AN INVESTIGATION ON THE IMPACT OF ABSENTEE FATHER FIGURE ON PSYCHOSOCIAL GROWTH OF THE BOY CHILD: A CASE OF EMBAKASI CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY, NAIROBI COUNTY-KENYA

BY

MOSES ALLOICE NYANGWESO WANGUDI

MTH/NRB/3479/18

This Dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Master of Theology- Counseling Psychology Specialization from St. Paul's University.

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Supervisor: Prof. Ndung'u J.B. Ikenye

August 2019

Declaration

I hereby declare that this Research Dissertation is my original work and has not been presented for examination to any other university.

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE **27th August, 2019**

Word Count: 22,850

I confirm that the work reported in this dissertation was carried out by the student under my supervision.

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR _____DATE_____

Dedication

This Dissertation is dedicated to my late dad, Mzee Michael NyangwesoWangudifor his love for education, my uncle Bishop Franklin Were Omodo, he has always encouraged me to study hard; I am a product of his mentorship. It is also dedicated to my dear family; my wife Nyanchoka, my mother, Nakhulo Omina, our children Otiro Nyangweso and Nakhulo Omina, whom I owe a lot of love. Thank you for your support and believing in me.

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Abstract

This study sought to find out psychosocial impact of absentee father in upbringing of the boy child in Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi County. The study focussed on the relationship between present and absent father figure in relation to boy child deliquency, truancy, drug and substance abuse as well as academic performance in Embakasi Constituency. To realize its objective, the study was majorly descriptive and adopted both qualitative and quantitative methodologies to collect, analyse and report the required data. The study was undertaken among boys brought up in absentee father figure families' as well as present father figure families with age bracket between 12 and17, in Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi County. The study also sought to investigate the causes of absentee father figure in the same geographical location. In this study, a total of 90 respondents were sampled; 45 of them involved boys brought up with absent father figures, while the other 45, included boys brought up by both parents. The study sample for single mothers was 45. Non probability sampling method of single mothers with boys was used. Other than the questionnaire, oral interviews were conducted on mothers to find out the cause of single motherhood to collect the data. The study was founded on Social Learning and Structural functioning theories. There was focus on the family as a major player that creates social environment and determines the upbringing of the boy child. The study's objectives aimed at finding out how parenting is conceptualized today; as well as seeking to find out the psychosocial indicators of upbringing the boy child in absentee father figure families. On academic performance, the research found out that boys from present father figure families perform better in school at an average grade of B as compared to those from absentee father families who perform at an average grade of C-. In regard to drugs and substance abuse, the study was able to tell that boys from absentee father figure are prone to drugs and substance abuse in relation to boys from present father figure. The research findings states that 47% of single mothers in Embakasi Central Constituency are single by choice. Gambling is almost at per from both present and absentee father figure boys; 81% and 91% respectively. However, from the research findings, it is also evident that some single mother have come up with alternative coping mechanism which are helping them provide overall support to the boy child this is according to the study findings which show that there are boys (11.1%) brought up by absentee father figure but they are equally doing well in school (C+) with very low delinquency rates (17%). In conclusion that study observes that boys brought up in the absence of father figure are likely to experience more psychosocial challenges as compared to those brought up with father figure families.

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ABBREVIATIONS

H.I.L: Here's Life Community Based Organization

K.N.B.S: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

NG.C.D.F: National Government Constituency Development Fund

N.I.U.P.L.A.N: National Integration on Urban Planning

U.S.S: United States of America

NACOSTI: National Commission on Science and Technology

U.S.A C.B: United Sates Census Bureau

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

Adolescent: One who is in the period of life from puberty to maturity terminated legally at the age of majority (Collegiate Dictionary, 2002:79).

Adjudicated: Having had action through a court of law due to indictment or information filed with a trial court (in this case the term will be used in reference to minors) (Nelson, Rutherford, & Wolford, 1987:98).

Assault: The illegal, intentional perpetration or attempted perpetration of injury of another individual (Nelson et al., 1987:99).

Defiance: A disposition to resist or willingness to contend or fight (Collegiate Dictionary, 2004:347).

Delinquent: A legal term indicating that a child/adolescent had violated the law (Oxford Dictionary, *2004*:350). For the purposes of this study, an individual who has been adjudicated to a detention facility will be considered as delinquent.

Father: A person regarded as a male parent (Oxford Dictionary, 2004:484). For the purposes of this study, a father-figure can represent any male figure including, but not limited to, an uncle, grandfather, cousin, or step-father.

Juvenile: A youth who is below the age of 18 for which a juvenile court has first authority or jurisdiction over an individual for violating the law (OJJDP, *2000:*67).

Paternal Deprivation: Paternal deprivation is a general term that is used to describe various types of inadequacies involved in a child's experience with his or her father (in this research, we shall refer to paternal deprivation to a boy child)

Father-figure absence. Most typically, it refers to the actual physical absence of the father-figure, but it can also refer to the father's disinterest in, neglect of, or rejection of the child (Horn, *2002*:98).

Adolescent: one who is in the period of life from puberty to maturity terminated legally at the age of majority, in Kenya one gets to be a young adult at the age of eighteen years. (Collegiate Dictionary, *2002:34).*

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This study was based on the premise that a father brings something unique in the psychosocial well-being of the boy child, as such; the father makes irreplaceable contributions to the life of a boy child. Fathers play a unique role, in that their contribution is different from what the mothers can provide. Review of literature, related to delinquency and adolescent behaviour of boy child, and academic performance, shows some links between father-role-model to the son and the teaching and training of social values such as self-control, emotional intelligence and maturity, appropriate societal accepted behaviour, interpersonal and intrapersonal relationship. These values can be undermined if a boy is deprived paternal presence and may lead to juvenile delinquency. In this chapter, the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, and research questions were discussed.

1.2 Background of the study

According to Horn (2002:87), significant results on fatherhood and parenting reveals that in comparison to boys brought up with both parents, boys who grow without fathers have worse outcomes on average in a myriad of activities such as, delinquency, maternal defiance, drug and substance abuse, school and academic performance and many more. An understanding of factors that may result to psychosocial incompetence and disorientation among boys, can better equip the key stakeholders such as parents, teachers and policy makers to provide necessary support to such boys. This research study sought to investigate the influence, the impact and the correlation between the psychosocial challenges facing boy child, boy child delinquency with the presence or absence of father figure in the boy's life in Embakasi Central Constituency.

Responses were made on the psychosocial issues such as delinquency, school performance, antisocial behaviour and abuse of drugs between two samples that were examined. The study also attempted to determine the above aspects among boys which were differentiated by absence or presence of father figure in boys' life. This study also investigated the frequency and severity of delinquency, school performance and abuse of drugs in the determined sample groups. The study made a critical analysis on the prevalence of gambling also known as betting among adolescent from present and absentee father figure. The research also sought to investigate on the reason why there many single mother families in Embakasi Central constituency. The key area of study therefore in this research is a family. As it is observed by Chemorion (2014: 63), the basic unit of all societies and communities is the family. The family normally, is the key source of fundamental necessities of life which include but not limited to health, love and affection, enough food, reliable and clean water, place and time to rest, clothing and all

other basic elements of hygiene. All are made available within a social-economic environment and political conditions; the basic of this is the family. It can therefore, be asserted that the family is entirely, in charge of care and upbringing of children. Family is meant to be a united institution which majorly provides economic, social and psychological security to all members more so children. So, what happens to a family where one parent, in this case the father is absent? Will it have some psychosocial effects? Chemorion, (2014:115) defines Christian family as a basic human community. He further observes that it consists of father, mother and children and other adopted members.

On the other hand, Degby (1980:78) observes that the family is a social institution where morals and norms are passed on to the next generation. According to Degby (1980: 81), a family is supposed to be a haven of posterity where each member feels safe and is safely guarded. Material and spiritual customs and traditions are advanced to family members as well as providing role models and preparation for adulthood. Drawing reference from Degby (1980:79), a family in this context is an ecological eco-system. What affects one member, therefore, affects all other members and the whole system is affected, and if one member is happy, okay and doing well, the same reciprocates to all the members of the family.

Basically, a family is made up of father, mother and children. The three entities operate in a symbiotic relationship; motherhood and fatherhood are major players in parenting. However, quite often, the mother has been considered a defacto contributor to nurturing both boys and girls. In the recent past, there has been a change in trends of considering the importance of both fathers and mothers. As Horn (2002:89), observes, interest in current trends on fatherhood and parenting have always been left to policy developers, social services providers, political elites, local communities such as Community Based Organizations,(CBOs) and media fraternity, but there is a shift to academic research and studies. For instance, looking at former USA president George Bush's speech during the 2001 Annual Summit on Fatherhood and parenting, he observed that parenting issues have extended from policy developers, social service providers, political class, and local communities, including faith organizations, media commentators to now academic and research studies. Therefore, who is an absentee father?

In this research, absent fathers are defined as fathers who do not interact with the affairs of the family by not living together or being emotionally absent (disconnect in terms of mental and affection support) and relinquishing all the roles of boy child upbringing to the mother, hence paternal deprivation on the boy child. They are either physically or emotionally absent. Physically, the father figure might be away because he is fully engrossed with careers and other undertakings and thus most of the time they are

away from home. They might be away also because of natural attritions like death. The amount (quantity) of time and worth (quality) of time parents spend with their children has diminished significantly. As it was observed by Michael (2006:96) that a number of families were headed by single mothers, either by choice, death, separation or divorce, this trend has doubled today according to findings these research. Divorce is becoming a common phenomenon in developing countries such as Kenya, but father absence by choice, desertion and death are key contributors to single motherhood families. Fathers are becoming rarely available as times go by, about a decade ago, scholars such as Michael (2006:97), observed that fathers are kind of a forgotten lot of contributors to general child development and upbringing process. Are men becoming sperm donors with no tangible role in child upbringing? Most psychologists and child rearing gurus, and dominant cultural assertions have heavily contributed and concentrated on the role played by mothers, and not given special attention to the place of fathers, whereas, the father has been considered second in command in raising of children; unfortunately, this has had tremendous negative effect to the boy child.

Study carried out by Krohn and Boga (2001: 53) observed that divorce, death, abandonment and alcoholism are all forms of father figure absence, which consequently affects boy child development. Krohn and Boga,(2001:63),further acknowledge that, the age and time in which boys lose their father figure is significant considering their perception of males, their surroundings, emotional, social and economic reasons, more so, the role modelling aspects. A decade ago former president of United States of America, George Bush Junior observed the following during the Annual Summit on Fatherhood in 2001 regarding the place of fathers in boy child upbringing, he said:

> "Over the past four decades, fatherlessness has emerged as one of our greatest social challenge. We know that sons who grow up with absent fathers can suffer lasting psychosocial damage. They are more likely to end up in poverty, and delinquency tendencies such as; drug abuse, truancy and school dropout" (Horn, 2002:65).

Men have come to spend less and less time in parental roles yet they have always been seen as primarily economic providers for the family (Griswold, 1993:76). A key impact of this shift is a change in role and examples of fathers and development of boy's personality which has major psychosocial and psychological difficulties in sons. (Biller, 1971:87, 1974:67, 1982: 43).Gohm, (1998:89) elucidated that it is important for fathers to keep contact with their sons to enhance their holistic growth. Krohn et al., (2001:65) posts that globally, one quarter to one third of families are headed by single mothers. He further observed that developed countries, in particular, are experiencing an increase in single-mother families as divorce becomes more common.

According to the 2009 Kenyan Population Census, 25% of families in Kenya are single mothers, and this is most widespread in major towns such as Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu (Census Report 2009: 79). It is further observed that in most developed economies like United States of America, the nuclear family remains the preferred cultural pattern. The United States Census Bureau (2016:239) shows that 50% of children in the United States lived with both parents in early 1970s, this trend has since changed and currently the number of single mothers has risen due to divorce (USA, C.B: 2016).

According to Chemorion (2014:76), in the traditional African society, the extended and polygamous family systems included cousins, uncles and aunts living in one compound or close to one another. Within this structure, children occupied the central position and they were to be raised in close family groups. The responsibility of social upbringing of children was shared. In such a context, boys always had a male father figure from one of the extended family relatives like uncles and grandfathers; this is a sharp contrast to the post-modern urbanized populations where kinship ties have been disintegrated- every man for himself, and God for us all. A family is the smallest social unit as observed in the definition by Chemorion (2014:116) and quite often, the family is formed out of marriage. Hence, marriage is an institution based on a binding relationship of love between a man and a woman who have agreed to live together for purpose of mutual comfort, support as well as production and upbringing of the children (Ibid, 2014:116).

However, according to Marriage and Family Encyclopaedia, marriage has ceased to represent ties between individual and social groups; rather it has become an alliance between individuals (htt/p://family.jrank.org12/10/2018 3pm). The non-extended families are widespread in Kenya, with the most common being monogamous nuclear family found in both rural and urban areas. The increase in single parent families in Kenya is attributed to high incidences of teenage pregnancies, premarital sex, deaths due to HIV and AIDS and political violence that make youths and young adults, especially men more vulnerable to insurgencies such as organized criminal gangs, as well as high divorce rate. As a result of father figure absence there is a physical and a psychosocial gap created in the general upbringing of the boy child.

This study therefore, was based on the premise that when the father figure spends much time away from home, or not around all together due to the above stated reason, the role of the child rearing is left to the mother who has to multitask (World Bank 2005:23). According to Koskey, (2012:19) there is need of re-thinking about the roles of the father in the family in terms of authority, social, economic and emotional involvement, role modelling and more so, how it affects the boy child.

For instance, Chemorion, (2014:98) opinionated that, when the husband died, the wife took over the responsibilities of heading the families, as we observed; every family is born from marriage. Even today, in the modern society, this assertion is nurtured through the expected relationship and partnership between mother and father in the family; however, despite African Traditional Society ethos on family, Old Testament and modern society expectations on the place of father figure in the family, some fathers have tended to relinquish family roles and obligations. Relinquishing of family obligations through ways such as working away from their families, alcoholism, divorce and separation and death, some have generally just decided to keep away and neglect their duties. Other than fathers abdicating their duties, there are ladies who just choose to get children and not ready for marriage especially the educated ones who are self-sufficient.

The challenges caused by absentee father figure to the boy child as an individual have been enormous (Koskey, 2012:9). The challenges have been voiced by several academic scholars and researchers as well as several organizations that cherish family values and unity (H.I.L.C.B.O, 2018:13). It's therefore, imperative to seek for an understanding of the phenomena of the absentee father figure in the family and its impact to the upbringing of the boy child. There have been general concerns raised about the academic, social, economic and family responsibilities of the boy child. It is observed that there has been general average drop in school attendance of boy child, as well as drop in grade performance in school. In his article; unfinished agenda, why is the boy child endangered? Koskey (2012:37), elucidates to this challenge by observing that in as much as there has been persistent campaigns for awareness of girl child retention in school, equality in grade performance with boys and indeed it is bearing fruit; however, in retrospective, the society has ignored the plight of the of the boy child. These issues of boy child have not been fully and adequately addressed (World Bank, 2005:11). The data from the Ministry of Education Annual Report, (2014) indicates that there is high risk of boy child dropping out of school at 34% as compared to girl child at 27%. There has been a general drop in school attendance and boy child performance in academics is dwindling as compared to the other gender. (Ministry of Education, 2014:76). The study, therefore, seeks to find out the gaps that result in the boy child growth due to absent father figure.

1.3 Statement of the Problem:-

The World Bank (2005: 17) report observes that absentee father figure is one of the challenges facing the postmodern families today. The Report further opinionated that efforts to contain this challenge seem not to bear much fruit. On the other hand, Koskey (2012:41) also observes that due to too many social economic challenges and constrains, and the disintegration of traditional family ethos and values,

the father figure presence has become secondary in a majority of modern families. Many fathers have become absent to their boys, yet they play a significant role in modelling of their character and shaping the boys' future.

Report of Nairobi Cross Sectional Slums Survey (NCSSS 2012:17), observes that Nairobi is the 14th largest City in Africa, and the largest city in East and Central Africa. The NCSSS (2012:19) report further states that urbanization has increasingly become a major challenge in many African countries, Kenya being one of them, Nairobi city being the most affected with many social dynamics and family challenges, including absentee father figure. Nairobi City County has seventeen constituencies, and Embakasi Central is one of them. Embakasi Central is constituency number 285 out of the 290 constituencies in Kenya, with a population of about 163,858 people according to Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2009 population census. However, this number must be higher as at today. A majority of households, according to the census, are headed by female parents, men are either physically or emotionally absent or both (KNBS, 2009:79).

According to the workshop proceedings on Public Consultation for National Integrated Urban Development (NIUPLAN, 2014-2030:12), it is observed that Embakasi Central Constituency, is one of Nairobi's constituencies with increasing populations with absentee father figure. The latest statistics from Here's Life, a Community Based Organization- dealing with orphans and widows operating within Embakasi Central Constituency puts the figures at 49.5%. The CBO also observes that majority of young boys, who are experiencing high social problems such as drugs and substance abuse, are from absentee father figure families.(Here's Life CBO, 2018:35).

