Role of Community-Based Informal Approaches in Child Protection in Mwingi Central Sub-County, Kitui County

Titus Mutia Kithome, Dr. Wilkster M. Shanyisa & Dr. Stephen Asatsa

Catholic University of Eastern Africa

Corresponding author - titusmutia@yahoo.com

Abstract: The study was designed to investigate the role of community-based informal approaches in child protection in Mwingi Central Sub County, Kitui County. In order to address the above-stated objective, the study adopted a transformative worldview with an emphasis on mixed methods research design. The study used both probability and non-probability sampling methods, and 2 divisions, 5 locations, and 24 villages were chosen for the study using simple random sampling. Data was collected from a sample of 399 adult members of the households using questionnaires; 24 children aged 12-17 years (both in and out of school) through in-depth interviews'; and from 10 key informants. The study was guided by the systems theory and the collected data was analyzed through thematic content analysis descriptive statistics which involved the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20. The study results revealed that members of the community were more familiar with and preferred the use of community-based child protection approaches than the formal government child protection units. The study recommends that child protection practitioners should strive to close the gap between the formal and informal community-based child protection approaches to ensure that there is a cohesive approach to child protection.

Keywords: Informal, formal, Child protection, Kinship, Abuse, Neglect

1. Introduction

Globally, over 300 million children are subjected to violent discipline at home, while 130 million children between the ages of 13 and 15 years' experience bullying. Additionally, 15 million adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 years have experienced forced sex in their lifetime while child marriage affects 15 million children annually. These global figures include 200 million girls and women who have undergone female genital mutilation (UNICEF, 2017; WHO, 2018). Due to the high prevalence of cases of child abuse and neglect and for children to grow and develop into responsible citizens, there is urgent need for children to be protected from all forms of violence,

neglect, and exploitation (Gwanyemba, Kiwia & Zuberi, 2016).

Thompson (2014) observed that with an effort of responding to the growing number of children who need protection, different countries globally have adopted either formal or informal modes of childcare and protection or both approaches depending on needs and social cultural expectations. Notably, informal approaches as alternate modes of childcare and protection have traditionally played a crucial role in child protection in both developed and developing countries on all continents. However, despite the fact that informal child protection approaches are widely used around the world, many countries' child protection programs favor legislative and

formally structured government child protection systems over community-based and family informal structures in terms of financial support (Thompson, 2014).

Wessells (2015) emphasized the importance of a multifaceted approach to child protection because, while formal child protection programs have the overall legal responsibility for children's protection, community-based informal child protection interventions play an important role in the prevention and early identification of cases of child abuse, neglect, and other types of maltreatment. In a study on the child protection and welfare system in the Republic of Ireland, Devaney & Byrne (2015) noted that, an effective child protection system should appreciate the role and ability and of different actors. According to UNICEF (2012), while a number countries in Sub Saharan Africa have made very good progress towards child protection systems strengthening, there still exists a wide disconnect between formal and informal approaches. This is due to variations in terms of values, beliefs, and expectations between the two approaches. Formal systems mainly emphasize on providing 'services', while informal approaches tend to provide 'support and care to children in need of protection (UNICEF, 2012).
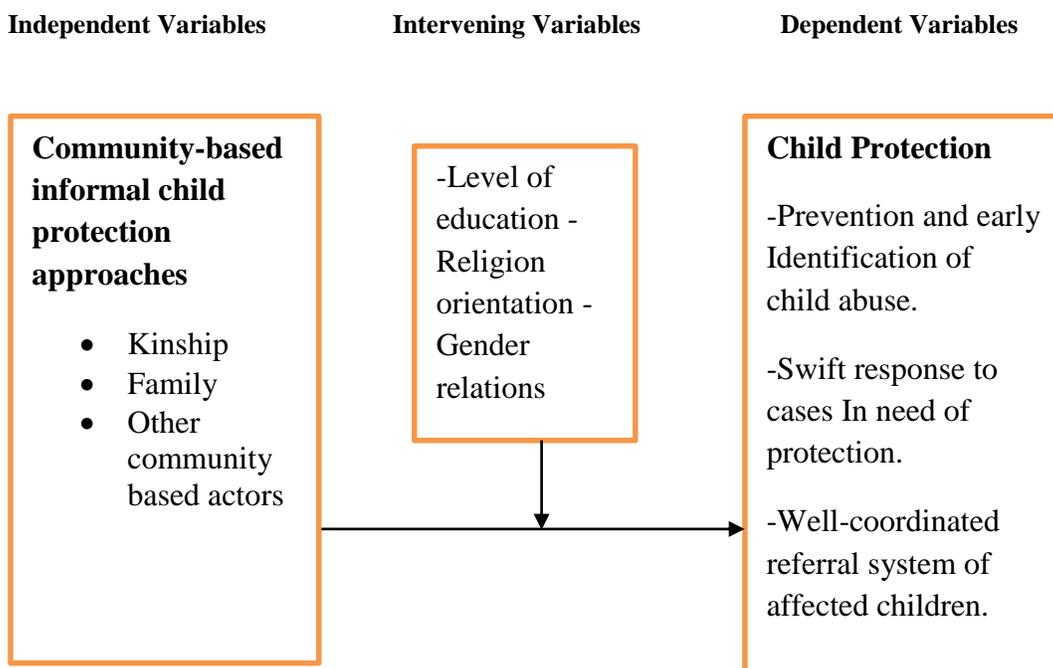
Like in many other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of children in Kenya who require child protection is high. This is According to UNICEF's (2018) situational analysis report, which indicated that over 76% of children in Kenya have been subjected to violence before the attainment of 18 years. Mwingi Central Sub County in Kitui County was purposively chosen for the study because of a number of factors that lead to increased child vulnerability in the sub county as cited by Kinyua (2012).

