.

Since 1980s, there has been growing concerns about crimes committed by young ones. Criminologists, sociologists and anthropologists have sounded a warning of a looming tide of vicious juveniles or 'super predators' (Benet 1996, cited by the Institute of Medicine and National Research Council 2011). Young people are globally becoming violent and uncontrollable. This then begs the question whether the parents are present or not in their children's lives to give them direction and to control them. Like in other parts of the world, African parents have been consumed by the desire to accumulate wealth and get rich fast, political ambitions, religiosity, technology and what I would call "desire to be free" (a situation where a parent or parents do not want to be 'bothered' by their children) thus abdicating their parental responsibilities and transferring them to proxies. These proxies may include, house helps, teachers, friends and relatives. Africa therefore suffers the same fate as the rest of the world with both the physical and emotional absence on the rise in the continent.

The Kenyan economy is a vibrant one and many people spend most of their time catching up with it in their bid to live decently. This finds many parents left with few options but to work harder and longer. Consequently, the emotional lives of children suffer grievously as parents are 'absent' in their lives. In Bibirioni Ward, which is proximate to Nairobi city, parental absenteeism is a common phenomenon. Parents working in Limuru town and other satellite and bedroom towns of Nairobi and those working in the city itself engage in wealth search demonstrated by hard work which at times crosses the boundaries of parenting. This hard work, which is largely triggered by the desire to higher standards of living and competition among other things, extends beyond the normal working hours thus consuming the family social and recreational time. On the face value, this 'working-hard' may be seen as a nobility. However, its in-depth is packaged with a parental crisis detrimental to the children. These 'hard working' parents transfer their parental responsibilities to other caregivers who at times socialize the children in quite irresponsible ways. Some of those caregivers become teachers of delinquent behaviors to the children while others are unable to correct deviance in children because of the sanctions they receive from their bosses.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Parents are expected to provide not only the basic physical needs but also emotional, spiritual, social and intellectual needs to their children. They are to instill values in them by teaching, monitoring, correcting and commending them. These are the nurturance and socialization responsibilities of parents. Nurturance and socialization presupposes the physical presence and commitment of the parents. On their part, children are expected to nurture those values instilled in them by their parents and grow to become responsible.

This is however not what the real situation is in families. Many parents are absent from their children's lives. Absenteeism in parenting denies the children the opportunities to be properly

formed with consequences of this likely to be juvenile delinquency in which juveniles engage in malpractices like drug and substance abuse, bullying, truancy, low school performance, sexual abuse, theft, disobedience and children’s imbalance emotionally among others. This may be a fertile ground for future criminality, a vice the society has to contend with.

The ideal situation is therefore in great conflict with the actual situation which is punctuated by many absentee parents. This threatens the child’s future co-existence with other society members. The disconnect between the ideal parental practice and the real parental absence situation is the gap that this study investigated in relation to nurturance and socialization.

1.2.1 Study Objective and Guiding Question

The study sort to establish whether parental absenteeism impedes nurturance and socialization of children, and respond to the question does parental absenteeism impede nurturance and socialization of children?