Embakasi Central Constituency, therefore, faces a myriad of challenges on matter's absentee father figure. As the research findings have observed, most of the previous studies have not paid keen interest on the effects of absentee father figure on the boy child, for instance research done by Kimani and Kombo (2010:38), generally looked at physical effects of absentee father to the family. The research failed to recognize that a boy child has unique emotional needs which can only be addressed by the presence of the father figure. This research study, therefore, sought to investigate not only physical effects of absentee father figure to the family, but also the emotional absence of the father figure, and emotional effects of absentee father figure on psychosocial growth of boy child which can necessitate juvenile delinquency. The research chose to use the two samples i.e. absentee father figure boys and present father figure adolescent boys to create a clear contrast in establishing the psychosocial challenges facing the boy child.

1.4 Research Objective:-

The general objective of the study was to carry out an investigation on the impact of absentee father figure on psychosocial growth of the boy child and how father figure presence or absence impact on the upbringing of the boy child in Embakasi central constituency, Nairobi county-Kenya.

This research was also founded on the following specific objectives:

i. To investigate the academic performance of boys from absentee father figure families as compared to those from both parents' families.
ii. To identify the rate of delinquency using delinquency checklist between boys from absentee father figure families in relation to those with both parents.
iii. To establish drug prevalence among absentee father figure boys.
iv. To assess truancy levels among boys from absentee father figure families as compared to those with both parents.
v. To investigate the reasons behind single motherhood in Embakasi Central Constituency.

1.5Research Questions:-

The following were the research question used in the study:

i. How do boys from absentee father figure families perform in school as compared to those with father figure?
ii. What is the rate of delinquency between boys from absentee father figure families as compared to those with father figure families?
iii. What is the prevalence of drug and substance abuse among boys with absent father figure families as compared to those with both male and female parents?
iv. What is the truancy level among boys from absentee father figure families as compared to families with both parents?
v. What are the reasons behind single motherhood in Embakasi Central Constituency?

1.6 Hypothesis of the Research

Considering the key phenomenon being investigated; the effect of absentee father figure on the psychosocial growth of boy child, this study looked forward to unearthing how absentee father figure interferes with psychosocial growth and development of the boy child. The most important hypothetical expectation was to confirm whether boys brought in absentee father figure families are vulnerable and exposed to social challenges, such as anti-social behaviour, child delinquency drugs and substance which affects emotional growth and school performance of the boy child. On the other hand, the study

sought to ascertain whether boys from present father figure families perform well in school, they have less truancy and minimal delinquency tendencies.

1.7Purpose of the study:-

The purpose of the study was to examine the psychosocial effects of two samples of boys brought up with absentee father figure and those from both parents' families. The study also attempted to determine if psychosocial challenges are differentiated by the absence or presence of a father figure in the home. This study investigated the levels and the rate of delinquency at which young boys' experiences psychosocial challenges in the determined sample groups are prone to delinquencies such as gambling and truancy. During the research process, the study sought to seek clarification on the main cause of absentee father figure among women in Embakasi Central Constituency.

1.8Theoreticaland Conceptual Framework:-

The study tried to hypothesise that absentee father figure in the life of boy child results to incomplete parenting in Kenya. To allude to this argument in this context, the researcher drew his inference from two theories; The Social Learning Theory and Structural Functioning theory. The two theories are in tandem with the fact that parenting is a nurturing process that aims at developing socially acceptable individuals. More so, boy child is brought up in a family, a family is a social unit and it operates in a specific structural system hence making all members remain optimally productive.

1.9 Scope and Limitations of the Study:-

Several limitations arose in this study. The aspect of boys who have absent father figure might not be typical and a replica of all situations in all geographical set ups. Social economic and cultural factors also affected research in the geographical region, for instance, it was difficult to assess delinquency on driving a car without a driving licence yet majority of the boys; parents never owned a car, especially those from Kayole Central. Over and above that, individual boys that come from homes where a father figure is present may not represent others who have a present father figure in the home but emotionally absent, meaning some fathers are likely to be physically present, but emotionally absent so this made it difficult to clearly make a distinction on when to state the father figure is absent.

On the same note, subjects who were not attending high school (boys from Kayole and Imara Daima primary Schools) did not represent the ideal situation on the data collected from the samples identified could not represent the whole situation on the ground, since they might be having their mothers' men friends but they couldn't disclose such personal issues to the researcher. Also boys in boarding schools would have a different experience all together, because although they are growing up in absentee father

figure families, but they have a father figure in their boarding school (male teachers, or boarding masters), as such it would be hard to make a general conclusion on the research findings to be extra cathedra. During research, it was also noticed that some students had received ideal benefit from a second adult in their home, be it an uncle or grandfather. The meaning of father figure absence and father figure presence group denied the ability to generalize results to the subject or individuals who have had father figure present for part of time in their lives or those who had a father figure who was not physically present in their home. It was quite cumbersome to prove the causing factor in the social sciences and those concerned about the effects of father absence should be cognisant of the complexity of the causing /correlation problem or confusion, for example, boys who grow up absent of their fathers have high chances of being poor, this is according to Horns (2002:95). But, we should also acknowledge that poverty contributed to some fathers in Embakasi central to be absent. Finally, paper and pencil research might not be one hundred per cent reliable; the interviewee might be biased in what they say and write, for instance, no boy or mother was bold and honest enough to tell the researcher that they have male figures they see secretly who might be standing in as a male figure to their sons. So this gives the findings margin of era.

1.10 Conclusion:-

This chapter looked at the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives and the research questions. The chapter also laid a lot of emphasis on the purpose of the study which was to find out the psychosocial impact of the absentee father figure in the upbringing of the boy child in selected schools in Embakasi Central Constituency in Nairobi. Social Learning and Structural Functioning Theories were discussed as the key informers of the research study. Finally, the chapter also elucidated further on scope and limitation of the study as well as the manner in which the study will be organized. Among the limitations is where we categorise a boy child who has no father at home but is in a boarding school where there are many male teachers and boarding master, as well the unreliability of pen and paper research which might have some vested biasness.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction:-

This chapter focuses on the review of relevant literature on father figure and psychosocial development of boy child. The chapter also focussed on: (a) The Family, (b) Common characteristics of the family (c) the family from Christian World view (d) modification of African family ethos (e) Traditional and modern family ethos (f) what is absentee father figure (g) Kenya's Situation of absentee father (h) the psychosocial impact of absentee father figure to boy child (k) psychosocial challenges (truancy) (l) fatherhood and psychosocial deprivation, (m)theoretical and conceptual framework(n) personal report measures.

It's of essence to note that the boy child of the 21st Century is faced with challenges which unless properly guarded; the community might end up losing him. In this chapter, the researcher intends to appreciate the fact that every member of our society has to be cognisant that all children are future leaders, they are the hope of the days to unfold and guardians of the future, gone are the days when one gender was more valued and esteemed than the other, such traditional stereotypes have been by-passed by time. It is from the above premise, that each family, community, society and in this regard, every nation like Kenya has to bring up young men and women who are physically, mentally, psychologically, socially and spiritually sound with the ideal values that reflects a better future.

For the family to be healthy in all the above paradigms there are need of concerted effort from both genders i.e. male and female to have both boys and girls grow and develop into their full potential. Referring to the boy child, several previous literatures regarding the place and position of father-figure on boys have been revisited, also considering the correlations between the paternal role and psychosocial growth and development, a number of research have been conducted through different entities and organizations such as, State Department of Education-Kenya, Department of Gender and Women Studies from University of Nairobi, Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres such Prisons Department, Juvenile Courts and other learning institutions such as schools.

2.2 The Family:-

Baber (2000:2) observed that definition of family does not always define what family is. This is more so, when the relationship, which one is analysing is so flexible and contains variables that assumes many forms. Baber (2000:4) further opinionated that the word "family" has been loosely used to cover several groupings, this include: the traditional group of father and mother and their children, if the other parent has died, deserted, or been separated or divorced, the married couple, with or without children, who

have lived together long enough to be considered man and wife by common law, a man with several wives, with or without children, or a group of related person (brothers, sisters, cousins, aunties etc. as accepted by the census) living together as a household(Baber 2000:3).

However, Baber (2000:4), further opinionated that to define family accurately, and concisely, to find a grouping capable of such variable characteristics is difficult, as such, Baber (2000:4) is of the view that to avoid the more cumbersome definition we have to consider some other simple, short and workable definitions as used by Maclver (1998:78) which describes the family as a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently, precisely and enduring to provide for procreation and upbringing of children. In reference to the above definition, there is an avoidance of the question of whether the parents have been legally married; the word "group" is capable of including monogamy, polygamy, polyandry, "sufficiently enduring" neatly sidesteps all arguments as to lifelong or extremely brief duration of the relationship; and "to provide for" the procreation and upbringing of children is broad enough to include childless couples by implication. However, in this study, the working definition is one given by Barber (2000:4) of an enduring relationship or procreation and support. Support who? And who are the key characters that need support? What form of support? So, does this relationship become ideal family in the absence of one person, for instance the father figure? Does it remain self-sustaining even if one party feels neglected, in this case the mother? These questions will be well looked at in the common characteristics of an ideal family.

2.2.1 Common Characteristics of family:-

MacIver (1998:77) enlists what he calls the universally recognised characteristics of family. The most ideal characteristic, according to McIver (1998:75), is a mating relationship followed by a form of marriage or either institutional arrangement in accordance with which the sexual relationship is established and maintained. Thirdly, a system of nomenclature, involving also a mode of reckoning descent relationship. Fourthly, some economic provision shared by the members of the group but having a special reference to economic needs associated with child bearing and rearing and generally, a common habitation, home or household, which however, may not be exclusive to the family group (McIver,1998:73). The above characteristics of family will inform this paper on matters family, child bearing and rearing and the role of the father figure in boy child upbringing. Again from the above characteristics it's obvious that where there is no father figure there are likely to be a challenge in stating what an ideal family ought to be.

2.2.2 The Family from Christian Perspective:-

Jack. *et al* (2014: 102), a family therapist, opinionated that marriage continues to be the foundation on which families are established, the same sentiments were shared by another family therapist by the name Virginia Satir (1983:68), who on the other hand, however, refers to marital partners as the architect of the family. According to Jack et al (2014:102), a family from Christian perspective can be described and based on rationality within the Holy Triune, describing God to be in a relationship of three in one. This simply means that the absence of one member of the family brings disharmony, discord and vacuum. An ideal Christian family, therefore, is founded on the husband, wife and Children, where by all the three persons contribute in the family life. Working harmoniously and complementing each other for optimum productivity and efficiency. Therefore, looking at family from Christian perspective augments well with Herbert Spencer's Structural functioning Theory, referring to a family as a system. From the Trinitarian Relationality, Jack et al (2014:103), elucidates that a family, becomes an institution where by a man and woman marry and become one, yet maintain their individual distinctiveness, this makes it a key element of the family. Family scientists and practitioner, Ikenye (2015:35) refer to it as differentiation, an element of dimension of African holiness. This is the process of maintaining a separate identity while simultaneously remaining connected in relationship, belonging and unity. If the God head is three in one, what will happen if one of the heads is absent? What happens if the family triune is destabilized by one being absent? In other words, interdependence is another way to describe this universal experience that all family members need to learn to navigate through in the various stages of life.

Grenz (2000: 45) confirms that the good news is that the scripture presents a model in trinity-God being one yet composed of three distinct persons, from which family members can heavily borrow and assimilate it in their systems. He further states that "the same principle of mutuality that forms the genius for the human social dynamic is present in a prior way in divine being" and the family needs to embrace it. (Grenz 2001:45). Therefore, building on the above premise, our starting point in developing a Christian relationship family starts with marriage, then children are brought forth, finally, it should reflect the Relationally within the Holy Trinity.

In reference to Baber (2000:5), the family is a group defined by relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for procreation and upbringing of children. In this research study, we focused on the thesis statement "Psychosocial challenges related with upbringing of boy child with absentee father figure", the psychosocial challenges and impact to boy child being brought up with no father figure. As such, we sought to fully understand what we mean by absentee father figure, what is the psychosocial impact of absentee father figure in the upbringing of boy child? What are the delinquencies tendencies

among boys from absentee father figure as compared to those from present father figure? Does the father figure contribute to effectiveness of future husband? What are the contributing factors to the absentee father figure? When do we say that the father figure is absent?

2.2.3 African family ethos, modification and effect to boy child:-

There is a possibility that traditional African family ethos and practices are slowly but gradually being modified. What kind of impact have they had to the boy child? Cases of divorce were not common in the African traditional society, probably because polygamy was allowed unlike today where polygamy has been replaced with divorce and remarry, a western ascribed school of thought. In African Traditional Societies Children were under the custody of the extended families, and therefore, the absence of any of the parents could easily be filled up. The recent trends and processes of modernization through urbanization are key contributing factors towards a change of traditional family set ups hence affecting the boy child by there being no male figure due to the disintegration of traditional family values and ethos, which has basically been brought up by female emancipation and independence. This research is not against female emancipation and independence, however it seeks to address some challenges resulting from absentee father figure and create a balance to have a stable optimal society.

Traditional family patterns and practices which were predominant in rural society are being replaced by postmodern identities and ethos. According to Merrick (2002:41), sub-Saharan Africa, (Kenya included), has one of the greatest annual population growth rate of families that are embracing postmodern values. The most important factor contributing towards this transformation of societies in the sub-Saharan Africa is growth of cities and towns. This has resulted to disintegration of African cultural/traditional features that characterize the rural society. It is of great importance to understand the trends that conspicuously depict family patterns in most parts of Africa, in this subsection of this chapter, the researcher tried to identify the modern trends in the modern family as compared to the traditional family values and how they affect the general upbringing of the boy child. The researcher sought to create awareness and illuminate the changes that characterize the postmodern family and their relevance to this study.

Despite the transformations taking place in the sub-Saharan societies due to modernization; African families still remain predominantly guided by Social Life of Africans. There is still considerable attachment to the respect of the elders and ancestors. African communities are more collectivist than individualistic. Individualism is a hindrance in child upbringing, because no one else can step in to help bring up children in the event of the absence of one or parents, especially, father figure. According to

Adebusoye (2001:5), the major characteristic of African families include; being mostly rural based, however, this is changing now with current urbanization, traditional families were mostly patriarchal. This is also gradually getting eroded because women are continually asserting their place in the society through career, education and property acquisitions as such; the notion of men being the rightful bread winners and owners of property is fading away. Probably this is a challenge facing boy child. The question to ask is this; is women emancipation and independence a threat to the place of a man as a defacto family head hence keeping men away from their families? If so, should women emancipation and independence be tamed? The answer is no, men have to accept that times have changed, and learn to live with an independent woman to keep to their families' emotional and physical presence to support holistic growth of the endangered boy child. Traditional family was notoriously polygamous, however today most couples, especially those in urban centres are choosing to be monogamous or single mothers. Polygamous families brought fourth many extended relatives who would step in, in the event of the demise or absence of the father figure, and this helped in the upbringing of the boy child.

Unlike the postmodern society which is fundamentally self-centred, the traditional society was ideally and substantially attached to lineage progression, with extended families being highly valued and respected. All these features, generally played a key role in boy child upbringing, and more so, the place of the boy child in the society. Adebusoye (2001:4), further illuminates that the social organization of most African families hardly recognised the place of women, women were voiceless, this affected them in exerting their authority to their boy children, in fact, in some communities, like the Luhyas, boys were even more superior to their mothers(Luseno;2007: 87).

In the words of Therbon (2006: 79), African societies and families have experienced slight distortion in the patriarchal systems due to urbanization; male supremacy and dominance have been discredited, due to evolution of gender roles, the rising of feminine schools of thought and women emancipation, self-discovery which have been precipitated by urbanization, indeed they have had great impact on traditional kinship system in which the boy child could thrive. Interestingly, some traditional families are still characterized by substantial importance attached to family lineage and patriarchal tendencies and this tend to influence child upbringing as compared to postmodern families. (Adebusoye; 2001:8)

Contemporary family patterns in Kenya are subjected to changes that originate from ameliorated economic conditions, education and health opportunities. These features continuously exert tremendous impact on the child nurturing process (Kalu, 1981:2). Kalu, (1981:7), also observes that social economic circumstances in sub-Saharan Africa, where Kenya rightly belongs, are encountering alterations that

have had a considerable trigger in the fundamental cultural values, most importantly in the domain of the family. Kalu,(1981:13) further elucidated on the above sentiments by saying that the occurrences of the kind of competition between traditional and modern family patterns illustrates a dichotomy; the dichotomy has resulted in identity crisis in child caring, where-by families are in a state of confusion to fully comprehend the most ideal way of bringing up a boy child. Kalu (1981:2) also notes that there is an increase towards the abandonment of traditional practices for modern society practices, in other words, many family regard post modernity as supra identity as compared to the traditional ethos. Where does these place ideal values of a family? Do men still play an integral role in child upbringing? And if not, how has their absence impacted the boy child?