Kostelny et al. (2014) asserted that over-reliance on formal child protection units has created a gap that leaves many children vulnerable especially in rural areas where the formal child protection structures are largely invisible. For example, despite the Kenya government having enacted relevant child protection laws and policies, the number of children who need protection is still high. Poor implementation and enforcement of existing laws and policies, insufficient resources, poor coordination among various government departments dealing with children, and understaffing have been cited as some of the challenges that undermine formal efforts to protect children (GoK/NCCS, 2015). The aim of this study was therefore to determine the role of community-based informal child protection approaches in the larger child protection system with a hope that the results and recommendations of the study shall be used by child protection practitioners in developing a more inclusive child protection approach that places children, families, and community members at the center of child protection.

1.1 Objectives of the study

1. To determine the nature of community-based informal child protection approaches in Mwingi central sub county

2. To investigate the role of community-based informal approaches in child protection in Mwingi central sub county.

1.2 Conceptual framework

Independent Variables	Intervening Variables	Dependent Variables

Community-based informal child protection approaches

- Kinship
- Family
- Other community based actors

-Level of education - Religion orientation - Gender relations

Child Protection

-Prevention and early Identification of child abuse.

-Swift response to cases In need of protection.

-Well-coordinated referral system of affected children.

1.3. Theoretical framework

This study was guided by the Systems theory. Through the systems theory, Bertalanffy developed the perspective of looking into a system as a whole, and in relationship to its interaction with other systems. Bertalanffy described system as unit whose relationship and inter-relation with other systems can bring in the desired change (Ritzer, 2011). According to Bertalanffy, when there is disconnect among various parts, the whole systems ceases to function well a view that had been shared by Durkheim who maintained that imbalance in the society could lead to a situation of social disorder. Additionally, Durkheim believed that when various units at macro level play their role as expected, the state of stability and equilibrium within the society is achieved (Bertalanffy, 1969).

The systems theory looks at a system as a whole unit with several sub units, which makes it complete. Child protection actors who include close family members, relatives, members of extended family and other community- based structures like religious leaders, teachers and traditional leaders all represent the sub systems in the society.

The systems theory promotes a complementary function for each subunit and the entire unit, which in this case is the broader child protection system. Therefore, there is need for inter-dependency among various formal child protection units like the police, chiefs, Child protection unit's CPU and the community- based informal approaches which include the role of family, teachers, religious leaders, traditional leaders and other groups of people like youth and women leaders.

2. Literature review

2.1 Informal Kinship and child protection

Among the many forms of alternative childcare and protection initiatives being practiced globally, informal child protection approaches are deemed to be the preferred option. Likewise, compared to other forms of alternative care and protection to children community-based informal child protection approaches have traditionally been in existence for a longer time (Obrien, 2015). Obrien noted that despite the informal child carers playing a crucial role in child protection for many years, their role is still not formally recognized by many child protection systems. Lee, Choi, Lee, J., & Kramer (2017) agreed that informal kinship childcare and protection programs are the best choices for a child in need of care and protection away

from their biological parents in a study conducted in the United States of America on placement stability of children in informal kinship care in child welfare systems. Kiraly (2015) concurred with Obrien (2015) that despite the high number of children placed in informal kinship compared to non-kin foster care among the developed nations, kinship receives less attention from the state in terms of support, training, and supervision.