1.3 Conceptual Framework

Independent Variable

Dependent Variable

Parental Absenteeism

Nurturance and Socialization

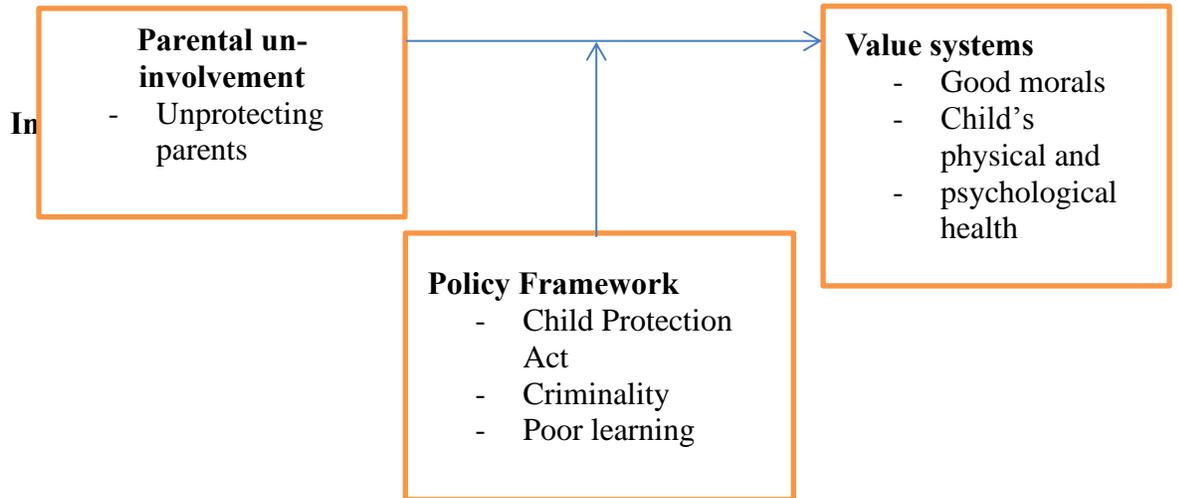


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

Source: *Researcher’s own design, 2019*

Once parents are detached and unsupportive to their children, the children lack mutual care, close monitoring, control hence they end up in criminal behavior, poor learning and eventually in drug abuse and criminal behavior especially where child protection Act in never applied to ensure that parents take responsibility

1.4 Review of Empirical Literature

In the first years of life, family members and especially parents are the most important determinants of the child's experiences and also later in life family remains a large influence on child's behavior (Grusec&Davidov, 2008).According to Griffin and Griffin (1978), "a child's first experience with social life usually comes from within the family. The quality of this experience helps determine whether the child is well nurtured and socialized and whether it will engage in normal or delinquent behavior patterns" It is in the family and mostly with the parents that the child first interacts with the significant other, gets nurtured and socialized by them.

At given times, parents are absent or apart from their children. A child for instance may be studying in a boarding school, the parent may be taking a holiday away from home or a child goes the visit their relatives for some times. This kind of parting is not to be misconstrued to be parental absence. Barber and Eccles (1992), observes "parental absence is a form that encompass a range of circumstances including, parents who are non-existent in one's life through death, incarceration, divorce or family discord, absent through work commitment, absent from family residence or even when physically present yet absent due to disinterest or neglect" (Leah, Debra & Obrien, 2008). This research will mainly focus on the parental absence in which parents are physically present but emotionally absent in the lives of their children.

At the broadest level, parenting encompasses the provision of care directed at children's physical and social needs. It therefore addresses nurturance and socialization both of which are fundamental in children's growth (Ilan Katz, 2008). In order for parents to nurture their off-springs to responsibility, the former have to be present and journey along with their children personally, physically and emotionally and not through proxies. Both the parents and the children have to form a relationship. Maccoby (1999) observes that "these relationships are relatively enduring, extending over time even without propinquity and they usually have strong elements of emotional involvement and commitment".

When children are not well nurtured, they develop physical challenges that may affect their entire life. Similarly, when they are negatively socialized especially by parent or when they lack proper socialization they become easy prey to delinquency. A primary way parents socialize their children is by communicating the goals as they want their children to attain, the aspirations they want their children to fulfill and the values they want their children to internalize (Christopher Spera, 2009). This communication presupposes a healthy interaction between parents and their children. Interaction further calls for a certain degree of parental attachment to the child.