2.3 Absentee Father Figure Situation in post modernity:-

In the recent past, we have witnessed many scholars and researchers ascertain that parental emotional presence is an essential and integral necessity for balanced growth of children of both genders (Kumpfer 1993:7). For instance, Bowlby (2004:23) observes that seeking inter-personal connection is fundamental aim of developing boy child, however, today, the society and community at large is facing the reality of an absent father figure. The scenario is not only in Kenya, but it has become a global phenomenon hence becoming cancerous to the family (Kumpfer. 1993:23).

As Kumpfer (1993:45) observed, developed economies such as United States of America have to face the reality and truth of an alteration in families which has made them feeble and basically not able to raise children, and most affected is the boy child absentee father figure. It is further elucidated that there are several catastrophic and unfortunate circumstances that contribute to absentee father figure. For instance, a weaker social economic backing (Blankenhorn, 1995:63, Horn, 2002:34),high prevalence of divorce rate (Ancona, 1998:34 Barber 2000:56, Blank horn, 1995:78 Bumpass, 1984:65, Demo & Acock, 1996:43; Horn, 2002:88, Kazdin, 1992:98, Kumfer,1993:47, Mclahan & Sandler, 1994:67.,Popenoe,1996, Wasseman & Seracini, 2001:76). It is well observed that currently, there is a reduction of marriage, Horn, (2002:89) elucidates further on this factor and goes on to say that, there are fewer marriages because of increasing teen pregnancy level and size of children born outside formal marital relationship (Ancona, 1998, Horn, 2002:87, Robins & Rutter 2002:71, Robins & Rutter, 1990:89), When all the above aspects occur, it happens that the mother takes the primary responsibility of taking care of the children. Horn (2002:81), Kalb, Farrington, & Loeber, (2001:77), indicate that in the recent past there has been reduced paternal responsibility and accountability for child support and general provision. Research by Horn (2002:89) on the absentee father figure, asserts that the increasing number of children being brought up in absence of father figure who are poorly educated, especially in

informal settlements coupled by impoverishment and poverty has resulted to negative implication to the boy child. There is a vacuum in boy child rearing that needs to be filled after thoroughly understanding the impact a father figure has on the boy child when physically and emotionally absent.

As a result of the enormous complexity of the postmodern society and many dynamics of roles that are now anticipated by male and female, it is not shocking of the changes which have taken place in family set up today. Drawing inference from Beaty (1995:65), many types of alternative family systems and structures have kept on expanding over the past generation. One of the key elements of this alternative family structure is the father figure absence. It is worth acknowledging that father or paternal absence has greater prevalence as compared to maternal absence and the same research has confirmed that father absence has had major effects to the boy child. (Ancona, 1998; Biller & Solomon, 1986:13).

As Kalu, (1981:31) observed, marriage and family disorientation due to divorcing couples have left children on their own, and on the receiving end, this leads to boys becoming the most vulnerable, since in most cases all children are put under care and custody of mothers, so as the girl child continue enjoying the presence of mother figure, and the role modelling that comes with her presence, the boy on the other hand has nothing to celebrate about. This does not mean the boy chid does not need the mother figure; however, there is a likelihood of greater impact to the boy child, especially when it comes to role modelling. Can a boy child get ideal role modelling from the mother? This does not mean mothers can't rise up boys; yes they do, in fact there are many men brought up by single mothers and are doing well, for instance former USA president, Barak Obama, former Gatanga Member of parliament Peter Kenneth and the late Kibra Member of Parliament Kenneth Okoth, just to mention a few. However, there are some pertinent values and traits which can only be transferred from men or father figure to boys. Many are a times, the society has contemplated on whether should a couple stay together for the sake of children? As observed above, whenever there is family separation, children are left in the hands of their mother, this is disadvantageous, where one or both parents are missing, this results to negative investment in children as it is stated by Barber (2000:12). However, Barber (2002:12) research was majorly based on physical absence of the father figure, in this research we seek to identify effects of both emotional and physical absence of the father figure and its resultant effects on the boy child.

Here's Life CBO (2018:23), in its annual research publication observed that in the last couple of years, there has been concerted effort in creating awareness on unprecedented widespread of threat posed by the father figure absence. The CBO further observes that father absence has encompassed aspects of both physical and emotional deprivation to the boy child. Some fathers have not fully participated in

family, marriage and in child upbringing processes. Studies have observed that paternal absence has been associated to several psychological and psychosocial effects to the family, and most importantly to the sons (Angel& Angel 1996:90; Biller, 1971:89, 1974:134, 1982:75; Demos & Acock 1996:78). Angel & Angel (1996:17), opinionated that a study conducted in America on a sample of 6,287 single parent families with absentee father figure, showed that young children of ages four to eleven, who are brought up in single mothers are prone to emotional challenges and use of mental health facilities, this scenario is rampant among boys as compared to girls who are being brought up in the same environment. This study did not consider the emotional effects on boy child's academic performance as well as truancy and delinquency which this research study seeks to address.

Popenoe (1996:34) asserts that a father inoculates something extra ordinary to the family and to the boy child in particular. On the other hand, Horn (2002:76), is recorded having said that father adding something unique means that they basically give something different to the boy child from the mothers, as such he further states that fathers cannot be replaced or substituted by mothers. In other words irreplaceable, simply means that when the family suffers from several disorientation such as boy child delinquency, unruly behaviour and poor role modelling, due to African socialization, it is the father who is expected initiate remedy, even though today even women have risen to the occasion and asserting their authority.(Horn, 2002: 11). From the above assertion, the father's provision and support to the family and mores so, to the boy child cannot be completely done away with, or executed by the other gender or be replaced with systematic programming and well assorted activities. In reference to Horn (2002:77), the truth is "all children need their fathers, but the boys need their fathers more" however, Horn does not tell us the psychosocial effects of absentee father figure to the boy child

Over two decades ago, a psychologist by the name Biller (2009:86), emotional, physical and psychological presence of father figure in any family, helps to minimize juvenile delinquency among developing and growing boys. He further avers that delinquency and violence tend to be rampant among young adolescent boys who are growing up in absentee father figure families (Ibid, 2009:78). He as well says that in many circumstances, men who grow up without father figure in early ages quite often are likely to engage in deviance masculine character. For instance, presence of criminal tendencies against tangible property like buildings, violence against people, murder, child mistreatment drug abuse and use of profane and vulgar language as well as societal hostility are common among young men brought up in absence of father figure role modelling. They are a common scenario among young boys whose upbringing is entirely sole responsibility of the female parent. (Ibid, 2009; 12). Is this likely to be one of the reasons why today young couples, university students in love affairs and marriage couples tend to

kill their spouses? In Kenya, this has been a common trend where lovers kill each other. More research needs to be carried out to find out the cause murder of ladies by their estranged men, especially young me.

2.4 Issues in parenting in Kenya today:-

According to Booth and Booth (2008:54), parenting is described as a social process that can be discussed upon, it is a flexible and dynamic process that entails several variables and contributing factors. On the other hand, Brisbane (2015:23) goes on to substantiate parenting as the entire aspect of caring for children and helping them develop, learn, acquire knowledge, skills and positive attitude towards life. All these can be well achieved with the physical and emotional presence of both parents. In other words, parenting goes beyond just being a parent (mother or father). Therefore, parenting focuses more on nurturing of children. Ideally, parenting is the entire process of promoting, supporting, guiding and inspiring children from infancy, transiting through adolescent to adulthood. From the above definition, we draw inference of there being great essence to note that parenting entails raising and bringing up a child in this case a boy child who is emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually upright. Is this the situation in majority of families today? With the trends seen in many youngsters whose ideologies are skewed towards pleasure with minimal life values, what does this tell the society about parenting? Are parents carrying out their mandate adequately?

As Stenberg (2004:97), asserts, the fundamental elements of effective parenting constitute participation, positive role modelling, love, differentiation and independence fostering, provision of basic needs, discipline, fairness and respect. To score and elude on the above reality, Omar (2013:65), opinionated that for productive and fruitful parenting, it has to set the parents as a yard stick or a canon of the children to measure the prowess and success as they grow up. How do parents set these limits and parameters? This happens by parents individually overseeing the children's activities, advising them, inculcating morals, spiritual nourishment and being positive role models to the children. In cases where the single mothers, exist, such roles will not be well done to the boy child (Kotwal and Prabhakar, 2009:53). This is mostly affected by the disintegration of tradition kinship system and family ethos. It sad that today is about every person for himself or herself and God for everybody.

Past researches have confirmed that the presence of parents, parental support, and an ideal positive modelling that walk hand in hand with emotional and physical presence are likely to result to fewer anti-social behaviour and juvenile delinquency tendencies among boys which consequently is likely to lead improved results in school and optimal boy child development. (Miller, 1988:74) During children

growth process, boys need both parents to nurture, guide, train, and help them develop into responsible citizens. Mead and Wolfenstein (1955:35), observe that the parent has to ground the child to face the "life battles" this minimises pathological tendencies. It is the sole responsibility of the parent to make sure the child is guided toward the satisfaction of duties which he or she must comprehend in life; unfortunately, this role is dwindling today among families with absentee father figure. It is simple logic that parenting, and in this case serious and meaningful parenting is the back born to socialisation and general societal growth of an ideal boy hence a stable family institution. As Gand and Gardiner (1981:43), state, socialization is an exercise whereby individual acquire behaviour and chooses social world view. Boys acquire and obtain beliefs in which they live and get acquainted with the right virtues, values and masculine norms and become active members of the bigger community. The most appropriate and ideal emotional, social and moral development of both boys and girls is enhanced by socialization with appropriate gender, therefore, boys need to be socialized with male figures to help them fit in the society with ideal gender roles. Family is the basic and most fundamental agents of socialisation where culture and values are inculcated.

2.4.1 Parenting modifications in post modernity:-

Parenting patterns in Kenya are increasingly being faced with the challenge and pressure between traditional and modern parenting values and practices. There is the steady increase in the pace towards the abandonment of traditional practices for modern ones (western). However, the most popular trend is that of the prevalence of family and parenting patterns that are increasing merging traditional and modern marriage and parenting norms or practices (Kalu2011:2). There are several practices taking place such as non-marital childbearing, single parenthood, which are gradually gaining momentum in the region. In summary, post modernity has generally altered the role of parents and society at large in parenting process.

2.4.2 Impact of Absent Father figure to the Emotional growth of a boy child:-

Holland (2000:45) asserts that a research was conducted on 183 adolescent boys who lived with single mothers or generally unattended to by the father figure. It was unearthed that the young boys from such underlying background exhibited psychological disorientations, emotional challenges, and antisocial behaviour and character surges. They were prone to delinquency; they also showed a lot of clinging, neurosis elements, and elements of depression as well as some psychiatric maladjustment. Later on similar research by Lines (2012:81), confirmed that most children, both boys and girls need to be close to their fathers. They, by all means deserve support, positive affirmation, positive approval, unconditional positive regard, affection and care, all these, make any child feel part of the family and

consequently sense of belonging. According to the above researches it gets detrimental to a boy child living with female parent only, such a boy lucks fatherly impartation. However, Holland (2000:46)'s research did not consider how such boys performed in school, it also lucked truancy assessment. Boys brought up by absentee father figure lack exposure on how male should relate with female. They probably get wrong notion on how their female parents were treated or are treated by men, is this reasons why today young men are struggling to keep their spouses? Might this be a contributing factor why there is a lot of hostility between young men why are in love affairs? This research aimed at finding out how absentee father figure is affecting the psychosocial development of the boy child. The researcher sought to fill in this gap of emotional effects absentee father figure to the boy child's academic performance in Embakasi Central Constituency Nairobi County.

Lines (2012:81) avers that the boy child does not need to experience the physical presence of the father figure by just seeing him, but also needs the true and right interpersonal acceptance and warmth, they need father figure who is reliable, genuine and present in love and affection. A father with strong emotional motivation and encouragement in position of looking up to, being full of sympathetic and empathetic correction, punishment as well as discipline.

In reference to another research conducted by Olweus, (2008:17), in the United Kingdom, on parental availability to children and precisely to boys, it was observed that child neglect is elementised by inability to supply boy child's basic needs, emotional love and support is one of the basic needs to any growing boy. In other words, according to Olweus (2008:18), love can be regarded as basic need. Olweus, (2008:17), systemised the deprivation of fundamental necessities into three levels; he observed that this can be through physical neglect, educational neglect and emotional deprivation (love is emotional). Emotional abandonment is exhibited when the father fails to attend to the child's emotional necessities, Olweus (2008), asserts that this is the most common form of child neglect today. This research, therefore, sought to find how these neglects contribute to the boy child psychosocial growth resulting into antisocial tendencies and juvenile delinquencies.

However, on the other hand, Guttmann (1997:67), creates a distinction in his research conducted in New York City, USA, he is of the opinion that emotional-coaching parents, especially fathers to boys, and emotional dismissing parents also fathers to boys, are individuals of two different worlds hence a distinct world view. He scores this by saying; emotional coaching parents observe their children's emotions and subsequently viewed their children negatively oriented emotions as a chance of educating, helping and moderating their emotions. Can this happen in the absence of father figure? From the above

observation, between the mother and the father, who is likely to coach the boy child's emotions better? Is it the mother or the father? To answer this, Guttmann (1997:16) states that male parents are likely to train their boys on how to handle their emotions better as compared to their female counterparts. Contrary to the above assertion, emotion dismissing fathers or generally, parents, believe their work is not to accept, or choose not to see or rather ignore their pertinent role of helping the boys change their negative emotions, they claim they will change in adulthood, forgetting that, yes, there might be some change, but the childhood character can be built upon at old age if not managed at the very tender age such parents, whether they are available or not available is not a big issue, they choose to keep away from their families. This has become a common phenomenon, especially among professional busy fathers who assume that their main role is to feed, clothe, shelter and take their children for holiday once in a year but the rest of the days they keep away. Such fathers get shocked when they are told things done by their children by their teachers or neighbours.

From the same perspective, another study done by Santrock, (2008:123) indicated that boys from emotionally coaching fathers were good at physiological soothing and comforting themselves whenever they got annoyed, and could still handle their negative emotions and thoughts by replacing them with positive thoughts hence minimising outbursts, sadistic and masochistic mind. Therefore, they could properly form their attention better and had less behavioural challenges as compared to boys from emotional dismissing parents where the father figure is physically and emotionally absent.

Segelment and Rider (2009:73) carried out a research survey in Chicago, USA among street single mothers and discovered that parental emotional among boys by their fathers caused severe psychological, verbal and mental harm to young boys that could be reciprocated among youths serious behavioural, cognitive and emotional disorientation, and this situation could still lead to such boys ending up in the street too, and the cycle continues.

From Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, Uba, (1989:51), conducted a research on how poor ways of parenting impact young adolescent boys. He asserts that, because most African men, quite often, are out looking for money, keeping mostly out of home physical contact, this has left both boys and girls without a father figure model to emulate. In the above research, he directs that both parents have to make their adolescent sons feel safe at home and this will help get rid of psychological pain to their children (sons), emotional presence goes beyond providing basic needs or pampering boys with plenty of items yet the father figure is absent. Areas where psychological pain may occasion among sons include; being indifferent to their problems, (can mothers fully perceive the boy child challenges and

offer remedy) in this regard will mothers establish an ideal role model for the boy child? In the absence of the male figure, the mothers tend to be more permissive or too strict, both extremes are detrimental; there is need of a balance in either scenarios. Too much freedom or high handedness will bring conflict at home, emotional disorientation which is likely to affect school performance (Uba, 1989:53).

In the neighbouring country of Uganda, Kiyingi, (2012:7) states that youths who have been nurtured by emotionally absent father figure are prone to taking part in drugs, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and petty crimes and later on major theft cases, these vices are rampant among boys brought up single mothers. Kiyingi (2012:7) furthers opinionated that such young adolescents are also culpable of faking out sexuality in trail to conceal the emotional gap that was well covered by father figure, he furthers says that they are culpable of suicidal tendencies and attempts, he also opinionated that young boys are likely to experience challenges with authority and leadership of the day, they can run away from home and end up on the streets, withdraw from school and generally become social misfits (Kiyingi, 2012:8). Is this a likely cause of many young teenage boys finding themselves on the streets and committing petty crimes? Is this the driving force behind street riots among students, School riots and burning of institution of higher learning by students? Might it be the reason why male youths from informal settlement end up being unruly and adopt criminal tendencies? This research would like to find out how father physical and emotional absence has affected young boys in Embakasi Central Constituency and especially, psychosocial, emotional and academic performance.

In Kenya, Biu, who is a High School teacher in North-Eastern region, observes that, nothing can replace and effectively take the place of a parent's presence, be it a mother or a father, in a child's life, leave alone the money or any other material things. Biu (2011:9) illustrates of parents who are emotionally absent to their high school boys. A case at hand is a boy whose parents separated while he was five years old. Both father and mother could give the boy a lot of money to win him, but the fact remained they were emotionally absent. The boy, John (not his really name) developed psychological challenges; unfortunately, the father was not willing to get a counsellor. Biu (2011:10) confides that John ended up dropping out of school in form two; he abused drugs, and became a social misfit. (Biu, 2011:9). It is out of such scenarios as observed by the likes of Biu, that this research is being conducted, to ascertain whether absence of father figure had a connection with John's problem and his final drop out of school. Today is not strange to see parents keep away from the children and when they appear they take them out for holidays, they buy them all sort of gifts. They even buy them cars while in high school. How does this affect the person of an adolescent?