In the USA, kinship is the most practiced alternative form of child care and protection, with 2.3 million children or about 3% of all children living under kinship care. This is according to Thomas, Boller, Johnson, Young & Hu (2015) who also observed that 49% of 40.4 million under 5 years' old children in the USA receive care and protection under an informal setup. According to the finding of the research, informal childcare arrangements in California and the United States in general are well-liked and rated by parents and caregivers because they are dependable, readily available, less expensive, and foster a sense of trustworthiness. A sense of trustworthiness, according to the current study's researcher, is an important aspect of child safety. Since reports of children living in the care of abusive foster parents have been recorded, parents feel safe when their children are in the care of someone they can trust.

Thomas, Boller, Johnson, Young, and Hu (2015) agreed with Lee et al. (2017) that the majority of families in need of alternative treatment for their children choose kinship as a way to keep their children out of traditional foster care or other institution-based types of childcare and security.. In a study conducted in Detroit, USA, by Siddiqui, Thomas, Hossain, Johnson, Osuoha, and Balke (2017), the study results also revealed high need for child protection programs and social services agencies of including families and guardians in crucial child protection decision-making processes

Informal kinship care, as in developing countries, is the preferred mode of alternative care and protection for children who do not live with their biological parents or who are unable to provide adequate care and protection to their children. However, a study of the literature revealed that kinship in Africa faces numerous obstacles, which have a negative impact on proper childcare and security efforts. According to Dziro and Mhlanga (2018), who conducted a study in Zimbabwe to look into OVC security, this is the case. According to Dziro and Mhlanga (2018), urbanization, HIV/AIDS, and poverty in Africa are all factors that stifle the effectiveness of informal kinship approaches to proper childcare and safety.

In Kenya, kinship has traditionally been practiced among different communities for many decades, with over 40 % of all orphans living with grandparents while 34 % live with other relatives. This is according to Save the children's (2015), a study that observed that kinship has huge potential of offering necessary care and protection to vulnerable children because it is culturally, religiously, and linguistically appropriate and easy to adopt. Despite kinship being widely practiced in Kenya, the legal framework in Kenya does not adequately support this practice of child care and protection and therefore posing some risk to children not living with biological parents (Save the Children, 2015).

2.2 Family and other community- based informal child protection initiatives

According to Roux & Palm (2018), proximity and easy accessibility of the community-based informal structures place them in a better position to influence attitude and behavioral change among community members on issues that affect society. Roux and Palm (2018) found that religious leaders are among the community-based actors who play a critical role in raising awareness on topics that are culturally and spiritually deep-rooted and difficult to penetrate in a study of child marriage in 20 countries. Parents, teachers, and religious leaders, according to the report, also provide emotional advice to children in need of protection about how to deal with problems when they arise.

Social protection support to kinship and family-based alternative care is a very important component towards ensuring effective and quality care to children. This is according to Delap, Jones, C. & Helen Karki Chettri, H. (2016) in a study on Improving child wellbeing and care in Sub-Saharan Africa. Delap et al., (2016) recognized that there was a need for social support from the wider government programs to ensure that children under the care of foster and kinship received quality support. In a related study on child abuse in Africa, Badoe (2017) agreed on the importance of active participation of the existing community structures like churches, mosques, teachers, and traditional leaders in advocacy, awareness-raising, and community sensitization on matters that affect children.

In a study conducted in Serbia on examining the capacity of schools in the implementation of child rights, Stamatović & Cicvarić (2019) underscored the important role played by schools towards child protection. The study findings indicated that teachers play a very crucial role in preparing children to be responsible citizens, ready to make informed decisions about their protection and that of their peers. The study results, according to the researcher, are very insightful and fit well with the current study's

objectives, especially in terms of the need for life skills training as a child protection intervention.

There is a need for high-level community participation and an increased sense of responsibility among different people in the community who are willing to drive community action towards child protection. This is according Nambatya and Gubo (2016) in a study conducted in Busega village, Kampala Uganda. The study findings by Nambatya and Gubo (2016) particularly underscored the importance of active participation of children in the right clubs in schools.

Integrating indigenous community-based knowledge into current child protection initiatives promotes a community sense of ownership and teamwork among different actors. This is according to Olaore & Drolet (2017) in a study on indigenous knowledge, beliefs, and cultural practices for children and families in Nigeria. The results of the study revealed that incorporating indigenous knowledge and values fosters group cohesion, which is essential for any effective program intervention.