Social Control theorists maintain that delinquent behavior is linked to the bond an individual maintains with the society. Hirsch(1969) identifies attachment to parents as one of those critical bonds. Barber (1997) quoted by Hoffmann and Yang (2008) says that attachment is the amount of connection or closeness children feel towards their parents and vice versa. Hirsch (1969) feels that attachment to parents helps children accept conventional values and tends to deter them from associating with delinquents. A parent who responds with sensitivity and consistency to his or her child's needs sends a series of important messages to the child that builds trust and security. "I am here for you," "You can count on me," "I am interested in you" "Your actions matter and you are loved" (Nicole, Lori, Bean &Tylor, 2014). Reviewing Blum and Rineheart (1977) Nicole, Lori, Bean& Tylor argue that family and parental connectedness is the "highest degree of

closeness, caring and satisfaction with parental relationship, feeling understood, loved wanted and paid attention to by family members.

Being the opposite of attachment, parental detachment is that lack of connection between a parent and a child. It is a void between them and is experienced by both. By all measures, a detached parent is an absentee in the child's life. He or she can neither articulate nor disseminate goals, aspirations and values to them. T. Hill (2018) observes that these kinds of parents become one of the following, rejecting, emotionally distant, immature, self-centered, or narcissistic or driven to succeed in life. He further says of them that they are adults who do not emotionally reflect what their chronological age is. They are pseudo mature in many ways which often pushes the child to become adult like and emotionally independent before their time.

Human beings are meant for connections. The most primary connection is that of a child and his or her parents. When children lack this connection, they seek for it elsewhere which may likely lead them to joining gangs and cults for appreciation.

As earlier noted in this work, nurturance and socialization are parent's primordial roles to their children. A lot of study has found close correlation between poverty and juvenile delinquency. Ilan Katz (2008) defines poverty with measurements of absolute and relative. Absolute poverty is the state in which income is insufficient to provide the basic needs required to sustain life. Relative poverty is defined as income or resources in relation to the average. He argues that when individuals, families or groups lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary or at least widely encouraged or approved in the societies to which they belong, then they are said to be in poverty. Mike Males (from the center on juvenile and criminal justice in San Francisco) cited by Lauren (2015) found that teenagers perpetrated more of the homicides than other groups but only when he did not control poverty. More homicide was according to the study committed in high poverty areas than in the areas that were subjected to wealth.

In my own view, poverty in the family affects both the parents and the children. Parental absenteeism can be said to occur when they realize that they are not able to meet the family's basic needs and become indifferent. This indifference can be expressed in diverse ways like alcoholism, drug use or running away from the family residence consequently depriving children of essential parental touch and provision.

On the other hand, children living in low income families are at a greater risk of becoming involved in delinquencies. A longitudinal study of youths of between 10 and 15 years found that the length of time in which a child experiences poverty is related to their violent or criminal orientation. The longer the time in poverty, the study reveals, the higher the likelihood of becoming prone to social, physical and psychological problems. This however also depended on the age at which the child prone to deviance experienced poverty. Poverty experienced between the age of 11 to 15 was found to be more likely to cause future criminality while that experienced between age 6 and 10 was found to be the cause of internalizing behavior problems (Jarojoura, 2008). However, in as much as delinquency is linked to poverty, it should not be exclusively perceived that only children from poor families become juvenile offenders or have nurturance and socialization problems. Children from well-endowed families get involved in crimes too and get

convicted as well as other externalizing and internalizing problems resulting from poor parenting (Lisa, 2010).

1.5 Theoretical Framework

Parental absenteeism presupposes a faulty parenting style. In its part, the society has to bear the blatant effects of poor parenting styles as the breeding ground for all sorts of criminal activities. The study uses parenting styles theory and the social control theory.

Parenting Styles Theory

This theory brings into lame light the picture of parental absenteeism as an undesired parenting practice that impedes nurturance and socialization. Baumrid (1967) did an extensive research on parenting and identified three main parenting typologies, *authoritative*, *authoritarian* and *permissive*. These are based on the interaction of two dimensions of parental warmth and parental control.