Ngwiri and Tumuti (2002:4) conducted a descriptive research on the insurgence of drug abuse among 50 adolescent boys in central Kenya; in their research, it was observed that one of the key precipitating factors leading to the rise of the vice of drug abuse among High School boys is poor parenting skills and absentee father figure among many families. Ngwiri and Tumuti further noted that unprecedented number of suicidal tendencies; especially after the release of National Examinations results were as a result of unwarranted pressure exerted on students by parents, more so, single mothers who associated good grades with a bright future of the boy child to replace their missing father figures as bread winners (Ngwiri& Tumuti, Ibid).

From the above literature review, we can deduce that parental presence has come out so authoritatively as paramount and overriding element in shaping any child behaviour. Some negative effects of father figure absence have been enlisted, they include but limited to; low self-esteem among boys, self-control, and physical health benefits among many more. However, it is evident that parents' understanding being present to their sons and daughters might be skewed like over providing material things yet they are emotionally absent. Even though, this study might not be very clear on some issues such as particular way and how often parents need to be present to their children, but it heavily emphasises the essence of both physical and emotional presence. Therefore, the study is designed to illuminate the importance of emotional presence, physical availability, and support of fathers to their sons. The entire informed by Social Learning and Structural Functioning theories. The study will seek to identify the how absentee father figure has affected the growth and development of the boy child in selected areas of study which is Embakasi Central Constituency.

2.4.3 Contributing Factors to absentee father figure:-

The number of absentee father figure and single mothers in the society is rising at a high rate. The reasons that are making a Kenyan woman remain single, either with a child or not, and to withstand gossips from the friends, and pressure from the parents must be critically analysed in this paper and dissected to get to the root cause absentee father figure and its impact to the boy child. Procreation is endangered as women are becoming older and older, ignoring the responsibility of motherhood. (Otinga, 2018:2) Among the key contributing factors include: domestic violence; this has seen many women leave their matrimonial homes and opt for a single life hence assuming the responsibility of raising their sons and daughter single handed, this has had a lot of effects to the boy child due to lack of proper role modelling.

The article by Otinga, (2018: 3) observes that daily fights have left a huge number of women physically and emotionally ill. The researcher wondered whether there is a possibility of boys emulating these tendencies of spouse assaults while they are young and put it into practice at adult age. Why are there mores cases of spouse assault today? On the other hand, does it scare young women who are potential wives opt to get children and not keep stay in an abusive marriage hence having children with absent fathers? Some women have been victims of beating and abuse by their husbands; this is likelihood of their being many absent fathers. Or other women choose to use short cut of looking for who can just impregnate them but not commit themselves into marriage leading to absentee father figure.

Secondly, in his article, "Absentee father figure" Otinga (2018:4) observes that some women have been born that way- without a need for man, for instance, Otinga (2018:3) observes that a daughter of a single mother who has been brought up by her mother, taken care of by a nanny who is a girl, went to kindergarten where she finds madam "Jane", joins primary school where she is taught the rights of a girl child by of course a female teacher, went to high school in girls boarding school, and later to a university to pursue gender equity and so on (Otinga, 2018:3). She has never experienced the love of a father, the need for a man and so forth. If you try to contain this lady in marriage boundaries, with rules that she never acquired from the beginning, you're likely to be the loser. Can, this become a nursery bed for cheating in marriages where the single women need children but don't want to be married? They are likely to take one's husband who matches their age of 30-40, get a child and close the chapter of marriage, this leads to a series of absentee father figure as is well observed above, which affects the boy child, (Otinga, 2018:3).

2.4.4 Effects of absentee father figure on boy child's delinquency and academic performance:-

Parents' presence plays an integral role in moulding and nurturing children's present and future prospects. According to Trusty (2001:13), parents operate as a consistent and continuous solid resource for their families over a long period of time, and therefore, there is urgent prerequisite of reliable parenting which will consequently impact positively on children's emotional maturity and stability hence positive academic performance. As Brisbane (2015:12), rightly puts it, a father is said to nurture boy child by providing emotional support, self-esteem, personal grooming, gender role modelling, provision of basic needs, including paying of fees, fostering masculine expectations and enriching learning experiences. What this simply means is that, in the absence of father figure there shall be some key life skills that will miss in the life of a boy child. Brisbane (2015:37) observes that an absentee father in the family brings forth several negative effects to the boy child, for instance, the boy will lack encouragement, will lack proper role modelling, inadequate male socialization process, low self-esteem,

child delinquency, abuse of drugs and substance all these may lead to poor grades at school. Ortese (1998:63) assets that proper socialization process is dependent on the complementary roles played by both parents in upbringing of boy child. Boys brought up by absentee father figure are likely to witness lack and denial of some opportunities and rights. As boys progress, Ortese (1998:64) is of the opinion that parents get additional type of involvement which include: discipline, teaching, monitoring and managing schedules, instilling good moral values and enhancing interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. All these responsibilities, individually and collectively influence the fin al outcome in the life of the boy child.

2.5. Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

2.5.1Theoretical Framework:-

From the above literature review, the study tried to hypothesise that absentee father figure in the life of boy child results to incomplete parenting in Kenya. To allude to this argument in this context, the researcher drew his inference from two theories; The Social Learning Theory and Structural functioning theory. The two theories are in tandem with the fact that parenting is a nurturing process that aims at developing socially acceptable individuals. From the previous studies, (although not including emotional and psychosocial effects) absentee father figure has proved to be a problem facing psychosocial growth of the boy child today.

2.5.2 Social Learning Theory:-

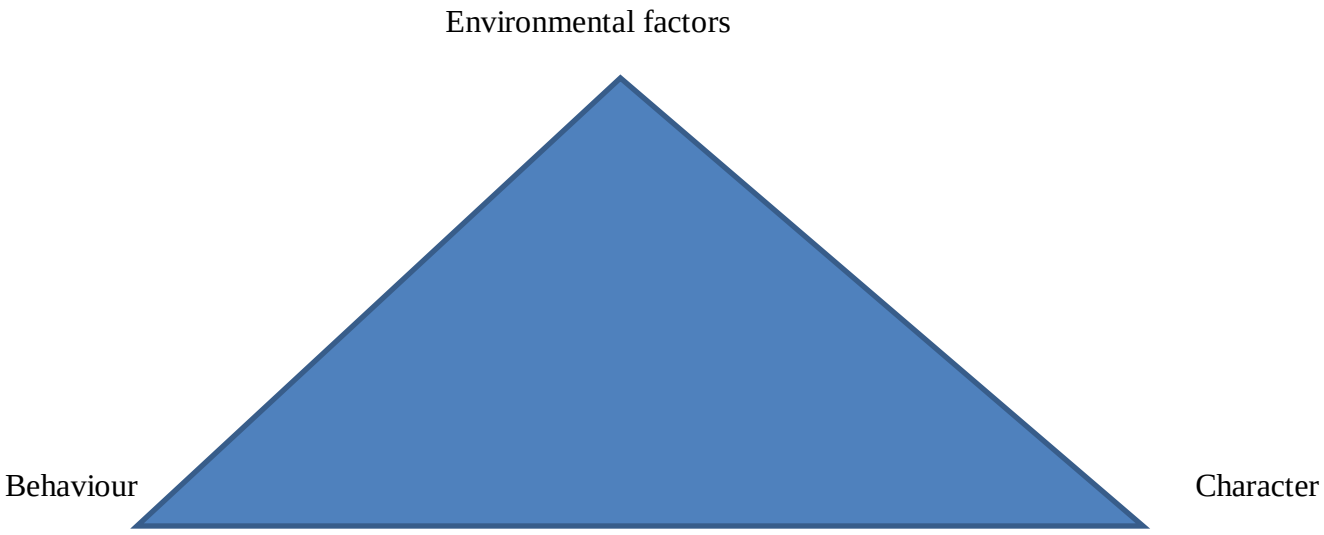
As it was postulated by Bandura (1977:65), the Social Learning theory opines that development is learnt and influenced by environmental factors. What does this mean? It simply means that one's personality traits are unique interaction between the outside environment and the psychological processes that takes place intrinsically. Referring to Bandura (Figure1.2), emphasises that behaviour, character traits, environment and one's individual cognition operate together hence modifying one another.

According to Bandura's theory, people, and particularly children learn a lot of information through observation, this may be either through one on one or via the surrounding environment. He further asserts that majority of human behaviour is learnt through observation and modelling, meaning, by observing others, an individual is likely to form an opinion on how new character and behaviour are carried out, and consequently the perceived ideas provide a guideline for action (Bandura, 1977:54). In the context of this research, boys are majorly meant to learn from their father figure. Father figure, thus constitute the environment that boys need to effectively get through their life cycle from infancy to adulthood hence the need for the presence of the father figure. Boys observe their fathers (model)

around them in various aspects and develop character traits through encoding their behaviour and as such, they imitate the behaviour they have observed. Therefore, absentee father figure in a boy's life is likely to affect their general growth, especially when it comes to transferable traits in a complete man.

Here below is a diagrammatic representation of social learning theory. According to Bandura, the two bottom edges are a product of the top edge which is environmental factors, and therefore, Bandura's theory asserts that behaviour and character are as a result of the environment in which one is being brought up. This prompts the researcher to seek an understanding on what happens when the environment is not ideal? Who does one learn from if there is nothing (no one) to learn from? Or what are the repercussions of learning from a wrong role model? Will boys grow into responsible men if there are no good role models to learn from? This research will seek to find out what happens in such situations of there being no ideal role model to learn from-when the fathers are absent, what next in the emotional and psychosocial life of the boy child.

Fig.2.1 Bandura's Theory of Social Learning



According to Brown Hill (2016:67), effective parenting, includes but not limited to; provision of physical (food, cloth, shelter) and psychological support, love and enabling environment. However emotional support and presence has not been fully considered to be important. Boys brought up by both parents, in a caring and supportive environment have high self-esteem, they experience minimal delinquency, and they grow up to be socially accepted individuals, and the bottom-line of all these, is

presence of father figure. All above mentioned concerns affects the emotional stability of the boy child and consequently affecting his academic performance. Therefore, this theory is relevant to this study.

2.5.3 Structural Functioning Theory

The theory was proposed by Herbert Spencer and Talcott Parson, the theory observes that the society is a complex with dynamic system where every part operates with one another to promote harmony, oneness, solidarity and stability. As such, this approach looks at the society via macro-level lens world view which is basically a broad focus on the social structures that make up the society as a whole. It also opines that the society continues to gradually evolve and transform just like organisms. From the above observation, therefore, this theory rightly describe our postmodern society, where family structure has evolved from the pre-colonial African extended families, which were notoriously polygamous to today's nuclear private families, which claim to be notoriously monogamous but with unprecedented rate of divorce and separation. Not surprising that today we have many boys growing in absentee father figure families. In this context, we look at the whole scenario from two points of view; social structural and social functioning. A family as a social organ operates within a given system, with everyone actively playing their role. Structural Functioning, takes note of the society (social entity) as a whole in matters of the function of its constituent elements; namely; norms, customs, traditions and institutions which include marriage and family institution. As presented by Herbert Spencer, these parts of society are "organs" that work towards proper operation and functioning of the "body" as a whole. In the most basic parlance, it simply put emphasis on the "effort to impute rigorously as possible, to each element, custom, or practice, its effect on functioning of a supposedly stable, cohesive system called family" (Hebert Spencer, 1820–1903).

This theory, in other words, emphasises working together as a system to promote solidarity and stability in the family, which is really under threat today. If family systems and structures are dismantled today, with an increase in the families with absentee father figure, then whole structure will be weakened. The single mothers are left to tend to their children and struggle to provide fundamental needs to their boys and girls, the stability and solidarity of the family gets disintegrated and this affects the upbringing of the boy child.

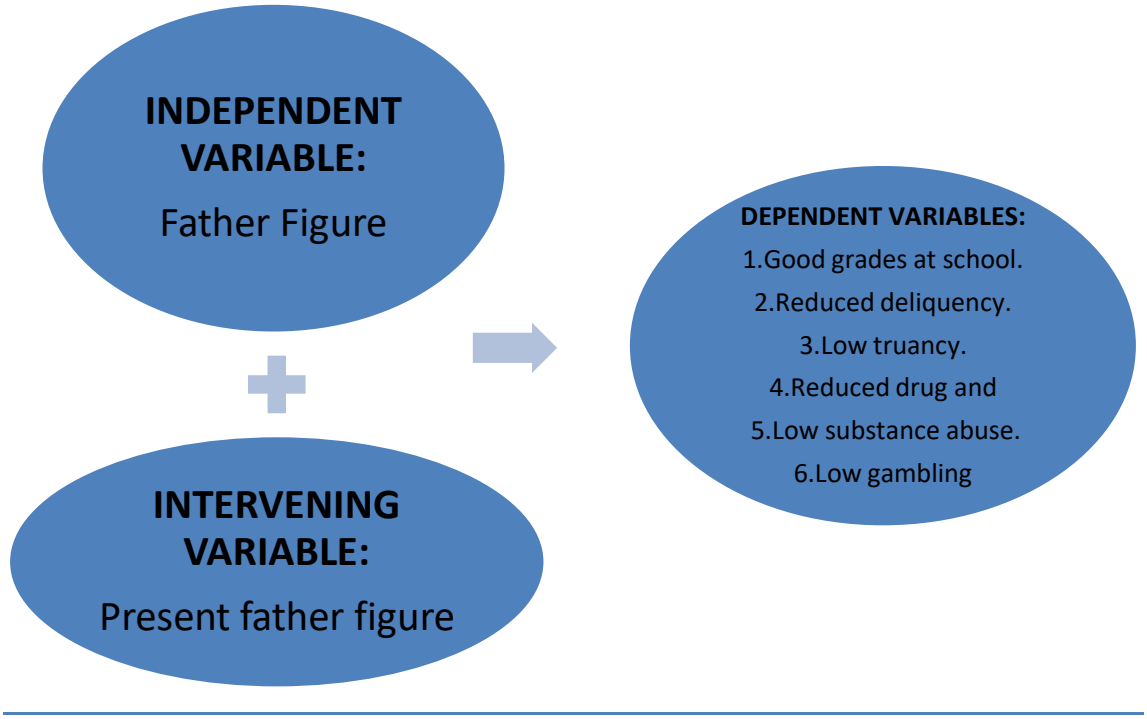
2.5.4 Conceptual Framework:-

Conceptual framework is the way ideas are organised to achieve a research project's purpose (Ton, 2009:37). There was a conceptual relationship between the independent and the dependent variable. Optimal Psychosocial growth of boy child is influenced by either presence or absent father figure. The

study established intervening factors which comprises physical and emotional presence of the father figure, the intervening variables once executed will lead to good academic performance, minimal delinquency, low drug and substance abuse and ideal role modelling. .In this study, therefore, the conceptual variables that informed the study were broadly categorized into two; present father figure, and its impact, and absent father figure and its impact, the two broad variables were would inform the dependent variables which would be ideal parenting, role modelling and family identity, good grades in school, high self-esteem, minimal juvenile delinquency, low drug and substance abuse and ideal emotional intelligence. On the other hand the absentee father figure boys have high prevalence of low self-esteem, poor school grades, and lack of role model, high rate of delinquency drugs and substance abuse and emotional immaturity. This study used effective parenting to mean the entire process of holistic caring for a boy child, and helping him develop, grow and learn to be socially acceptable person. This means that taking care of a boy is more than just being a parent as observed by (Brisbane, 1988:98). Over and above that, role modelling was used to describe the actions and activities that boy child can only get from the father figure. And family and boy child identity, was used to refer to the security accorded to sons by the presence of the father figure, to the sons it includes the name of the father as used in school or on official records.

According to the conceptual frame diagrammatic presentation shown below , effective parenting is as a result of physical and emotional presence of both parents and this will result to good role model, good grooming, high self-esteem, minimal school dropout and good grades as well disciplined boys. On the other hand, absent father figure is likely to bring up indiscipline boys, involved in drug and substance abuse, juvenile delinquent and lack role model. In summary, the boy child delinquency tendencies can be described from three perspective i.e. Home delinquencies, School related delinquencies and Community deviancies. Among these three, which is the primary cause of the rest?

Fig 2.2 Conceptual Framework



2.6 Research gap:-

Despite the existence of effort to address the challenges facing boy child due to absentee father figure, resent research on the impact seem to have been skewed towards physical presence and material support of the boy child but not emotional presence and the role modeling that comes with it. The question of academic performance, juvenile delinquency, truancy and drug and substance abuse has hardly been associated with the father figure presence. Above all, the boy child has not been attention as compared to the girl child. As such this research seeks to fill the gaps on emotional presence of the boy child and amplify the plight of the boy child to the society.