In a study conducted in rural Sierra Leone, Wessells, David F., Lamin, Dora K., Kostelny K., Stark, L., & Lilley, S. (2012) found that community members depend heavily on family and conventional support networks in child safety. Wessells et al., (2012) found a significant disconnect between formal and informal child protection programs, which they attributed to a lack of resources and cultural norms that encouraged community members to rely on informal child protection methods.

Religious leaders and other community-based leaders are dependable for child safety, according to a study conducted in Kenya on community-based child protection mechanisms. They are effective and easy to meet, according to the study (UNICEF, 2015). This researcher noted that the results of the reviewed study aligned with those of Nambatya and Gubo (2016), who found that community-based systems are reliable in child protection because they are available. However, due to a lack of government funding, community-based informal child protection systems could not work to their full potential in child protection, according to the current study's researcher (Save the Children 2015)

3. Methodology

3.1 The Research design

This study adopted explanatory sequential mixed methods research design. This study was conducted in Mwingi Central Sub County, Kitui County. The total population for Mwingi Central Sub County is 108,713 persons living

in 26,753 households, and the total land area is 1,146.4 sq.KM with an average house hold size of 4.3 (KNBS, 2019). Kitui County depends mainly on agriculture as the main economic activity, with 51% of residents classified as food secure. However, due to the erratic rainfall patterns, 10% of residents in Kitui County are absolute food insecure. Additionally, while Kenya's Human Development Index HDI is 0.555, Kitui has an HDI of 0.481, which is below the national average. In Mwingi, a constant food shortage has created a vicious cycle of poverty, which is a major risk factor for child abuse and neglect, resulting in a large number of children in need of protection. (CIDP, 2018).

3.2 Study population and sampling procedure

The study's target population consisted of 108,713 people living in 26,753 households in Mwingi Central Sub County. The study's primary target group was adult household members. The study also targeted children aged 12 and 17 (both in and out of school) as well as main informants who were in a position to provide information about the research issue to complement the data from the adult members of the households. This study used both probability and non-probability sampling procedures and in determining the appropriate sample size, different methods were used which included formulas. In order to determine the sample size for administrative areas, the researcher took 30 percent of the existing administrative units in Mwingi Central Sub County; therefore, 2 Divisions, 5 Locations, 10 Sub Locations, and 24 Villages were chosen for the study using simple random sampling. The sample size for the adult members of the households was calculated using mathematical formulae developed by Taro Yamane in 1967 (Israel, 2003) to arrive at 399. Using simple random sampling, 12 students of both gender aged between 12 and 17 years and who were attending schools were also selected for the study, while using non-probability snowball sampling, and with the assistance of Children Officers and Area Chiefs to identify them, 12 children who had dropped from school due to one reason or the other were selected for the study. The key informants were purposively sampled. This study conducted household interviews for the adult household members within the sampled households by use of questionnaires. This study also conducted key informants' interviews for 10 key informants using a Semi-structured interview guide and in-depth interviews for the sampled 24 children.

3.3 Validity and reliability

All the data collection tools were constantly checked for any error, inconsistency, or negative connotation that could arise during data collection. To ensure reliability, this current study conducted to test and re-test reliability, which involved administering instruments to the same group of informants at different times.

3.4 Data analysis and ethical consideration

Before beginning the study, the researcher obtained permission from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and the National Commission for Science and Technology NACOSTI. All respondents' information was kept confidential, and their identities were protected during the data collection, review, and reporting process. Data analysis was done by use of the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20 and through thematic content analysis.

4. Results and discussion

4.1 The response rate

The response rate for the household adult members was 348 (87.2%) while for children going to school and out-of-school children was 8 (80%) and 6 (50%) respectively. The response rate for the key informants was 10 (100%).

4.2 Prevalence of children who need protection

The researcher engaged with the respondents with an aim of determining if they had encountered children who needed protection during their stay in their community. According to the study results, 339 (97.4%) respondents indicated that they had come across children who require protection while 8 (2.3%) indicated that they had not. 1 (0.3%) person chose not to respond to this question.

Table 1: Responses on whether respondents had encountered children who needed protection

Answers	Frequencies	Percentage
Yes	339	97.4
No	8	2.3
None response	1	0.3
Total	**348**	**100**

According to the findings of the research, the number of children in need of protection in the study area was deemed high, since the majority of the participants overwhelmingly stated that they had experienced children who needed protection from different forms of child violence and neglect, as well as other types of maltreatment that necessitated child protection.