Parental warmth is related to parents being involved with their children. Parental control concerns itself with the role parents play in promoting respect for rules and social conventions on their children (Paloma 2013). According to Baumrind (1967), *authoritative* parents score high on measures of warmth and responsiveness and high on measures of control and maturity demands. The parent here is able to accommodate both physical, social emotions and spiritual needs of the child at least to a significant formative level. Authoritative control reflects child-oriented and inductive discipline techniques such as guiding the child's behavior cognitively, giving information and stimulating responsible behavior of the child (Jan, Machield, Judith, Veroni, Van, and Smneek . 2009).

Paloma (et.al 2013) concurring with Baumrind, observes that due to this parental warmth and control cases of juvenile delinquency are significantly reduced because they are foreseen and prevented before occurring and when they do occur, they are subjected to appropriate control mechanisms. This position is further supported by The World Youth Report (2013) when it holds that "children who receive adequate parental supervision are less likely to engage in criminal activities. Dysfunctional family settings characterized by conflict, inadequate parental control weak internal linkages and integration and premature autonomy are closely related to juvenile delinquency.

Authoritarian parents are high in firm control and low in warmth. Some parents perceive stiff control as being formative. According to Alegre (2011), authoritarian parents talk to their children rather than with their children when making decisions. Authoritarian parenting negatively impacts on the children by instilling in them fear and timidity. It refers to adult oriented, coercive, restrictive and firm discipline techniques. This style emphasizes the negative aspects of control such as harsh punishments and love withdrawal (Baumrind 1967).

The third type of parenting style is *Permissive*. Parents here are high in warmth and low in any type of control. This is at times expressed by over-protection of the child, over-dependence of the child to the parents and essentially accounts for "spoiling" the child. Baumrind (1971) noted

that permissive parents exhibit non punitive acceptance and affirmative behavior towards their children's needs, desires and actions. Timpano (2010) sees permissive parents as encouraging children to do whatever they want to do. This is indeed a major gap in parenting and setting stage for unchecked freedom by parents to their children is a form of parental absenteeism in the said child's life. This could mature into juvenile delinquent behaviors and consequently criminality. Underwood, Beron and Rosen (2009) found that permissive parenting has a positive correlation with antisocial behavior. The major weakness of the parenting styles theory is its assumption that all parents should embrace only one form of parenting style authoritative which the theory deems ideal.

Social Control Theory

The Social Control Theory which is also known as Social Bond Theory was developed by Travis Hirschi (1969). According to Hirschi, criminal behavior requires in some form, the creation of criminal motivation. People form bonds with prosocial values, prosocial people and prosocial institutions. These bonds end up controlling our behavior when we are tempted to engage in criminal or deviant acts.

It sees crime as a result of social institutions losing control over individuals. The theory seeks to answer the question, "why do people follow the law?" Hirschi argues that criminal activity occurs when an individual's attachment to society is weakened. The theory refers to a perspective which predicts that when social constraints on antisocial behavior are weakened or absent, delinquent behavior emerges (Megan, Oct. 2011). In other words, when an individual has experienced a lack of social connections or a lack of social network that would normally prohibit criminal activity, the likelihood that the individual will participate in criminal activity increases (Megan et.al). This theory demonstrates that as a social institution, the family plays a crucial role in a child's life and provides the initial arena for the child's nurturance and socialization. However, this theory falls short of other causes affecting nurturance and socialization like the economic strains, psychological factors, cultural factors and social stratifications.

1.6 Data Collection Methods

Data collection in research refers to gathering specific information aimed at proving or refuting some facts (Kombo & Tromp et. al.). To undertake this research, I used interviews, key informants and content analysis as the data collection methods. For interviews. I had questionnaires for the respondents to whom I explained about the study as well as their right to voluntarily fill them. In the case of the key informants, I personally interviewed them using open- structured interview guide. I analyzed the contents of some newspapers and other documents that I accessed through key informants and from other sources. Verbal content from key informants was analyzed too.