2.7 Conclusion:-

The chapter has carried out literature review which has considered the family, common characteristics of a family, which basically entails the aspects of an ideal family, and Christian world view of the same. The father figure plays a major role in a boy's child life as such; the chapter explored how the father absence affects the boy child's life. Generally, the chapter has given the researcher a preview and a hypothesis of what is expected in the final research. How is the family structured today? Why are fathers keeping away from their roles? Why boys endangered and what are the effects? All these are likely to

give fourth a different scenario due to the current contextual and post modernity encounters. The chapter also considered the conceptual relationship between the dependent and independent variables of proper upbringing of the boy child.

From the literature review, and conceptual framework it is evident that there are psychosocial issues that arise from absentee father figure. The review has also observed that absence of father figure is not just physical but emotional absence, and this research study will seek to fill the existing gap of emotional and physical effect of absentee father figure. All said and done it is imperative to note that most of the previous researchers considered in this chapter, put a lot of emphasis on the physical absence of the father figure and its effects to the boy child. The current challenges facing the boy child, however, are not just physical; they are encompassed with lots of emotional disorientation. As such, this dissertation sought to find out further how emotional disorientation due to father figure absence leads to other problems facing the boy child such as delinquency with a case study in Embakasi Central constituency. In the process of research, it was also found out that majority (51%) of single mothers in urban centres deliberately choose to be single; this affects the upbringing of the boy child.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Introduction:-

This chapter discussed the methodology that was used in the study. To be more precise, this chapter explained and described the specific area of study, the research design, the population target, the sampling procedures, methods as well as tools of data collection, data analysis and presentation.

3.2 Research design:-

Research design is a plan showing how the problem of investigation will be solved (Kombo and Tromp, 2012:35). The research was descriptive and adopted qualitative and quantitative design, with qualitative which entailed case studies, interviews and questionnaires as postulated by Jackson, (2009: 89). This enabled the collection of information to study the relationship between the two variables of absentee and present father figure in Embakasi Central Constituency. As descriptive research study, it answered the question of who, what when, where, and how of the topic. In this context, how absentee or present father figure is affecting the upbringing of boy child in Embakasi Central constituency. It also assessed the two main variables; absentee or present father figure and the boy child. The design was deemed appropriate for the study, since the study intended to rely on flexible and interactive research design using structured questionnaires. Data collection tools or instruments were administered to adolescent boys of age between 12 and 17 years within the 5 sub counties and 5 schools from Embakasi Central Constituency. While data from single mothers was collected through oral interviews. Using descriptive survey design studies, the researcher took sample of the target population and based their overall findings on views or behaviour of those sampled. The assumption was that the sample is similar in characteristics to the target population.

3.3 Site description:-

The study was carried out in Embakasi Central Constituency in Nairobi County. The reason why Embakasi Central was ideal area of study is because is an example of Suburbia (mixture of slums and suburbs) in Nairobi. It is located approximately 7 kilometres from the Nairobi CBD, the Capital City of Kenya. With a total of 5 civic wards (Komarock, Kayole South, Kayole Central, Kayole North and Spring Valley). It is a constituency with several unique demographic distributions in terms of social economic distribution. The constituency is a major residential centre of lower middle class and lower class residents. According to the 2009 population census, Embakasi Central constituency had a population of about 168, 538 people, with majority of adults being women, and most parents (43%) are single mothers.(KNBS, 2009) The population is characterized by both modern decent houses (especially in Komarock) and poor housing structures (mostly found in Soweto slums-Kayole ward). There is poor

access to health services and poor family planning measures facilities within Kayole Central Ward (Ministry of Health, 2014). The area was purposively selected as study location because according to the school records it was confirmed that most of the boys came from single parent families, hence making it an ideal target area of this study. With a mixture of both formal and informal settlement; this informed a good understanding of the effects of raising a boy child with absent father figure in both lower, middle lower and middle upper class. Therefore, it was an appropriate area of study since it minimised making skewed conclusion on social economic factors that would lead fathers to keep away from their families. Lastly, the area had both middle and lower class dwellers who gave the researcher a good parameter for comparison and contrasting research findings.

3.4 Target Population:-

Mugenda and Mugenda (2012:47) defined a population as a complete set of individuals, cases or objects with some common observable characteristics. Orodho (2012:47) on the other hand defines the target population as a large population from which the sample population will be selected. A sample population is a representative case from the large population. In this study, the target population was 570 adolescent boys from 5 schools' three secondary and 2 Primary School. There was a target of 398 single mothers from 5 wards in Embakasi Central Constituency. As Mugenda and Mugenda (2009:67) observed, this target population was the population to which the researcher wanted to use to generalize the results of this study. Therefore, to achieve the objectives of the study, the target population of this research was categorized into three; families with absentee father figure, families with both parents and single mothers in Embakasi Central Constituency. The researcher used a population sample of 90 adolescent boys of age between 12-17, 45 from single mothers and 45 from both families' parents. This was an ideal age bracket since according to Ikenye (2015:34), it is the age when actual differentiation takes place and onset of identity crisis which consequently may lead to an increase in delinquency. Therefore, a total of 90 boys and 45 single mothers made a third of the target population as per Mugenda and Mugenda (2012:96).

3.5 Sample and sampling procedure:-

A sample is a process of selecting a number of individuals to represent the larger population from which they are selected (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2012: 87). On the other hand, a sample design is a definite plan determined before any data area actually collected for obtaining a sample from a given population (Orodho, 2012: 37). Normally, the researcher selects sample after being informed by several limitations which may not allow researching the whole population, the limitations that informed this research included: time, funds and energy. This study therefore, was carried out from a carefully selected sample

size whose characteristics depict those of the whole population (Orodho, 2012:39). This involved selecting a given number of subjects; 90 boys, 45 from absentee father figure and 45 from present father figure as well as 45 single mothers, to represent the entire population. The goal of the research sample was to make inference. This means any statement made about the 90 boys and 45 single mothers sampled out is true reflection of the entire population. According to Cohen and Morrison, (1994:89), who are also in agreement with Mugenda and Mugenda (2012:42), the sample was part of the entire population selected for generalization of the research findings. For the researcher to get the representative sample he chose to use different ways of identifying the sample target, the researcher used non-probability sampling criteria (Purposive sampling) to get the families with boys between ages 12-17year, from Embakasi Central Constituency. The main source of this information was school records such as admission forms and Record Books which were used to identify the parental status of the boys. The researcher had a sample of 90 families for the study, whereby, 45 families constituted single mothers bringing up boys between age 12-17, and the other sample of 45 was made up of families with both parents but also bringing up boys between 12-17 years of age. To identify single mothers, the researcher used snow bowling method, where two mothers were purposively identified and they helped to identify the rest until the anticipated target of 45 was arrived at. The sample per ward was informed by the size of the ward as well as the population of the ward.

Fig 3.1 study sample for boys per ward

Ward	Sample absentee father figure Family	percentage	Both Parents	Percentage
Komarock	15	33.3	15	33.3
Spring Valley	12	26.6	12	26.6
Kayole North	8	17.7	8	17.7
Kayole south	5	11.1	5	11.1
Kayole central	5	11.1	5	11.1

Fig 3.2 Study sample for single mothers

Ward	Single mothers	Percentage
Komarock	15	33.3
Spring Valley	12	26.6
Kayole North	8	17.7
Kayole South	5	11.1
Kayole Central	5	11.1

The above sample distributions were arrived at depending with the size of the ward as well as the population according to the 2009 population census. Komarock Ward was the largest in terms of size as well as the population (50400), so it got a third of the selected sample. Kayole Central is the smallest with fewer people (18,640) according to the 2009 population census, so it got 11.1% of the selected sample.

3.6 Sources of data:-

The study used both primary and secondary data. The secondary data was got from school academic performance records which were also confirmed through filling the semi structured questionnaire with delinquency checklist. The questionnaires were used for both boys with and with absentee father figure, and interviews were carried out with single mothers bringing up boys in Embakasi Central Constituency

3.7 Methods of data collection:-

Data collection was done through the use of questionnaires and oral interviews. The questionnaires were made up of two main sections; the preliminary which included basic bio data but name was optional and the delinquency checklist. The delinquency checklist again was also divided into three i.e. home related delinquencies, school related delinquency and society related delinquency. The questionnaires were given to the sampled out boys and filled; this took duration of around 21 days to collect all the data and conduct oral interview to the single mothers. In this case, interview referred to getting information from individuals who are considered to be particularly conversant with the topic of interest, which was single motherhood. According to Barker (2010:54), interview, is a technique that is used to gain an understanding of the underlying reason and motivation of person's world view, attitude, preference or behaviour. Barker (2010:54), further observes that interviews have advantage of enabling serious approach by respondent hence resulting in more accurate information, good response rate completed and immediate possible in depth questions and the interviewer can give more elaboration where there is need. On the other hand, questionnaires are important since they help in preservation of data for future references. All the above informed the reason why the researcher opted to use questionnaire as a method of data collection.

3.8 Data collection instruments:-

The research instruments used were questionnaire and a delinquency checklist for boys with present and absent father figure. Interview schedule was used for single mothers. The Semi-structured questionnaires were appropriately used to collect key data that informed the research findings. School academic records were also used to confirm the grades scored by the boys at the end of term one 2019 examinations. The schools also helped to identify family status of the respondents who through

snowballing method enabled the data get saturated. The questionnaires were given to the boys with the consent of their mothers or female guardians. The questionnaires, therefore, contained both closed and open ended questions. This also allowed the respondent to give their opinion where necessary.

3.9 Data analysis:-

Data obtained was analysed using qualitative and quantitative techniques. Collected qualitative data were coded and entered in computer for analysis. Descriptive statistics was put into percentages which was presented inform of graphs. Generally, the data was categorised into academic performance for present and absent father figure, juvenile delinquency for present and absent father figure and reasons for absentee father figure among single mothers in Embakasi Central.

3.10 Ethical Considerations:-

The purpose of the study was well explained verbally to the respondents, and written permission was granted by the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), Ministry of Education and Nairobi County Commissioner. Participating Schools also granted the researcher prerequisite permission to interview their students. Written consent form was given to the parents and guardians of the sampled boys who signed and handed it back to the researcher on behalf of the eligible respondents. Confidentiality and anonymity was assured to the respondents. Since the matter being researched upon was sensitive family issues, the researcher also considered personal privacy of highest level possible. The data was only collected after consent had been agreed upon for both parents and boys. The respondents were to be free to choose whether to participate or not. No respondent was put under duress to respond to a question they felt uncomfortable with. No adolescent was interviewed without prior consent from the mother/guardian. The participants were free to withdraw from the research whenever they felt not comfortable, however, none-withdrew, they all kept on till the end.

3.11 conclusion:-

In this chapter, the research has considered the design that was used in the study; the study adopted a descriptive research design in investigating the psychosocial effects of boy child with absentee father figure in Embakasi Central Constituency Nairobi County. The chapter also looked at the site of study, which is Embakasi Central Constituency of Nairobi County. The target group in this research were boys being brought up by absentee father figure compared to those with both parents within the same study area as well as single mothers within the same geographical region. The sample and sampling method used was non-probability sampling method as well as snowballing method. The data was collected by use of semi structured open and closed questionnaires administered to the target group and finally, the

data was analysed through coding and clustering common themes in form of tables, pie charts and graphs which were used for other statistical presentation.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction:-

This chapter encompassed data presentation as well as its analysis and discussions. The chapter also focussed on the research questions enlisted with their statistical result findings in reference to research questions as presented in chapter one. There is a demographic statistic that explains the subjects in question. As it is indicated in the research objectives, the sole purpose of this study was to investigate the Psychosocial Effects of Absentee Father Figure to the Boy Child in Embakasi Central Constituency, Nairobi City County. To find out this, the researcher, constructed questions informed by the research objectives that collected pertinent information of the sampled population. The researcher also went ahead and adopted a delinquency checklist, borrowed from Kenneth Stein (2003:67). The questionnaire and the delinquency checklist were administered to the two categories; Present and absentee father figure, which were purposively selected from 5 civic wards and 5 schools within Embakasi Central Constituency. The three samples were made up of; 45 boys from present father figure families, 45 boys from absentee father figure families and 45 single mothers. From the three samples, the study was able to determine whether and how delinquency activities among adolescent boys were influenced by the presence or absence of the father figure at home, and also the cause of absentee father figure among women in Embakasi Central Constituency. The study was also able to find out how the presence or absence of the father figure affects the academic performance of the boy child. From the study, the frequency and severity of delinquency between adolescents in the identified samples group was determined.

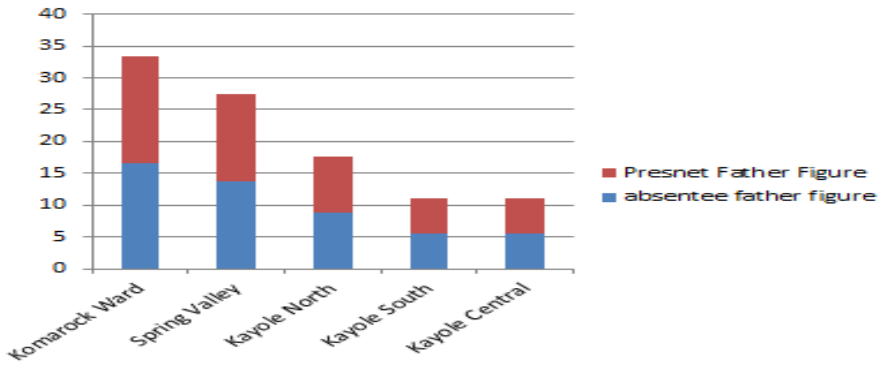


Fig 4.1 present and absent father figure (%)

4.2 Description of Study Samples:-

The study was conducted in Embakasi Central Constituency. The researcher purposively sampled out two groups of study in 5 wards namely: Komarock Ward, Spring Valley, Kayole South, Kayole North and Kayole Central. The researcher went further and purposively identified 5 schools; three Secondary Schools and two primary schools. At least each Ward was represented in the school samples. The secondary schools sampled out were: The Komarock Secondary School, Brookfield School, Kayole South Secondary School, while the primary Schools were Kayole Primary School and Imara Daima Primary school. A total of 90 adolescent boys were sampled out for response as shown in the table above; this was further divided into two categories; 45 boys from absentee father figure families and 45 of from families with both parents i.e. father and mother figure families, all purposively selected.

Consent forms were given to all participating subjects; they were signed by their mothers or female guardians and returned to the researcher through the Schools Head Teachers.

4.3 Statistics and analysis of groups:-

A total of 90 students from 5 schools positively and actively took part in the study. From the data, Komarock ward had the highest number of sampled respondents of 33.3% because is the largest as compared to the rest. Imara Daima Primary and Kayole Secondary 11.1% school had the least, 5. The allocation was informed by the 2009 population census. Table 4.3 shows the results.

School	**Absentee Father figure**		**Present father figure**		**Total**	
	Sample	%	Sample	%	Sample	%
Komarock school	15	33.3	15	33.3	30	33.3
Kayole south	5	11.1	5	11.1	10	11.1
Brookfield	10	22.2	10	22.2	20	22.2
Kayole pry.	10	22.2	10	22.2	20	22.2
Imara Daima	5	11.1	5	11.1	10	11.1
Total	**45**	**100**	**45**	**100**	**90**	**100**

Fig. 4.2 Sample per school

From all schools, the researcher sampled out 45 boys with absentee father figure and 45 boys with both parents. The figures were arrived at purposively based on the school population. Out of the 45 sampled out with absentee father figure, 60% of them have high delinquency rate (they confirmed-very often), 29% have average delinquency (often) and 11% have below average delinquency, this is according to the delinquency checklist used. One boy asked why he finds pleasure in taking alcohol he said,

"Mamangu hawezi kunichapa" my mother can't cane me. Another boy said *Mamangu hurudi Kama amechelewa, hawezi jua nimefanya nini*. (My mother always come late, she cannot tell what I do while she is away) The graphs below show the average delinquency distribution ranging from once or never to very often:

4.4 Reasons for absentee father figure:-

Since the research sought to unearth the challenges facing boys from absentee father figure, it was imperative to find out the cause of absentee after figure among families today. From the research findings, most single mothers today in the urban areas are single by choice; they get a child/ren then remain unmarried. The number of single mothers in Embakasi Central Constituency who opted to be single by choice is at 47% of the respondents. When asked why they choose to be single majority observed "*sitaki stress ya bwana"* I don't want stress from husbands. One lady said "*wanaume hawako serious*" meaning men are not serious it's imperative to do further research on the main reason why ladies today are not willing to settle down into marriage. Fig 4.3 shows the causal factors of absentee father figure. Those who never got married at all but got children are at 9%, 25% separated and 11% are widowed. This data tells us why single motherhood is on the rise in Kenya, more so in urban centres.

