NORTH RIFT CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION CONFERENCE 9TH TO 11TH APRIL, 2019

SUB THEME: CROSS CUTTING ISSUES ON CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION

AN ANALYSIS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN NAIROBI SLUMS: A CASE OF KOROGOCHO SLUM

BY: ANNE NYAMBURA NJEHU
M.A IN SOCIOLOGY
SPECIALIZATION: CRIMINOLOGY

LEA TOTO PROGRAM

Email address: nannenyambura@gmail.com
OUTLINE

- BACKGROUND
- OBJECTIVES
- METHODOLOGY
- FINDINGS
- CONCLUSION
- RECOMMENDATIONS
- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
BACKGROUND

- Day by day, the number of children experiencing incidences of sexual abuse keeps on rising as children are faced with cases of rape, assault, defilement and incest.
- Widespread cases of sexual abuse have been reported among children under the age of 15 who are living in poorest slums of Nairobi.
- Commonly, the perpetrators of sexual abuse on children are people who are trusted to offer care and support to children.
- The increasing number of sexual abuse cases among children has been blamed on lack of awareness and necessary support mechanism from their families.
Sexual abuse among children has caused a major uproar among child rights advocates including civil society groups.

Efforts by the government and child rights advocates in mitigating child sexual abuses cases has increased over the recent years but still the vice persists.

Owing to the acute shortage of research on the implications of child sexual abuse in Kenya.

The study sought to make a contribution to this new area of study by examining the issue of child sexual abuse using a case of Korogocho slum, Nairobi County.
OBJECTIVES

- The overall goal of the study was to develop a clear understanding of the implications of child sexual abuse in Korogocho slums, Nairobi County. Specifically, the study aimed:
  1. To find out the level of awareness among caregivers on key provisions of the Sexual Offences Act, 2006.
  2. To ascertain the challenges caregivers face in protecting children.
  3. To establish causes of rising child sexual abuse cases in slums.
  4. To identify mechanisms used by the community to protect children from sexual abuse.
METHODOLOGY

Study Design

- The study adopted a cross-sectional descriptive design with the aim of developing an in-depth understanding on sexual abuse among children in Korogocho slums. The study targeted slum dwellers in Nairobi County.

Sampling Procedures

- Lottery sampling technique was used to select four out of seven villages.
- Systematic random sampling was used to select households from which the heads were taken to represent the population. In total 80 caregivers were sampled.
Purposive sampling technique was used to select 18 key informants from the four villages including: 4 teachers, 2 chiefs, 2 religious leaders, 1 NGO leader, 4 village chairpersons, 1 child officer and 4 CHVs

**Sampling matrix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Sampling Technique</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Caregivers</td>
<td>Systematic Random sampling</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Key informants</td>
<td>Purposive sampling</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>98</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research Instruments**

- Quantitative data was collected using survey questionnaires while qualitative data was collected using semi-structured interviews.
Data Analysis Techniques

- Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for the Windows platform version 17.0
- Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic content analysis to obtain trends.

Ethical Considerations

- Informed consent was given by the University of Nairobi IRB.
- At the community, Korogocho chief gave consent.
- The respondents also gave consent after fully understanding the purpose of the study.
The study established that 92.5% of respondents were aware of the Sexual Offences Act existence while 7.5% of the respondents were not aware about the existence of Sexual Offences Act, 2006.
The findings revealed that more than 37% of the respondents misunderstood what constituted sexual offence. According to the sexual offences Act, 2006, sexual assault, incest, defilement and rape constitute sexual offences.
Challenges Facing Caregivers in Protecting Children Against Sexual Abuse

Time spent with Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caregiver</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. School</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Relative</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Home</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Church</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Neighbour</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Day care</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. All above</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>80</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Communicating channels available for children

- **Talk with the child (41.2%)**
- **Through the teacher (45.0%)**
- **Through a neighbor (6.3%)**
- **Others (7.5%)**

Lack of action taken on offenders

Mama Sabina* is a mother to a 14 yr old girl who was gang raped. She said that the gang is known in the area and everyone is scared of them. The mom however gathered the courage to report the case to the area chief and she reported that up to date, no action has been taken on the gang. She added that the gang still terrorizes girls in the area. Her child dropped out of school due to pregnancy as a result of the rape. The girl is also HIV + as a result.
Causes of Rising cases Child Sexual Offences

**Offenders go unpunished**

“... This is a community where everyone knows everyone and particularly the offenders. Every week you will hear that a certain offender did an offence such as rape but you will still see them walking free. I know this because being a CHW in the community, I am conversant with almost all issues that concern this community and I can tell you for free that 90% of the community criminals are still walking free despite numerous reports against them” (CHW, High Ridge, 11/07/2014)

**Children are enticed by “goodies”**

Martha* aged 6 years was one Sunday afternoon called into a neighbour’s house as he wanted to give her chips. According to her aunt, she was out playing with other children and her mother was in the house. The girl told the mother that when she entered to eat chips,

“.. nilikula chips alafu akainua ngu o yangu, alafu akanitoa pantie, alafu akaingiza dudu yake kwa yangu” the mom reported that the child was telling the story so confidently like any other story. She did not understand what had really happened to her.

**Poor Lighting at Night in the Slum**

“.... I have attended to several care givers who called me to go help them handle sexual abuse cases of their children that had happened to them when they had been sent to the shops at night, when the children had been playing outside when it was dark, and some when they were coming from school in the evening”(CHW, Korogocho 10/07/2014).
Effect of Poor Housing on Child Sexual Abuse

“.... Most community members live in single rooms with their households. Chances of exposure to sexual activities of their guardians are very high. The congestion of housing also exposes children to sexual abuse due to insecurity that the congestion brings.” (Religious leader, Ngomongo 10/07/2014)
Whether pubs and Brothels on influence child sexual abuse

Effect of Ineffective Parenting on Child sexual Abuse

Grand ma Eunice* she is a granny who said that she had lived in that area since she got married. She said that her husband died and left the small room to her, her children and her grand children. She said that that environment had been her home for over three decades and none of her kin had been sexually abused. She blamed sexual abuse on the new generation parents and their inability and unavailability. She said that housing did not contribute to prevalence of child sexual abuse.
Level of Sexual Abuse

The study found out that (60%) of the children in the area had never been sexually abused while (40%) of the children had ever experienced a form of sexual abuse.

Has your child been sexually abused?

No

Yes

Percentage number of respondents

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

60

40
CONCLUSION

- Children are still being abused in the slums of Nairobi.
- The community is gradually gaining understanding of the legal instruments available to protect children.
- There is a very high degree of lack of punishment of sexual offenders.
- The slum setup itself puts children at risk of sexual abuse.
- Socio-Economic stresses are a contributing factor to child sexual abuse.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Sustained education and awareness campaigns on child sexual abuse by the Policy makers, civil society and private sector.
• The Arms of the Government needs to win its citizenry trust back by ensuring that sexual cases presented are taken action on and justice served.
• Parents should be able to communicate freely with their children on sexual issues without feeling like it is a taboo
• Community based child counselors should be trained and sent to different communities in Nairobi slums
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- My supervisor, Dr. Mutsotso, University of Nairobi.
- My respondents in Korogocho slum.
- The Chief in charge, Korogocho.
- My Family.
THANK YOU