1.7 Research Design, Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

This study applied a mixed research design which adopted both qualitative and quantitative perspectives. The design helped in identify the extent and nature of the relationship between cause and effect. This design was proper to this study since it investigated the effects parental absenteeism on nurturance and socialization of children . Quantitative method was used with both descriptive and diagnostic research designs. Descriptive design concerns itself with describing the

characteristics of individuals or groups whereas diagnostic design determines the frequency with which something occurs or its association with something else.

The following table (Glen 1992 table) was used to establish the sample size from the total population of 21000 residents of Bibirioni Ward.

Table 1 sample size for $\pm 5\%$ and $\pm 10\%$ precision levels where confidence level is 95% and $P=0.5$. This study used the sample size of 100 respondents from the table below using the precision (e) $\pm 10\%$ with a total population of between 20000 and 25000.

1.8 Description of the Study Area

Bibirioni Ward has a population of approximately 21000 people. In the Glen's Precision table, this figure lies between 20000 and 25000 population. The (e) $\pm 10\%$ precision level was conveniently chosen in order to reduce the cost and maximize on respondents. For the sampling techniques, the study used stratified simple random sampling and sampling. Stratified simple random purposive sampling was used to sample parents who were stratified into men and women. Simple random sampling applied to children while purposive sampling was used to sample the key informants who included teachers, caregivers, religious leaders, children's officers and local administrators. Total number of respondents = **100**. A ratio of **2:2:3:1** applied, that is, children, men (parents), women (parents) and Key informants respectively.

Sampling Frame

Table 1: Glen's sampling frame

Population size	Sample size (n) for precision (e) $\pm 5\%$	Sample size for (n) for precision (e) $\pm 10\%$
500	222	83
1000	286	91
2000	333	95
3000	353	97
4000	364	98
5000	370	98
7000	378	99
9000	383	99
10000	385	99
15000	390	99
20000	392	100
25000	395	100
50000	397	100
100000	398	100
>100000	400	100

Source: Researcher's own conceptualization, 2019

1.9 Data Analysis Procedures

After the questionnaires were filled, data was coded and classified on the basis of common characteristics or attributes. Statistics of attributes was employed to explain the themes generated from qualitative research. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze quantitative research by the use of SPSS. Data is presented in pie charts, frequency tables and graphs.

1.10 Research Findings

A total of 25 children were sampled both boys and girls of between 10-17 years of age. 11 boys and 14 girls responded accounting for 100 per cent response from children. Of the respondents, 40 per cent were aged between 10-14 years while 60 per cent aged between 15-17 years. 11 of the respondents (44 per cent) were primary school pupils while 14 of them (56 per cent) were secondary school students. A total number of 62 parents were sampled. 57 of them responded to the questionnaires which accounted for 92 per cent. Parents were further stratified into men and women. 25 men were sampled and among them 22 (88 per cent) responded. 37 women were sampled and 35 (96.4 per cent) responded.

In this part, the research study sought to know whether or not parental absenteeism impedes nurturance and socialization of children. Co-residence of both parents and children, children's welfare and parental provision versus their physical presence to their children were measured. Eighty per cent (20 children) of the respondents live with their parents in the same home meaning that they are physically together. Twenty per cent (5 children) claimed not to be living in the same home with their parents.

On parental provision and availability, 40 per cent (10) children respondents agreed that their parents provide them with most of the things they require but are rarely found at home because they are busy elsewhere. The implication here is that parents fulfill their nurturance role by providing material things but fall short of offering emotional and socialization direction to their children. Fifteen (60 per cent) disagreed that their parents provide for them but are rarely at home.