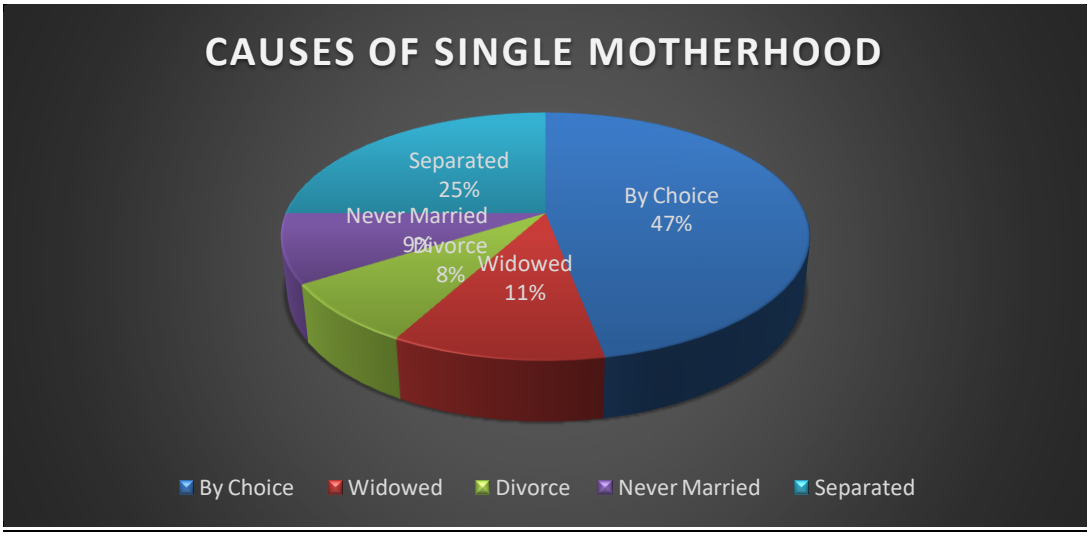


Fig 4.3 Pie Chart on Reasons for absentee father figure in Embakasi Central Constituency

4.5 Delinquency among boys from present and absent father figure

Having understood the reasons why mothers are single, it is imperative now to find out the effects present and absent father figure to the boy child.

4.5.1 Deliquency Rate from Present Father figure:-

From the present father figure delinquency data, the research found out that delinquency is not restricted only among boys from absentee father figure. Out of the 45 sample with present father figure, 11.1% of them are highly delinquent, they are involved in delinquent activities such as alcoholism, gambling 81%, smoking 64%, deliberate damage of property 33%. From the delinquent checklist they marked very often however, there delinquency ranges between once and several times meaning it above average

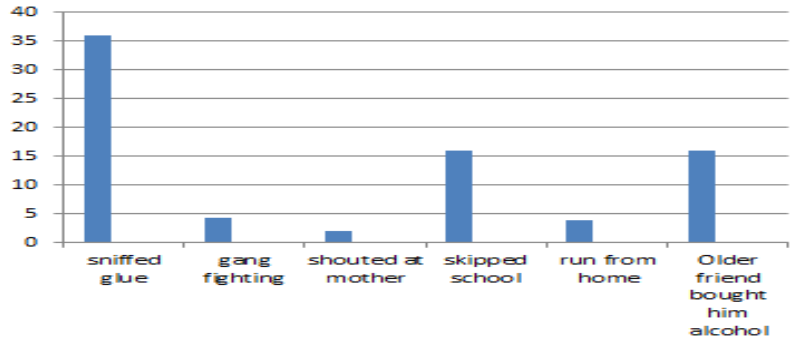


Fig 4.4 Category one of home and school delinquency from present father figure

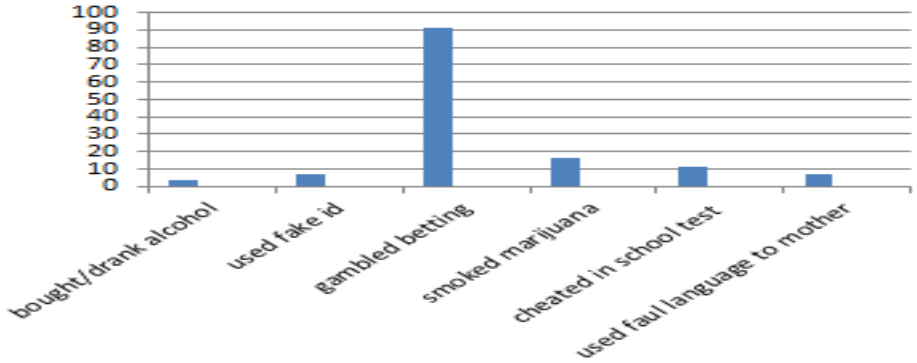


Fig 4.5 category 2 delinquency rate among present father figure boys.

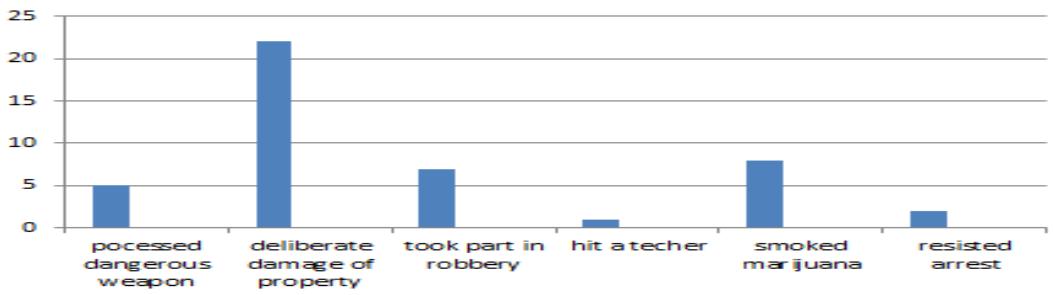


Fig 4.6 category 3 delinquency among present father figure boys.

4.5.2 Delinquency Level from absentee father figure boys:-

Comparing the two sets of data; delinquency among absentee father figure boys and present father figure boys, the research findings observe that the rate of delinquency is higher among absentee father figure boys as compared to present father figure boys. According to the data findings, an average of 67% of boys from absentee father have taken little things of less than ksh.2000 as compared to present father figure boys who are at 29%. The research also found out that 18% of boys from present father figure families have sneaked into movie without paying compared to 64% from absentee father figure. It was also found out that 7% of boys from present father figure families came to school dirty as compared to 73% from absentee father figure family.

While in the field collecting data, one boy was asked why he sneaked into a movie shop in Kayole, he said "when I asked my mother to give Kshs.30 to go watch football match, his mother told him "*Enda nab ulale njaa".* You go but be sure you will go without supper tonight. And since most of his peers were attending they conspired to sneak in without paying entry fee so that has become a life style. The rest can be seen from Figures 4.6-4.8. This simply means that a part from boys from absentee father figure going through psychosocial challenges, they also face economic challenges, making the single mother sole bread winners hence not being able to attend to their parental roles. 73% of boys from absentee father figure have ever deliberately broken street lights, as compared to 13% from present father figure. 69% of the boys from absent father figure have ever shouted at their mothers, one argued that the mother can't beat him; as compared to 9% from present father figure. Comparing the two samples, there is higher delinquency prevalence among absentee father figure boys as compared to those from present father figure. The absentee father figure exhibited 67% of delinquency as compared to 17% from present father figure

4.5.3Academic performance between present and absentee father figure boys compared:-

Comparing the two samples, there is higher delinquency prevalence among absentee father figure at 67% as compared to those from present father figure which is 17%. The research also found out that the high delinquency among absentee father figure boys affect their academic performance. The absentee father figure exhibited 67% of delinquency as compared to 17% from present father figure. Boys from both parents present families tend to perform better in school at average grade B. Here is the breakdown of the performance: As 26%, Bs 71% and Ds 3%. Figure 4.7 shows academic performance per grade between the two samples. From absentee father figure boys, the results are: 1% A, 13%, Cs, 81% Ds, and 7% Es.

However, the data shows that 11 % adolescent from absentee father figure performed at a grade above C in their end of term one 2019 exams while 2% from both parents' families performed below D. From this data, it is therefore, important to note that there are mothers who though single are working hard to help the boy child overcome psychosocial challenges which might be a product of absentee father figure. On the other hand, some boys though brought up by both parents are not doing well academically, probably this is because of lack of psychosocial connection with their parents, this begs the question on whether physical presence of a parent is directly proposal with emotional presence, can a father be physically present but emotionally absent? Fig 4.7 shows academic performance between two samples.

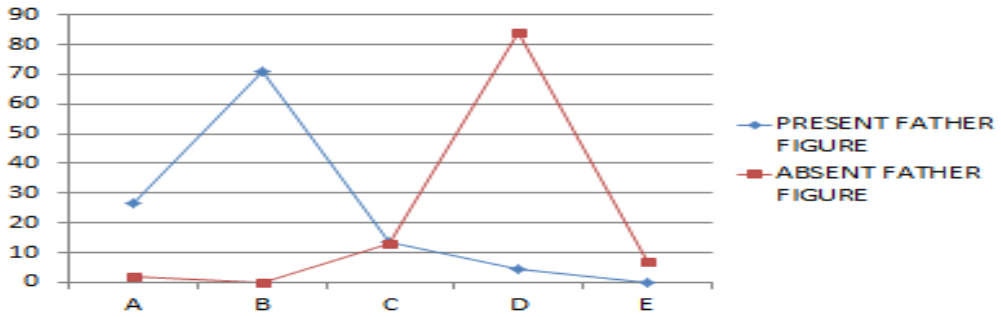


Fig 4.7 Line Graph on Academic performance per grade

4.5.4 Playing Cards, Gambling for Money:-

The results from the fig 4.8 shows gambling prevalence were high from both present and absentee father figure families. From present father figure boys, 82% are active participants in gambling, compared to 91% from absentee father figure. This means that gambling is a form of delinquencies that is not influenced by the father figure; probably this is because today most gambling is done on mobile phone which does not necessarily require one to move out of the house. Multi bet and *Sports pesa* is the most popular gambled game.

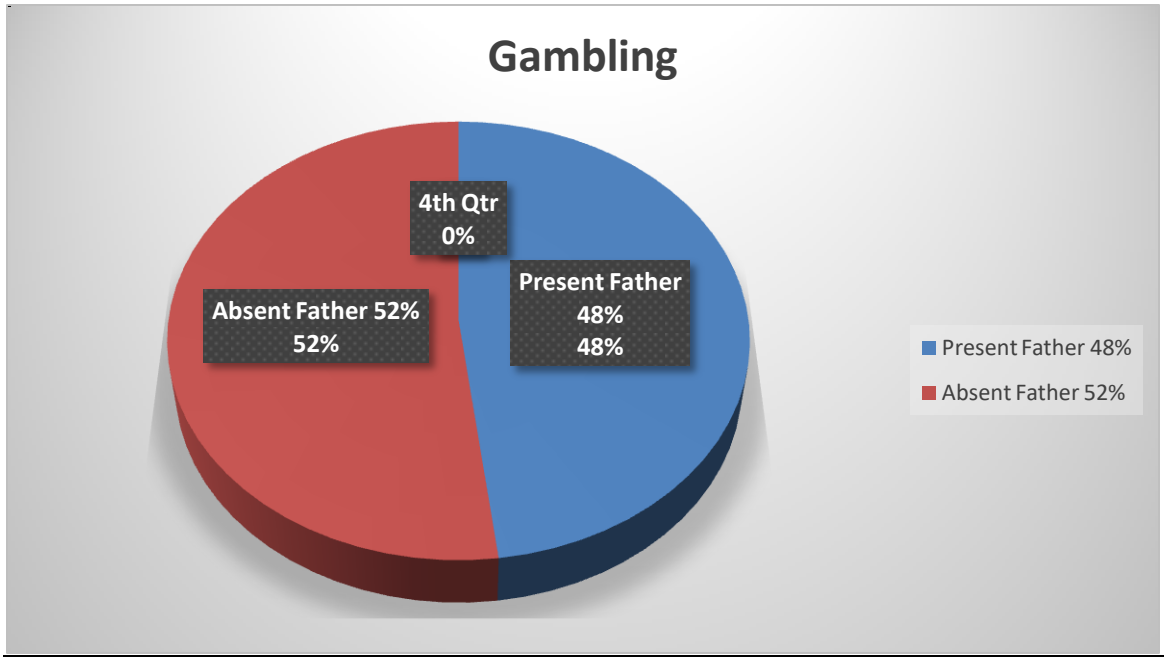


Fig 4.8 Pie chart on Gambling between absentee and present father figure compare

4.5.5 Home and School Delinquency compared:-

The research found out that, majority of boys who have answered their parents rudely, gone against their parents, talked back at their parents, shouted at their mother or even got into physical confrontation with their parents, extended same behaviour to their teachers in school. In school they come while dirty, poorly groomed, cheated in exam test, caused major disruption in the classroom, used fake ID, in school especially to serve meals and even attempted to hit a teacher. This shows that students cultivate good or bad values at home then the same is extended to other agents of socialization such schools and wider community. Home and school delinquency prevalence is extended to the community, For instance it is the same adolescent boys from absentee father figure 67% with high delinquency of 73% and weak values at home and in school that tend to drive car without driving licence, participated in gang fight broke street lights, carried dangerous items or weapons, sneaked into a place of entertainment (movie, cinema, theatre) without paying admission fee, taken little or medium items in the house, car or even in

school, they also register low grades in school 67%. Fig 4.10 shows a comparison of home and school Deliquency distribution of delinquencies at different levels.

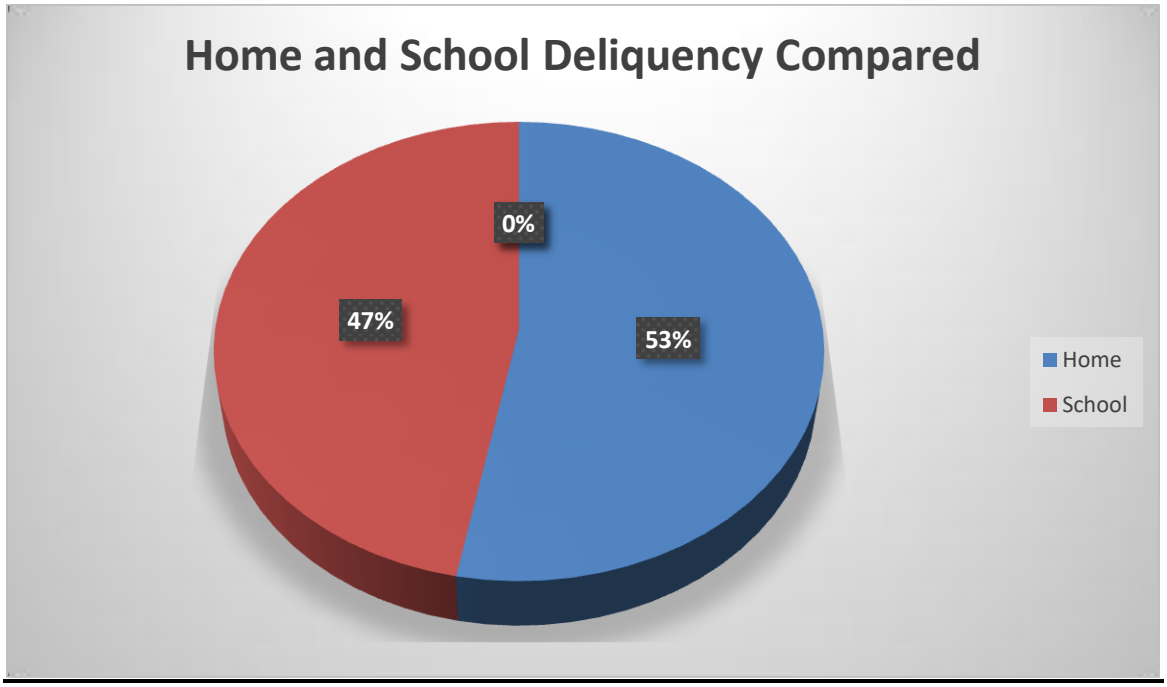


Fig 4.9 Pie chart on Home and school delinquency compared

It is evident From Fig 4.10 that most of the challenges facing youths especially boys today, can be addressed starting from home and school. This is because they emanate from the two basic agents of socialization, home and school. The research shows that majority of delinquencies are nurtured at home and extended to the society. Gambling is the most popular delinquency from present and absentee father figure boys. For instance, during data collection sessions, one boy said it is not strange to *"kuchapa mum bafuchafu"* meaning they cunningly get away with some stuff especially money without the mother knowing, especially when sent to purchase some domestic items like soap, food and many more. This habit is carried on to school and to the wider community.