4.3 Categories of children who required protection

The researcher sought to know from the respondents the categories of children who require protection within their community. The study analysis and results showed that, 223 (64.1%) participants indicated that children required protection from various forms of abuse like physical, sexual and emotional abuse while 258 (74.1%) participants indicated that orphaned children required protection due to their high vulnerability. 317 (91.1%) respondents indicated that child neglect was another category of children who required protection in the study area. According to the findings, the majority of children in the study area who required protection were as a result of neglect, followed by orphaned children, and then children who had suffered from different types of violence.
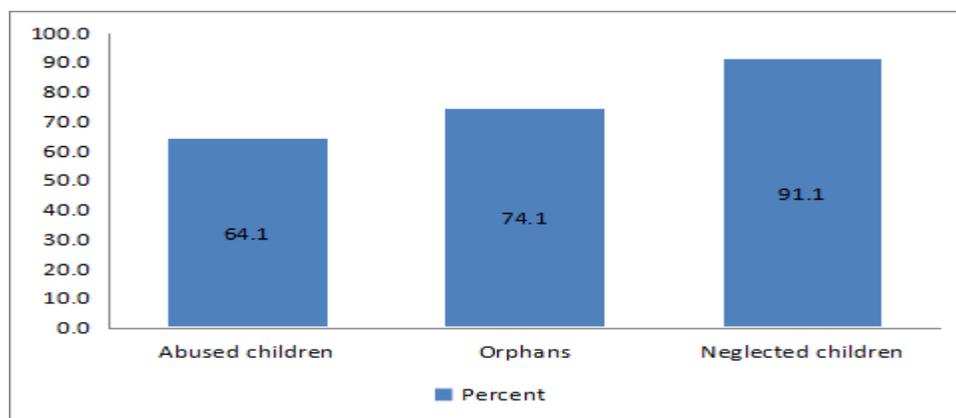

Figure 1- Categories of children who required protection

These study results were corroborated by UNICEF (2018) report which showed that 25.8% of female and 31.9% male children in Kenya were subjected to emotional abuse; 66.0% female and 73.1% of male children

experienced physical violence while 3.6 million children in Kenya were total orphans where 2.6 million children had lost either one of the parents and therefore were vulnerable to neglect (UNICEF 2015; UNICEF, 2018).

4.4 Response on participants' involvement in community-based children protection approaches

With an aim of determining the study participants' involvement in community-based child protection, the researcher engaged with the respondents and the following responses were received ; (95.1%) indicated that they personally or they knew someone involved in the community-based informal child protection approaches while 15(4.3%) indicated that they were not involved neither did they know anyone involved.

Table 2: *Responses on involvement in community-based child protection approaches*

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	331	95.1
No	15	4.3
None response	2	0.6
Total	**348**	**100**

The study results showed high involvement of community-based informal structures in child protection. Earlier study Badoe (2017) showed that community-based structures like immediate family members, religious and traditional leaders as well as schools played a leading role towards child protection

4.5 Category of people involved in community-based informal child protection

The researcher engaged with the study participants with an aim of determining various categories of people within the community who were involved in community-based informal child protection approaches and the following responses were received ; majority of participants were of the opinion that members of immediate family were more involved in child protection: 325 (93.4%); followed by members of extended family 308 (88.5%); religious leaders 224 (64.4%); local leaders 137 (39.4%); schools 118 (33.9%); traditional leaders 63 (18.1%); children 53 (15.2%)
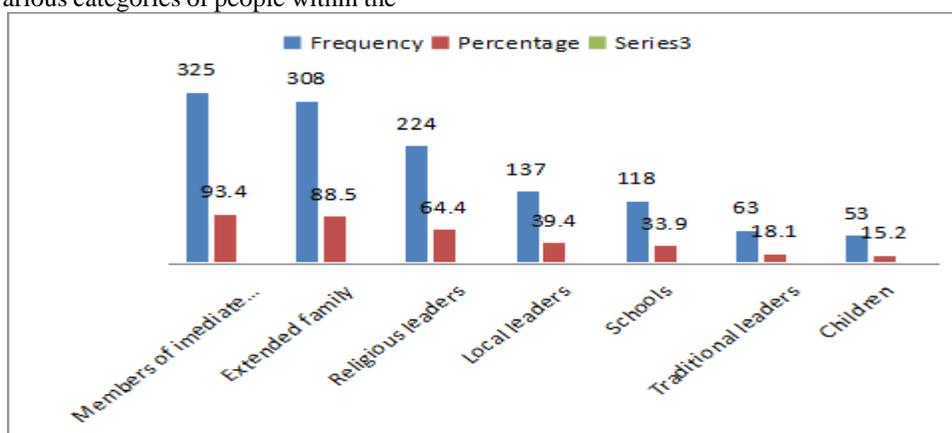

Figure 3. Category of people involved in community- based informal child protection

The study results revealed that there was high involvement of members of immediate family members and the extended members of the family in child protection. The researchers of the current study agreed that child rearing practices in a family setup in many African communities required the adult members of the family and older children to ensure security and safety of younger children.