Table 2: High standards of living and family nurturance

Q4	SA		A		NS		D		SD		MS		S D		TOTAL	
	f	Per cent	F	Per cent	f	Per cent	f	%	f	%	F	%			f	%
WOMEN	17	45.9	13	35.1	5	13.5	-	-	-	-	2	5.4	.725		37	100
MEN	8	32	11	44	3	12	-	-	-	-	3	12	.685		25	100

Source: *Study Findings, 2019*

A strong positive correlation between the high standards of living and family nurturance by both male and female parent respondents was found. 81 per cent (30) of women respondents and 76 per cent (19) of men agreed that work is more emphasized than family. This indicates that more attention is given to material nurturance than socialization by parents to their children. More men compared to women admitted to the work-family conflict at 52 per cent (13) and 32.4 per cent

(12) respectively. To ascertain whether parental absenteeism impedes nurturance and socialization, children’s freedom, technology access and the parent’s involvement in school performance of children were measured. On whether parents have given their children excess freedom, 94.6 per cent (35) of women sampled that constituted 100 per cent of all the female respondents in the parents stratum agreed. Male respondents fell short of this but still recorded a significant 72 per cent (18) nod as in the below figure.

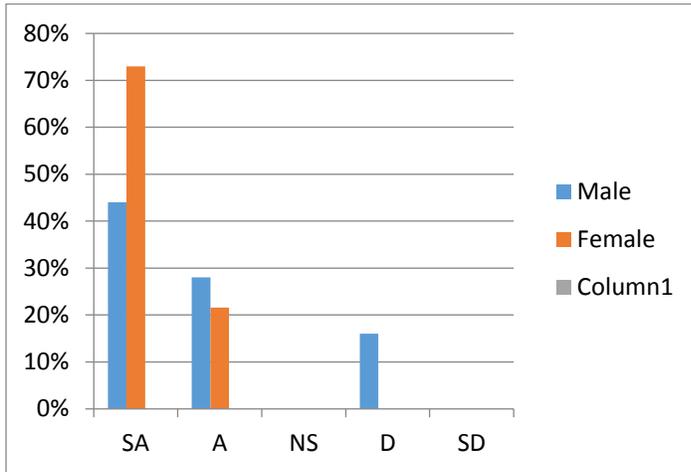


Figure 2: Children’s Excess Freedom

Source: Study Findings, 2019

Excess freedom denotes that children could do whatever they want with very minimal or no parental restraint at all. This has consequently led to premature autonomy of children that further leads to anomie. Immanuel Kant cited by Deligiogi, (2012) conceptualized autonomy of a rational being as a positive thing and as a universally legislating will. Hermermas, (2015) also sees it as the ability to be oneself. However, in the case of children, premature autonomy occurs when they are unguided by parents or mentors.

Parental absenteeism also leaves the children vulnerable. Consequently they are negatively socialized by ‘others’ These ‘others’ can at times offer them contents that have no value dignity. Many parents agreed for instance that they do not know the content their children access on internet as shown below.

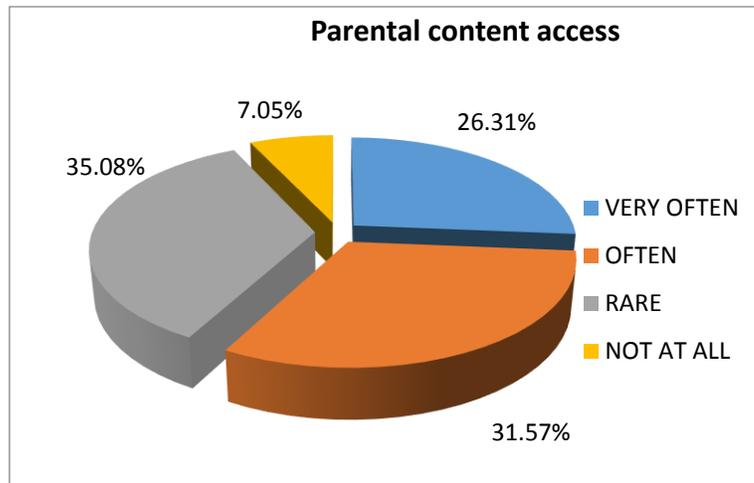


Figure 3: **Parental Content Access**

Source: Study Findings, 2019

It emerged that 59.4 per cent (22) of mothers regularly follow the content their children access in the media devices while a below average at 44 per cent (11) of fathers do. This could be explained by the more stable presence of mothers at home compared to the male parents. However, the general parental following of what their children access in media devices stood at 57.88 per cent (33) (indicated in the figure below as often and very often). At 35.08 per cent (20) parents of both genders rarely follow with 7.05 per cent (4) with no idea what they access.

Key Informants Views

Of the 13 key informants sampled, I managed to interview 12 of them. These included 4 teachers, 2 caregivers, 2 children's officers 1 local administrator and 3 religious leaders. The response here stood at 92.3 per cent (12). Most of the key informants observed that many absentee parents have social problems like being hooked into excessive liquor taking. This is catalyzed by the poverty levels parents find themselves in. On the nurturance and socialization, interview with key informants showed that parents are emotionally unavailable to their children. However, they were quick to observe that a number of reasons influence it. Among the reasons cited include, high cost of living, ignorance of parents and lack of exposure. A key informant partially exonerates parents from the blame for not socializing well with their children. She says.

“Whereas it is their God-given duty to nurture and socialize their children, parents today cannot sorely be blamed for being absent both in their homes and also emotionally to their children when they are still living with them in the same house. The problem is with the society and its structures that are so demanding thus compelling the parent to emphasis on work in order to keep the family well. Some parents are doing multiple jobs in order to march the high living standards. This leaves the parent with very little time if any to socialize with the children. Parents therefore become victims of circumstances”

Source:Key Informant Discussion interview, 2019

Another informant cited lack of parental exposure as a cause of poor nurturance and socialization. He observed,

“Some parents are so confined that they rarely mingle with other people. They do not travel outside their locality and have different experiences. Some do not know how to spare time for their own leisure as well as have fun with their families. They forget that these are avenues that family members bond and are henceforth able to be free with one another.”

Source:Key Informant 2019

Content Analysis

In this content analysis parental absenteeism deprives a child both the warmth and values he or she deserves. This leaves the child bored, lonely and wounded. Parental presence is irreplaceable and leaves an indelible mark on the child. The following two cases demonstrate the importance of parental presence

Case I : Suicide

Source: Daily Nation of 10th September 2017

An adolescent 15 years old was found hanging from the ceiling of his room. He left a note saying he “felt neglected“ by his parents he was the only child of two successful professionals with everything a teenager would want. He went to a good school, had fancy gadgets, money and was chauffeur driven to and from school among others.

Case II: Parental addiction to technology

Source: Deutsche Welle 2018

University of Michigan and Illinois State University

In the streets of Hamburg, children led by 7year old Emile Rustige, took to the streets to protest against excessive use of smartphones by their parents. The placards they were holding warned. “Parents smartphone addiction can lead to behavioral problems in children. They could more prone to whining, hyperactivity or getting frustrated” Emile then said, **“here is a message for all parents, play with me, not with your smartphone”**

7.0 Conclusion

The findings of this research concur with Glyn (2011) who observed that many young offenders suffer “parent deficit” These findings have shown that despite many parents providing their children with material things, they are so much preoccupied with work in order to measure up to the living standards at the cost of socialization. They also concur with Spera, (2009) who observed parent child interaction as the healthy way to nurture and socialize the children and Nicole, Lori, Bean and Taylor (2014) who look at family and parental connectedness as the highest degree of closeness. Children’s parental deficit in this case is mainly on the emotional detachment of parents

from their children. In this case, time spent by parents with their of springs.

8.0 Recommendations

It has emerged clearly that parents have to adhere to their primary parental role of nurturing and socializing their children and not to surrender them to proxies. More resources should be mobilized and wired towards family formation and various actors empowered. This will cater for family formation for instance in marriage instruction programs, capacity building to parents, rehabilitation of parents with serious parental difficulties like alcoholics. This can be done through seminars, workshops, retreats and short courses and support groups. Mobilization of these resources should be the responsibility of all actors. This would include the government, NGOs, religious institutions as well as individuals.

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