4.5.6 Drug prevalence per civic ward:-

Research findings show that Kayole South, Kayole North and Kayole Central have the highest rate of drug and substance abuse at 73%, 63%) and 58% respectively as compared to Spring Valley and Komarock Wards at 48% and 41% respectively from the samples collected. In summary, the data has indicated that high prevalence of drug and substance abuse among absentee father figure boys as compared to those from both parents' families. Delinquency tendencies and general antisocial behaviour which revolves around crime rate can also be attributed to social economic status. Societies with strong

social economic background are likely to have minimal psychosocial challenges hence less delinquency tendencies among boys, this is so considering the fact that there is high deliquency in informal settlement ward of Kayole South (Soweto Slums) at 73% as compared to Komarock ward 41%

In understanding alcohol prevalence further, especially in Kayole South and Kayole Central, the high prevalence is likely to be necessitated by the fact that most of the Kayole North, Kayole South and Kayole Central are made up of informal settlements (slums) such as Soweto where locally brewed and cheap alcohol is rampant; no wonder in the resent past there has been deaths resulting from illicit brew, common in city slums. Komarock is formal, with good social amenities such as housing, tarmacked roads and majority of the residents are working class who own their private houses and homes. They are also well educated as such emancipated from human manipulation and dwindling social fabric, this makes them guide their children in making right choices. This research is a confirmation that most slum dwellers are prone to, vulnerable and exposed many social challenges facing our communities, cheaply brewed alcohol that kills and blinds users such as Kumikumi. This leads to high rate of delinquency among young adult boys. It is a clear confirmation that environmental factors contribute to the general growth and development of a person.

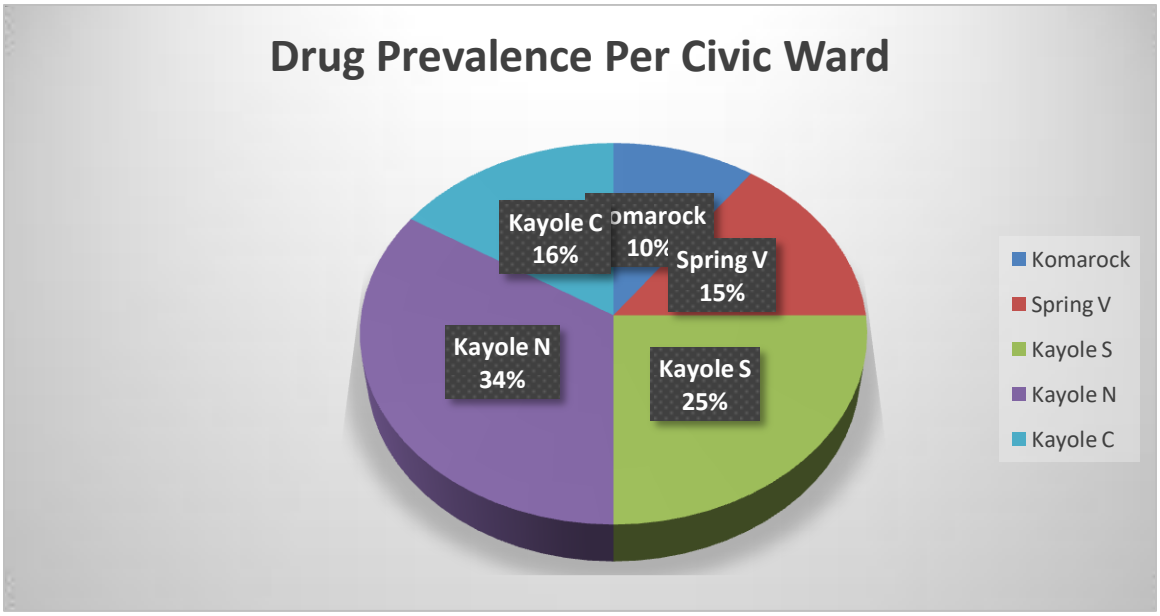


Fig 4.10 Drug prevalence per civic ward

4.6 Analysis of Research Questions:-

The analysis of research questions seek to respond to the research questions as well as research objectives in relations to the research findings.

4.6.1 How do boys with absentee father figure perform in school as compared to those with father figure?

The data collected on academic performance of the study sample identified from 5 schools in Embakasi Central Constituency shows great impact of absentee father figure to the general psychosocial development of the boy child. From the 5 schools, 3 were secondary and 2 primary schools. Boys from both parents' families tend to do better in school; probably this is because they have less psychosocial challenges including lower delinquency tendencies. On average boys from both parents present families tend to perform better in school at an average grade B, As 26%, Bs 71%, Ds 3% compared to average of D+ from absentee father figure represented by A 2.2% 6 Cs 13%, and Ds 81% Ds 7%.

However, the data shows that 11.1% adolescent boys from absentee father figure performed at a grade above C in their exams while 2% from both parents' families performed below D. From the research findings, it is therefore, important to note that there are mothers who though they are single, are working hard to help the boy child overcome psychosocial challenges which might be a product of absentee father figure. On the other hand, some boys though brought up by both parents are not doing well, probably this is because of lack of psychosocial connection with their parents, this begs the question on whether physical presence of a parent is directly proportional with emotional presence, can a father be physically present but emotionally absent? The data collected shows that from the present father figure families, still there are boys who tend to perform dismally, 3% performed at grade D, probably this is an indication that their fathers might be a physically present but are emotionally distanced and detached from the boy child, this calls for holistic presence of the father figure i.e. the father has to be both emotionally and physically present to address the psychosocial challenges facing the boy child in the society. There is need of connection between emotional and physical presence.

GRADE	PRESENT FATHER FIGURE	ABSENT FATHER FIGURE
A	26%	2.2%
B	71%	-
C	1%	13%
D	3%	81%
E	-	5%

Fig 4.11 academic performance as at end of term I 2019

4.6.2 What is the rate of truancy, absenteeism between boys from absentee father families as compared to those with fathers?

In the delinquency checklist, truancy and school absentee was addressed by selected sample of 90 adolescents responding to the following question: How often have you skipped school without legitimate reason? Of the respondents, 69% from absentee father figure confirmed positively to have severally avoided school with no good reason; it's interesting to note that this is the same group that constitute a majority of those who scored below Ds in their end of term exams. This brings a correlation between school attendance and academic performance.

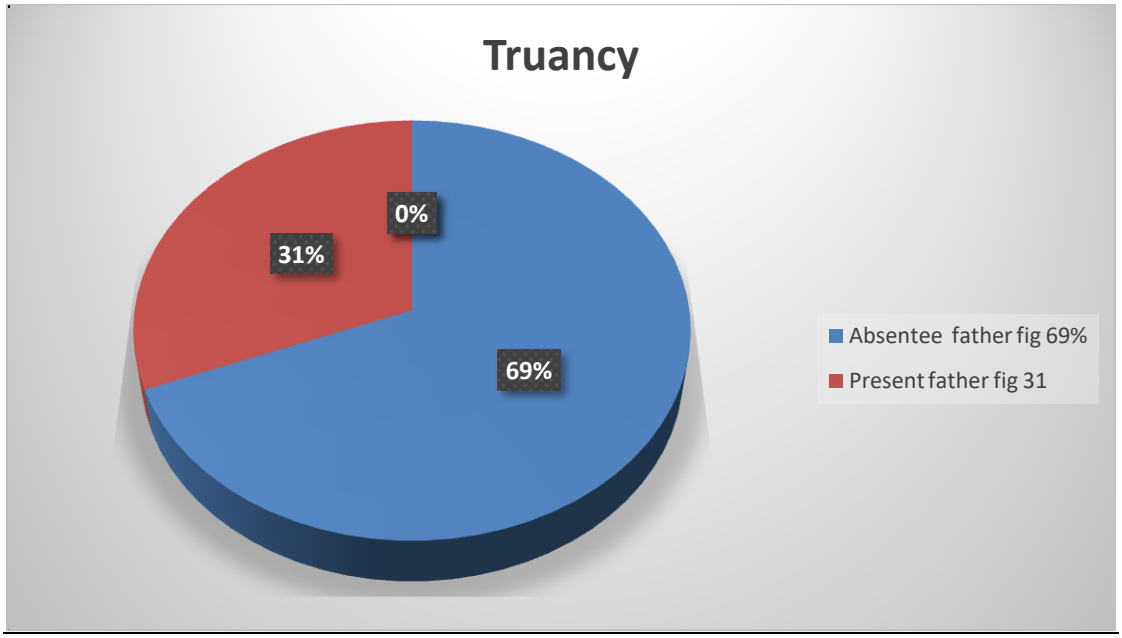


Fig 4.12 truancy between absentee father figure and present father figure

Figure 4.12 indicates that a students who miss school are likely to underperform in class. In contrast to the above findings, the 45 respondents sampled from present father figure tended to attend school at 79% while 21% missed occasionally, again, of those who missed school occasionally 5% scored below C-. From the research findings, the level of truancy and delinquency increases as the boys transit from primary school to secondary school. For instance 31% delinquency rate was identified from the primary school sample as compared to 69% from high school. From the result findings, where by there is high Deliquency in high school as compared to primary schools, it would be imperative to find out whether this behaviour decreases as the same boys move to tertiary institutions such as colleges and universities.

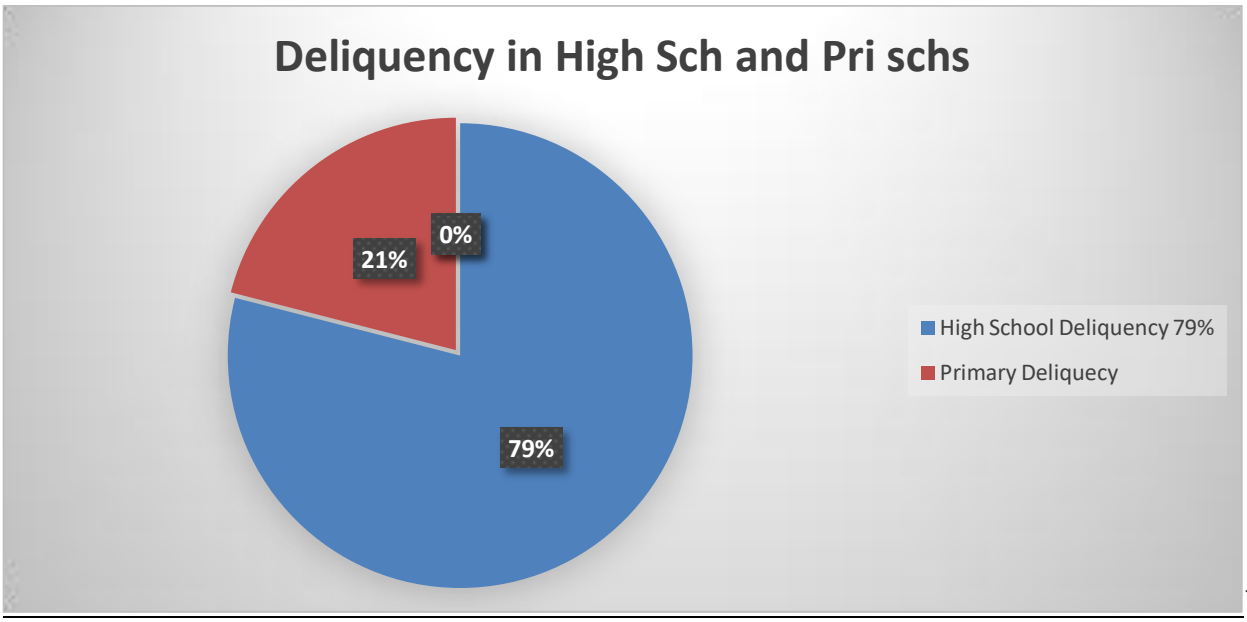


Fig 4.13 Deliquency between primary and high schools

4.6.3how does absentee father figure accounts and impact on parenting outcomes of the boy child?

Generally the purpose of this study was to evaluate the responses made on the psychosocial growth (delinquency rate) between the two samples selected from the present and absentee father figure. The overriding objective was to investigate and ascertain the importance of the father figure in nurturing, mentoring and moulding the boy child. The study on focussed determining whether the psychosocial challenges facing the boy child today can be attributed to ineffective parenting values from the weak and absent father figure. As observed in the theoretical frame work, a family is system, and as a system it can only operate optimally if all parts are playing their roles to their level best. Therefore, from these research findings, absentee father figure and poor parenting background has played a role in most psychosocial challenges facing adolescent boys in our society. From this study, it can be argued that boy child is at risk of being morally extinct. Hence have a jeopardised the societal prospects of future husbands and fathers. For instance, according to the research, 67% of the boy child parental defiance and drug abuse in Embakasi Central Constituency is attributed to physically and emotionally absent father figure. The study findings have indicated that the father figure has to remain a role model upon which the young adolescents can look up to. Delinquency among present father figure was at 17 % while that of absentee father figure boys was at 67%. Parents contribute a lot to the academic performance of their children. Therefore, from the findings, figure plays a key role in the case of a boy child. The data indicates those adolescent boys from absentee father figure who also exhibited truancy performed dismally; 69% of the sample scoring below D- as compared to those from present father figure with

minimal truancy scoring a mean grade B and above at 79%. However, the data also shows that among the absentee father figure sample 7 were able to score above C- meaning mothers are acquiring skills and strategies and skills of stepping in to help fill the gap of absent father figure.

4.7 Conclusion and Summary of the Results:-

In conclusion, the research took into account a total of 90 respondents from 5 civic wards, 5 schools; 3 secondary Schools and 2 Primary Schools with 45 single mothers. The age bracket considered ranged between 12-17 years which entails class 7 to form 4. The data collected indicates that primary school boys exhibited the lowest level of delinquency at 17% as compared to the high school students who are at 69% of the total sample used. Form 2 and 3 had the highest delinquency rate 78% as compared to other classes 22%. This is likely to be caused by the fact that at form 2, students are asserting their position in high school after going through a humiliating form one. On the other hand, form threes are in preparation to get into candidate and examination class as such they would like to engage in all manner of delinquencies since they will not have such opportunity again, refer to fig 4.11 on truancy and delinquency at class level.

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction:-

Boy child has continued to face challenges which are becoming a threat to the optimal functioning of family and marriage institution. In the recent past there have been cases of antisocial behaviour among the young boys. One of the latest concerns has been gambling, according to Karuku (2019:29), gambling has become threat to the youths today. She further observed that most youths are shunning away from alcohol, drugs and substance abuse, which is a good thing, however, they have replaced alcohol with gambling. This is consistent with this research finding, where the researcher observed that gambling cuts across both absentee and present father figure; 91% and 81% respectively. Gambling among youths is not a respecter of presence or absence of one's father figure, this is likely to be majorly influenced by peer pressure and need for quick cash with no sweat among young people. Gambling itself has led to other negative effects among the young adults; they tend to take part in petty stealing to go betting.

5.2 Summary of the findings:-

The research has established that juvenile delinquency in both primary and Secondary Schools have become common phenomenon; however, according to the research juvenile delinquency is more prevalent 63% among absentee father figure. Drug and substance abuse, school riots and burning of schools have become rampant; the above age bracket is active participant in such vices. As a society, there has been a tendency of speculating and trying different causal theories to address some of the psychosocial challenges devouring boy child in the society. Comparing boys from absentee father figure and present father figure, the research has found out that boys from absentee father figure have higher delinquency, truancy, drug and substance abuse rate as compared to boys brought up in present father figure families.

The data collected on academic performance of the study sample identified from 5 schools in Embakasi Central Constituency shows great impact of absentee father figure to the general psychosocial development of the boy child. From these research findings, it's evident that psychosocial pathologies result to dismal academic performance of the boy child. Boys from both parents' families tend to do better in school performing at an average grade of B; probably this is because they have less psychosocial challenges including lower delinquency tendencies as compared to those from absentee father figure who are performing at an average grade of D.

Boys from absentee father figure have higher delinquency rate (67%) as compared to those from present father figure families who are at (17%). They are involved more in truancy, alcohol and drug abuse, breaking of school rules and many more. They are the same who happen not to align to societal norms and rules this means that same behaviour exhibited at home are extended to school and community at large. As observed in chapter four, most of the boys from absentee father figure use the advantage of the absent father figure to manipulate their female parent/guardian to have their way out.

Generalizing the research findings, it can be observed that delinquency behaviour is born at home, nurtured at school and implemented in the bigger community. This means that what a boy is at home can easily be replicated in school. This findings agree with Bandura's theory of social learning, which opinionated that children learn through observation; this may be either through one on one or via the surrounding environment. Bandura further asserts that majority of human behaviour is learnt through observation and modelling, meaning, by observing others, an individual is likely to form an opinion on how new character and behaviour are carried out, and consequently the perceived ideas provide a guideline for action (Bandura, 1977:54). In the case of absent father figure boys tend to have no one to learn from so to them everything can be right.

From the data collected, we can conclude that delinquency is generated from home; home related delinquencies were at 69%, school delinquencies which include truancy is at 63% the two social institutions (home and school) are the cradle to societal delinquencies such as alcoholism, breaking public property, stealing which accounted to 59%. If home and school environment are conducive, there are high possibilities of minimizing the rate of delinquency and other psychosocial challenges facing the boy child. Pathological tendencies are brewed at home and in school as such there is need of engaging more and empowering these two fundamental social institutions if at all we need to have a stable, health society.