4.6 Role of Different groups of people involved in community-based informal child protection

Respondents were asked to state the role of different categories of people involved in community-based informal child protection and the following responses were received; referral of child protection cases to other service providers, 8 (2.3%); settlement of the child protection cases 32(9.2%); reporting of child protection cases to government authority 166(47.7%); provision of psychosocial support and advice on safety 104(29.9%); family support and provision of basic needs 192(52.2%); identification and detection of child protection cases 712(62.4%); prevention of child abuse happening 200(57.5%)

4.7 Rating on the use of community-based informal child protection approaches

The researcher wanted to know how the study participants rated the use of community-based informal approaches to child safety on a scale of 1 to 5, so he asked them to rate it on a scale of 1 to 5. (Rank 1 as rarely used to rank 5 as mostly used). The following ranking was given by the respondents; rank 1, 9 (1.7%); rank 2, 10 (2.9%); rank 3, 68 (19.5%); rank 4, 130 (37.4%) and rank 5, 130 (37.4%).
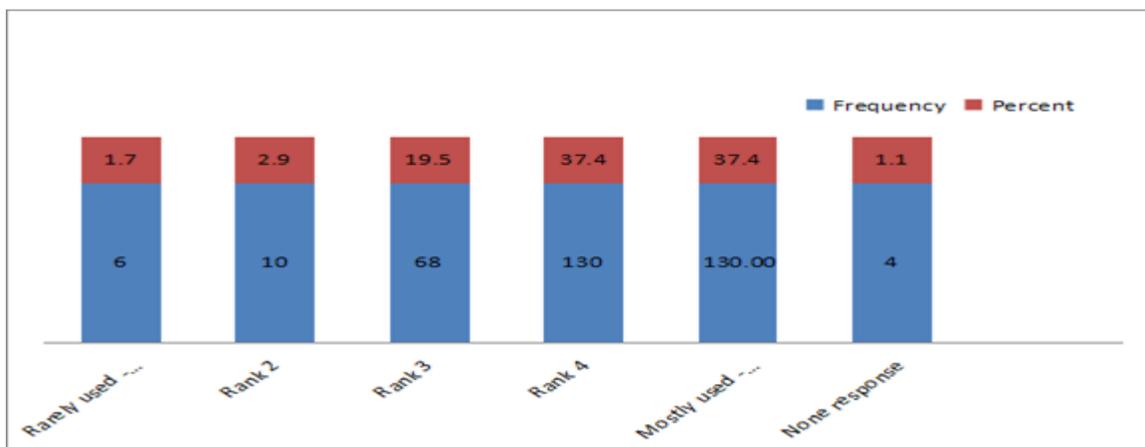

Figure 4- Rating on use of community-based informal child protection approaches

According to the study results, 260 (74.8%) participants gave a higher ranking of 4 and 5. According to the researcher, this high ranking confirmed that, community-based informal approaches were the preferred option by residents of the study area on child protection.

4.8 Response on effectiveness of community-based informal approaches in child protection

The researcher sought the respondents' opinion on the effectiveness of community-based approaches in child protection and the following responses were received; very effective 185 (53.2%) somehow effective 142 (40.8%) and not effective 13 (3.7%) and 3 (2.3%) choose not to respond to this question.

Table 3: Effectiveness of community-based informal approaches in children protection

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Very effective	185	53.2
Somehow effective	142	40.8
Not effective	13	3.7
No response	8	2.3
Total	**348**	**100.0**

The study findings revealed that a large percentage of respondents believed that community-based informal approaches to child protection were successful. An earlier study by Gwanyemba et al. (2016) found that community-based informal networks such as immediate family members and other close relatives were successful and well-placed to provide care and security to children

4.9 Challenges faced by members of community in child protection

The researcher engaged with the respondents to gather data towards to the question about problems faced by members of the community in child safety, and the following responses were obtained : increased child vulnerability due to food insecurity 64 (18.4%); hostility and none cooperation of some relatives 77(22.1%); hiding

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The study concluded that indeed the prevalence of cases of children who needed protection in the study area was high. The study findings established that majority of cases that required protection were; neglected children, followed by orphans due to their high vulnerability to abuse, and then children who require protection from various forms of abuse like sexual physical, and emotional.

The study found that the majority of community members were involved in one way or the other in child protection at the community level. The study concluded that

cases or protection of offenders by relatives and other community members 87 (25.0%); corruption to defeat justice 15 (4.3%); settling of cases locally / internally for compensation 3 (0.9%); settling of cases locally / internally for compensation 3(0.9%);increased child vulnerability due to old grandparents 29 (8.3%) ; minimal external support 17 (4.9%) ; ignorance on child protection laws 37 (%10.6) ; none response 19 (5.5%)

Wessells (2018) confirmed the study results on challenges faced by community members on child protection and observed that, some community members shy off from reporting child abuse cases for fear of harassment by relatives. Therefore, some members of the community opt for locally compensation other than the court process that takes longer time to conclude.

immediate family members were more active, as well as extended family members in child protection. Other community-based structures such as religious leaders, schools (teachers and other older children), and local leaders all played a role in child safety, but at different levels, according to the study.

The study gathered from the participants' opinion that community-based informal approaches were regarded by the majority of members of the community as an effective way of child protection compared to other alternative ways of child protection. However, the study concluded that some challenges within the community-based informal approaches impacted negatively to the fight against child abuse and neglect. These challenges include: food insecurity within households which the study concluded was a leading cause of child neglect. The study also concluded that the practitioners of formal government child protection systems had not made it easy for members of the community at the lower level to partner with them in child protection.

The study particularly concluded that due to lack of faith with the formal child protection units as well as other reasons like corruption and hostility by some government officials, there was a negative attitude by some members of the community towards formal child protection units' hence high preference by community members to settle child protection cases at the domestic level.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the study's results, recommendations were made to policymakers and other stakeholders who are crucial to the study's implementation.

1. The study recommended that various people involved in community-based informal child protection should make a deliberate move to make use of formal government child protection units that would address serious crimes related to child abuse and neglect. They will help rid the community of the perennial offenders of children.

2. The study recommended that members of the community should desist from protecting and hiding relatives and friends who are child offenders because this in one way or the other encourages more abuse to children

3. The study recommended that members of the community should discard the retrogressive cultural practices that enhance child abuse. Some of the retrogressive cultural practices include; female genital mutilation, child labor, early and forced marriage as well as gender-based violence hidden under cultural beliefs.

References

Badoe, E. (2017). A critical review of child abuse and its management in Africa. *African Journal of Emergency Medicine*.2211-419X/2017: Elsevier: (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/BY-NC-ND/4.0/).

Bertalanffy, L.V. (1969). *General system theory*. New York, George Brazillier.

Better Care Network (2017). *Violence against children and care in Africa*: A discussion paper. New York, BCN

Banathy, B. H. (1991). Systems design of education. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Educational Technology Publication.

Bordens, K., S. & Abbott, B. (2018).Tenth edition. New York, McGraw-Hill Education.

Creswell, J. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approach.* Thousand Oaks, CA Sage.

Creswell, J. (2015). *A concise introduction to mixed methods research*: Thousand Oaks, CA Sage.

Cohen, L., Manion, L., & Morrison, K. (2018). *Research methods in education:* Eighth ed. Abingdon Oxon, Routledge.

Devaney, C. & Byrne, P. (2015). The value of family welfare conferencing within the child protection and welfare system: *Child Care in Practice*-21:4,340-356, DOI: 10.1080/13575279.2015.1027173

Dziro, C. & Mhlanga, J. (2018). The sustainability of kinship foster care system in Zimbabwe: A Study of households caring for orphans and other vulnerable Children in Bikita. *African Journal of Social WorkAfri*. J. Soc. Work. AJSW, Volume 8 Number 2 2018

GOK/NCCS (2015). *National plan of action for children in Kenya 2015-2022*. Nairobi, Government printer.

GoK/ UNICEF/ GAC (2015). *Taking child protection to the next level in Kenya.* New York, UNICEF.

GoK (2015). National plan of action for children in Kenya. 2015- 2022. Nairobi, the Government Printer,

_____GoK /UNICEF & Global Affairs Canada (2015). *Taking child protection to the next level in Kenya.* UNICEF, Kenya.

Gwanyemba, J., Kiwia, R., & Zuberi, G. (2016). The effectiveness of formal and informal community-

based child protection mechanisms in rural areas of Tanzania. Evidences from selected world vision Tanzania projects: *developing country studies www.iiste.org ISSN 2224-607X (Paper) ISSN 2225-0565 (Online) Vol.6, No.1, 2016*

Israel, D.G. (2003). *Determining a sample size*: PEOD6 University of Florida, IFAS Extension. Retrieved fromhttps://www.qualtrics.com/experience-management/research/determine-sample-size/

Kinyua, D. N. (2012) *Child abuse and neglect: A concern for the catholic diocese of Kitui.* A research project submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Arts in religious studies in the University of Nairobi (Unpublished)

Kiraly, M (2015). A review of kinship carers surveys the "Cinderella" of the care system. A review of kinship carers surveys. *CFCA paper no. 31. Australian Institute of Family Studies Level 2,* Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia

_____ Kitui County Intergraded Development Plan (2018-2022). Nairobi, the Government Printer,

KNBS / UNICEF (2017). *Child Poverty in Kenya*. New York, UNICEF.

Kostelny, K., Ondoro, K., & Wessells, M. (2014). Community-based child protection mechanisms in Kisii/Nyamira Area: A rapid ethnographic study in two rural sites in Kenya. *Interagency Learning Initiative on Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms and Child Protection Systems,* London.

Lee, E., Choi, M., Lee, J., Y & Kramer, C. (2017). Placement stability of children in informal kinship care: age, poverty, and involvement in the child welfare system. *Child welfare. 2017 Vol. 95, No. 3.*

Mugenda A. G. and Mugenda O. M. (2012). *Research Methods Dictionary*. Nairobi: Applied Research & Training Services (ARTS) Press

Nambatya, S. & Gubo, Q. (2016). Exploring child rights clubs: potential on promoting child protection education in schools. *International Journal of Scientific Research and Innovative Technology.* ISSN: 2313-3759 - Vol. 3 No. 6.

Nalianya, C. K. (2013). *Contribution of area advisory councils in child protection. A case study of Kitui County, Kitui West District*. University of Nairobi, MA Thesis (unpublished)

O'Leary, P., Tilda, A., & Squire, J. (2015). Community-based child protection with Palestinian refugees in South Lebanon: Engendering hope and safety; *International Social Work*. Vol. 58(5) 717 –731. DOI: 10.1177/0020872815584427 isw.sagepub.com

Delap E., Roelen, K., Jones, C. & Chettri, H. K (2016) Improving child wellbeing and care in Sub-Saharan Africa: The role of social protection. *Children and Youth Services Review*. CYSR (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.12.020

Ritzer, G. (2011). *Sociological theory*. Eighth edition. New York, McGraw Hill.

Save the children (2015). *Understanding informal /alternative care mechanisms for protecting children: Study of kinship care practices in Busia county Kenya.* Nairobi, Save the Children

Siddiqui, N., Thomas, J., Hossain, M., Johnson, J., Osuoha, A. & Balke, P. (2017). *"Informal child care in Detroit."* Princeton, Mathematica Policy Research.

Stamatović, J. & Cicvarić J. C. (2019). Child rights in primary schools. The situation and expectations. *C e p s Journal | Vol.9 | No1 | Year 2019.* Doi: 10.26529/cepsj.661

Thomas, j., Boller, K. Johnson, C., Young, M., and Hu, M. (2015*). Setting the stage: The importance of informal childcare in California*. Princeton NJ., Mathematica policy research.

O'Brien, V. (2015) *Formal & informal kinship care: complexities, dilemmas and a way forward?* Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath, Belfield Dublin 4.

Le Roux, E., and Palm, S. (2018). *What lies beneath? Tackling the roots of religious resistance to ending child marriage*. Research Report. Girls Not Brides.

Olaore, A. Y. & Drolet, J. (2017). Indigenous knowledge, beliefs, and cultural practices for children and families in Nigeria. *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work,*

    26:3, 254-270, DOI:
    10.1080/15313204.2016.1241973.

UNICEF, (2015).*The State of the World's Children*. New
    York: UNICEF.

UNICEF (2018). *For every child in West and Central
    Africa Annual Report*. New York: UNICEF.

Wessells, M. (2015). *Bottom-up approaches to
    strengthening child protection systems: Placing
    children, families, and communities at the Centre.*
    Columbia University, USA. Elsevier.

Wessells, M., David F. M., Lamin, D., King, D.,
    Kostelny, K., Stark, L., & Lilley, S. (2012): The
    disconnect between community-based child
    protection mechanisms and the formal child
    protection system in rural Sierra Leone:
    Challenges to building an effective national child
    protection system, Vulnerable Children and
    Youth Studies: *An International Interdisciplinary
    Journal for Research,* Policy and Care, 7:3, 211-
    227
    http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/17450128.2012.708798

WHO (2018). *European status report on preventing child
    maltreatment*. Marmorvej, WHO.