It is of essence to make a disclaimer that whenever we are interpreting the results of such research study we employ caution. This is because several studies are generalised to the degree in which the sample correctly represents the population being studied. This means that the geographical area of study might not represent similar situation in a different culture, social-economic and geographical regions. Therefore, if at all there is a generalization with any other identified population there might be need of additional samples, groups and evaluating tools with different institutions. Last but not least, a paper and pencil research questionnaire given to students may not give accurate report on the delinquency and

psychosocial challenges facing boy child, it might have some degree of subjectivity however much the research will remain objective.

5.3 Conclusions:-

Based on the findings of this research, the following conclusions and implications are drawn: The summary is based and limited to the subject of those who participated. The study was able to find out that parenting today is different from the way it was several years ago this is because in the past absentee father figure was not a challenge since there was strong kinship system that bound families together hence the father figure gap could easily be filled up by extended family father figures. African family ethos was so strong that a gap could not be felt in the event of absent father figure. Times have changed. Emotionally and physically absentee father figure today has become a common scenario with negative effects to family institution, especially on the boy child. The research has indicated that boys whose father or father figure is around are likely to be well prepared for adult life as compared to those brought up in absentee father figure families, this is because adolescent boys who are delinquent are likely to extend such behaviour to adulthood hence becoming weak father figure leading to a vicious cycle of absentee and weak father figure in the society, hence a weak and dwindling family.

According to Ogala, (2018:34) it is argued that there are many children who are not going to school yet nobody seems to be bothered, she goes on to observe that the children have all the time to be involved in crime. From Ogala's report, there is a lot of child neglect due to absent parents. Ogala's findings are in agreement with this research findings. In this research we also found out that today, many young boys are more permissive hence parents especially mothers not being able to manage them. In as much as this research focused on the father figure but generally parents have to up their game, carry out their roles diligently to redeem the family institution and more so, the boy child who is part of societal posterity.

Analysing these research findings, as well as Ogala (2018:34) on absentee parents, it has been found out that present father figure minimises delinquency tendencies among adolescents boys consequently resulting to socially upright adult man. Father figure plays key role of a role model, a guider, a positive disciplinarian who supervises the boy child with similar experience to what is expected from the boy child himself and the society. The father is expected to respond to the boy child sensitively, with positive affirmation hence enabling him to make right choices with high self-esteem which will minimize delinquency. The research also unearthed that boys from absentee father figure are likely to face challenges ranging from social, economic, academic and psychological which affects their growth and development.

However, absentee father figure has not affected all boys from such families. For instance, out of the 45 samples with absentee father figure, 11.1% are not delinquent and they attained mean grade C and above at the end of term One 2019 exams, you may refer to fig 4.7 on school grades. This means there are still single mothers who are able to competently take care of their boys regardless of the absentee father figure. In other words, a part from absentee father figure there are other factors which can lead to delinquency among boys, peer pressure is one of them. There is need of further research to find out what single mothers who are able to bring up boys with minimal delinquency and good school grades are doing, this can be shared with other mothers who are struggling with their boys. Another case at hand is the boy from Brookfield School with absentee father who managed a grade of A- in his end of term exam with no major delinquency cases. This shows that some single mothers raising up boys have come up with alternative strategies that they adopt in process of parenting. Probably such mothers need to be approached by opinion leaders to share their expertise and coping mechanism on how they are managing to bring up such competent boys, yet others are struggling.

Finally, according to the research findings, most single mothers (47%) are single by choice; they opt to get children but not ready to settle down into marriage. Some have divorced and a few 19% widowed.

5.4 Recommendations:-

From this research findings, it is recommended that in cases where the father figure is absent through natural attrition such as death, male teachers, male relatives and male persons of outstanding character may step in as foster fathers to help nurture and train boys in right direction, this does not necessarily mean inheriting the mother of the boy as it has been in most African culture. Is there a possibility that if the above suggestion is implemented we will minimize cases of murder among young couples and those in marriage relationships? Many young men have abused their wives and even killing them. They need role models.

The main factor leading to single motherhood is choice, the research found out that most single mothers have deliberately decided to be single. This trend might not change; therefore, the research recommends the society to equip single mothers with parenting skills to handle their boys. The delinquency prevalence is high in high schools as compared to primary schools (73% and 23% respectively). This means there is need of putting up proper transition measures from Primary School to High School. There is need of better school counselling services; this is because some of the delinquencies identified during the course of this research study can easily be addressed by a professional counsellor. The counsellor will be able to address issues such as life skills, assertiveness, decision making, critical thinking, inter -

and intra personal relationships. Schools also need to support societies and clubs such Christian Unions, Young Christian Societies and other religious clubs, these will help in teaching, training and instilling good Christian, Societal and morals Values among the students which will minimise delinquencies among them. Apparently, all these are measures aimed at empowering the boy child, especially in transition classes like standard 8 and Form 4 where the students are just about to experience some unprecedented permissiveness.

5.6 Suggestions for further studies and research:-

- In regard to the research findings from this study, it is of importance that similar studies are carried out in other geographical regions as well as institution of higher learning to investigate delinquency transition from basic learning institutions (Secondary Schools) to tertiary institutions such as colleges and universities.
- From the data collected, over 47% of single mothers have decided to be single by choice, is this trend going reduce? With the current social economic, education and health emancipation of female gender, it is not likely to go down. This means the society should expect more single mothers, therefore, this research recommends empowering of the mother figure through training and sensitization on how to nurture, train, empower and understand psychosocial and physical needs of the boy child and be able to support him holistically hence an optimal society.
- The researcher recommends studies to be carried out to find out how young adolescents who had delinquency tendencies during their teenage are coping up in adulthood. Are they married and keeping families? And how are they keeping on in the job market?
- The delinquency prevalence is high in high schools as compared to primary schools at 73% and 23% respectively. This means there is need of putting up proper transition measures from Primary School to High School. There is need of better school counselling services; this is because some of the delinquencies identified during the course of this research study can easily be addressed by a professional counsellor. The counsellor will be able to address issues such as life skills, assertiveness, decision making, critical thinking, inter -and intra personal relationships. Schools also need to support societies and clubs such Christian Unions, Young Christian Societies and other religious clubs, these will help in teaching, training and instilling good Christian, Societal and morals Values among the students which will minimise delinquencies among them. Apparently, all these are measures aimed at empowering the boy child, especially in transition classes like standard 8 and Form 4 where the students are just about to experience some unprecedented permissiveness

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7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix: 1 Introduction to the respondents

Hallo;

My name is Moses Alloice Nyangweso Wangudi, a Master of Theology-Counselling psychology specialization student at St. Paul's University. I am conducting a research on the effects of absent father figure in the upbringing of boy child in Kenya, a case of Embakasi Central Constituency in Nairobi. The information given and received from you will be treated with utmost confidentiality and will help unearth how absent father affects psychosocial growth and well-being of a boy child and its resultant effects on academic performance.

Thanks as you take part in the research.

Appendix 2: Participant informed consent form

This study will explore the activities in which teenager boys being brought up with absentee father figure g00et engaged in. It is hoped that the results from this study will increase our understanding of the role of the father figure teenage boys' behaviour. Participation will involve completing a demographic form and a behavioural questionnaire that will take approximately 20-30 minutes of your time. If you choose to participate in this study, your answers will not be shared with anyone. There will be no risks or discomforts involved in this study. You may withdraw from the study at any time if you choose to do so. The questionnaire contains instructions that are self-explanatory. It is very important that you answer every question. Please be completely honest. Your answers are completely confidential and will be useful only if they accurately describe you.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON ANY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES.

If you are willing to participate, please sign below.

Name (CAPITALLETTERS): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 2: PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMED CONSENT FORM

As a Masters student, specializing in Counselling Psychology with a lot of interest in Boy Child Development, I would like to inform you in regard to a study that I will be conducting Embakasi Central constituency among boys in selected primary and secondary schools. This study will explore the psychosocial challenges, academic performance and delinquency activities in which male teenagers with absentee father figure get engaged in. Participants will be asked questions that include topics such as: truancy, theft, drug and alcohol consumption, and sexual behaviours, school performance. Questions asked in the questionnaire address such behaviours as driving a car without a license or permit, buying alcohol illegally, sneaking into places without paying, taking part in a robbery, and using illegal drugs. It is hoped that the results of this study will increase our understanding the importance of the father figure in bringing up of boys in our society today. Participation will involve completing a personal data questionnaire and a behavioural questionnaire that will take your son approximately 20-25 minutes during their advisory period. If you choose to approve of their participation in this study, their names and responses will be kept confidential at all times. Students will not be asked to identify them by name or number on any forms, therefore the researcher will not be able to track responses back to individual students. This study will not pose a risk that exceeds the risk students experience in everyday life and should not cause any discomfort. Students will not be isolated due to their participation or non-participation, nor will they be identified by school staff members in regard to their responses. Students who participate will do so as part of one advisory period, and will not be removed from any academic instruction. Your son may withdraw from the study at any time if they choose to do so. In addition, there will be no loss of privileges or penalties imposed if your son wishes to withdraw. If you agree to let your son participate in this study, please sign below and return this form to Moses Nyangweso

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Moses Alloice Nyangweso Wangudi

mthnrb347918@spu.ac.keb

Parent/guardian name_____

Your signature_____

Appendix 3: PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS: In the space next to the items below, please enter the number that best answers the question. Fill in the information when requested in the spaces provided. Please answer every item.

TICK ACCORDINGLY: FATHER PRESENT {_____} FATHER ABSENT {_____}

1. **Age** 12_____13_____14 _____15 _____16 _____17 _____
2. **My parents are**: Married and living together _____Married but living apart _____Divorced---------- Never married _____Divorced and one remarried _____Divorced and both remarried _____Mother deceased _____Father _____Not married Prefer not to say ----------
3. If your parents do not live together, how old were you when they separated? _____
4. Has a father-figure been physically present in your home from age 5 to the present time? _____yes _____no _____some of the time
5. Which school do you attend? _____
6. What grade did you score in the last examination in school_____
7. How many are you in your family?----------(a) boys_____ (b) girls_____
8. Are you: 1st born_____2nd born_____3rdborn_____or any other_____

Appendix 4: Mother's Interview schedule*:*

A. Opening

1. Hello. My name is Moses Nyangweso from St. Paul's University. I am a Master Student specializing in Counselling Psychology as you saw in the consent form.
2. I would like to ask you some questions on your experience in bringing up your boy child with absent father figure.
3. I hope to use this information to help the society understand the psychosocial effects on boy child brought with absentee father figure.
4. The interview should take less than 10 minutes. Are you available to respond to some questions?

B. Transition to the next topic *(Body language)*

1. Let me begin by asking you about, yourself, where you live and how long you have been living Kayole?
2. For how long has been living here as a single mother?
3. Do you have any reason to why you are taking of your son alone as a single mother?

C. Experience as a single mother

1. Do you have any positive experience you would share about bringing up a boy child without father figure?
2. How about negative experience.
3. Kindly state some of the specific challenges.

D. Conclusion

Thank you so much for creating time for the interview. Enjoy the rest of your day.

Appendix 5: Delinquency Check List

Please indicate to what extent you have participated in the activities below. If you have never participated in the activity, circle the "0." If you have participated in the activity once or twice,

Circle "1"; if several times, circle "2"; if often, "3"; if very often, "4."

	Once or		**Several**		**Very**
	Never	**Twice**	**Times**	**Often**	**Often**
1. I have gone ever deliberately disobeyed your parents?	0	1	2	3	4
2. I have talked back to my mother?	0	1	2	3	4
3. I shouted at your mother?	0	1	2	3	4
4. I used foul language at your mother?	0	1	2	3	4
5. I got into physical confrontation with your mother?	0	1	2	3	4
6. I come to school dirty in the morning?	0	1	2	3	4
7. I skipped school without legitimate excuse?	0	1	2	3	4
8. I cheated on any school test?	0	1	2	3	4
9. I caused a major disruption in the classroom?	0	1	2	3	4
10. I ran away from home?	0	1	2	3	4
11. I have driven car without a driver or permit?	0	1	2	3	4
12. I broke curfew?	0	1	2	3	4
13. I participated in a gang fight?	0	1	2	3	4
14. I had older friends buy alcohol for you?	0	1	2	3	4
15. I bought or drank beer, wine or hard liquor?	0	1	2	3	4
16. I used a fake I.D. card?	0	1	2	3	4
17. I played card such as poker, for money?	0	1	2	3	4
18. I stopped someone on the street and asked for money?	0	1	2	3	4
19. I broke street lights or windows just to have fun doing so?	0	1	2	3	4
20. I sneaked into a place of entertainment(theatre) without paying admission	0	1	2	3	4
21. I carried switchable or other weapon?	0	1	2	3	4
22. I used alcohol excessively?	0	1	2	3	4
23. I drunk so much that you could not remember afterwards some of the things you had done?	0	1	2	3	4

24. I sniffed “glue” or some other substance?	0	1	2	3	4
25. I’ve gone for a ride in a car that someone had stolen?	0	1	2	3	4
26. I’ve taken little things (less than 200) that did not belong to you?	0	1	2	3	4
27. I’ve taken things of medium value (between 200-5000) that did not belong to you?	0	1	2	3	4
28. I‘ve stolen things from a car (laptops, phones etc.)?	0	1	2	3	4
29. I bought or accepted property that you knew was stolen?	0	1	2	3	4
30. I took a car for a ride without the owner’s permission?	0	1	2	3	4
31. I purposely damaged or destroyed public or private property that did not belong to you?	0	1	2	3	4
32. I had sexual intercourse with a person of the opposite sex?	0	1	2	3	4
33. I’ve taken things of large value (over Kshs.5000) that did not belong to you?	0	1	2	3	4
34. I’ve driven too fast or recklessly in an automobile?	0	1	2	3	4
35. I’ve stolen someone’s purse?	0	1	2	3	4
36. I’ve smoked marijuana?	0	1	2	3	4
37. I hit a teacher?	0	1	2	3	4
38. I resisted arrest, or fought with a police officer who was trying to arrest you?	0	1	2	3	4
39. I broke into a store, home, warehouse, or some other place in order to steal something?	0	1	2	3	4
40. I sold marijuana to someone?	0	1	2	3	4
41. I’ve been in a fight, which led to an attack on one person or all?	0	1	2	3	4
42. I h have driven a car while drunk?	0	1	2	3	4
43. I have taken part in any robbery?	0	1	2	3	4
44. I have taken part in a robbery involving the use of physical force?	0	1	2	3	4
45. I’ve taken part in a robbery involving the use of a weapon?	0	1	2	3	4
46. I used narcotic drugs, other than marijuana?	0	1	2	3	4

Appendix 6 RESEARCH BUDGET

	PARTICULARS	**COST PER UNIT**	**TOTAL COST**
1.	1NACOSTI Registration	ksh.1000	ksh.1000
2.	2Research Assistants	ksh.750 per day*10	Kshs. 15000
3.	Printing and photocopy	Kshs. 17000	Kshs 17000
4.	Internet	Kshs. 3740	Kshs 3740
5.	6.Disseration Binding	Kshs 600*6	kshs.600
6.	3. Transport to the field and Lunch	kshs.4750	kshs4750
7.	Miscellaneous		Kshs. 18700
	TOTAL COST		**Kshs. 43970**

Appendix 7: permission from National Commission on Science and Innovation (NACOSTI)

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Telephone: +254-20-2213471,
2241349,3310571,2219420
Fax: +254-20-318245,318249
Email: dg@nacosti.go.ke
Website : www.nacosti.go.ke
When replying please quote

NACOSTI, Upper Kabete
Off Waiyaki Way
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI-KENYA

Ref: No. **NACOSTI/P/19/49605/28683**

Date: **14th March, 2019**

Moses Alloice Nyangweso Wangudi
St. Pauls University
P.O. Private Bag - 00217
LIMURU.

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION

Following your application for authority to carry out research on ***"An investigation on challenges facing boy child from absentee father figure families in embakasi Central Constituency Nairobi County"*** I am pleased to inform you that you have been authorized to undertake research in **Nairobi County** for the period ending **13th March, 2020.**

You are advised to report to **the County Commissioner and the County Director of Education, Nairobi County** before embarking on the research project.

Kindly note that, as an applicant who has been licensed under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 to conduct research in Kenya, you shall deposit **a copy** of the final research report to the Commission within **one year** of completion. The soft copy of the same should be submitted through the Online Research Information System.

GODFREY P. KALERWA MSc., MBA, MKIM
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL/CEO

Copy to:

The County Commissioner
Nairobi County.

The County Director of Education
Nairobi County.

National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation is ISO9001: 2008 Certified

Appendix 8: Certificate from NACOSTI

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:
MR. MOSES ALLOICE NYANGWESO WANGUDI
of ST PAUL UNIVERSITY, 10955-100
NAIROBI,has been permitted to conduct research in *Nairobi County*

Permit No : NACOSTI/P/19/49605/28683
Date Of Issue : 14th March,2019
Fee Recieved :Ksh 1000



on the topic: *AN INVESTIGATION ON CHALLENGES FACING BOY CHILD FROM ABSENTEE FATHER FIGURE FAMILIES IN EMBAKASI CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY NAIROBI COUNTH*

for the period ending:
13th March,2020

.....
Applicant's Signature

.....
Director General
National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation