

EFFECTS OF FAMILY DISINTEGRATION CAUSES ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN MUGOIRI DIVISION, MURANG'A COUNTY

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ABSTRACT

This article considers family disintegration as a process of couples parting ways while child development is the general physical, intellectual and mental progress of a minor. In this study, family disintegration is caused by the following social conditions: drug abuse, level of education, religion and liberalism. This study sought to find out the association connecting social conditions to child development in Mugoiri Division, Murang'a County – Kenya. Both primary and secondary data were collected. Findings indicate that there is relationship between social conditions and child development. Drug abuse scores the highest at an aggregate mean of 87.28%, followed by religion 85.58%, liberalism 85.46% and level of education 83.56%. From the analysis, alcohol takes a lead as the highly abused drug by occupying 93.86% that causes conflicts affecting children development. The study recommends that Government intervenes in controlling alcohol consumption levels, its availability and supply. Further, to create counseling centres for married couples to enhance awareness concerning family preservation.

Key Words: *social conditions, child development, family, Kenya*

INTRODUCTION

Ballard (2009) pointed out how marriage dissolution brings about mass of communal harms which can be prevented if only their causes are altered. He emphasized on devoting our lifetime to family, so as to promote and preserve family life. Disintegration is the process of losing cohesion or strength. Family disintegration is the crumbling of married couples. It is a process of couples parting ways. It is the breakup and dissolution of family structure.

The suspected causes of social conditions affecting child development in Mugoiri Division are like drug abuse, level of education, religion and liberalism. The reported strenuous efforts to feed the family have led the household heads to resort to irresponsible heavy drinking and drug abuse. In the process of trying to forget the hardships at their homes, the bread winners are said to abuse alcohol and other drugs, misusing the little they earn. It is noted that the majority of families in this community are pre-primary and primary school education level, while very few are secondary level. Majority of the males are said to have not heard about marriage counselling, very few are reported to be consulting Government Institutions in the area. The majority of males irregularly attend religious gatherings. This unawareness greatly influences family dissolution.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The effects of the family disintegration on children have been generally researched in the United States of America. As noted by Child Death Review Team, (2008) that parental separation leaves children vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse that extends to a heightened risk of death. In Kenya specifically, it is observed that families go apart and come back together for a period of time leaving children exposed that seems to be a traditional trend. However, this practice should not be the norm. This is because law enforcers point out that incidences of exposed children are brought to their attention frequently. Unlike the past where children were taken care of by the extended families in the event of disintegration, social conditions have separated the family unit from the extended family. The effects of family disintegration on child development have not been researched. The study therefore sought to address the gap on the causes of family disintegration and their effects on child development specifically in Kiria Location of Mugoiri Division where it has been observed to be a recurring issue.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study was to determine the effects of social conditions on child development in Mugoiri Division.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

There is no relationship between social conditions and child development in Mugoiri Division.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Drug Abuse

Approximately 4.9 million people in Kenya between 15 and 65 years old are reported by NACADA to be abusing slightly one substance. It further released a report that Alcohol use has been associated with the highest burden of substance use disorders. The authority said that 1.1 million Kenyans in the same age group are using miraa while 2.2 million are using tobacco (NACADA 2010).

The organization reported that the enforcement of Alcoholic Drinks Control Act, 2010 and County Alcoholic Drinks Control Act was inadequate (NACADA, 2010). Moreover, the report reveals that once an alcoholic parent was absent, the adult child may in return build up an unbearable horror of desertion resulting to deadly relations so as to avoid loneliness (NACADA, 2010).

Religion

God hates not only divorce but also one using violence as a garment to cover himself, as noted by Malachi 2:16 in the Bible. The people were rebuked for their unfaithfulness. The priests' failure to teach the truth has led to a devastating collapse of marriage and family life (Adeyemo, 2006). Divorce is just as abominable to God as mixed faith marriages (Malachi 2:13-16). God wanted families to raise Godly children. Divorce is not conducive to nurturing children in the fear of God.

Cherlin (2009a) noted how in the early days religion was a key factor while considering a partner in marriage. For example, a protestant would deem marrying another protestant. Benokraitis (2012) further comments with concern how recently other aspects like education and earnings are considered to be more important while choosing a spouse.

Level of Education

Evans (2004) revealed that non- intact families were more expected to produce children who could either not complete school or attain lower grades, caused by anxiety and depression as a result of conflicts at home. The affected children lacked encouragement, support, guidance and control because their parents are less committed.

Esmaeili and Yaacob (2011) states that girls who experience parental divorce have internalizing problems such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem, which have impact on the intellectual well-being of the girl. Instead of focusing on acquiring new knowledge or polishing up the knowledge they have already acquired in order to be healthy intellectually, this girl will instead spend most of her time feeling anxious about the situation at home and the parental conflict.

Liberalism

Jaggar (2005) stated how the majority of parents happen to be preoccupied by what the social order is contributing making them to lose their focus towards their children. The parents become absent from home as a result of which children lack guidance and control therefore get influenced by what the world offers.

As noted in (www.kidspot.com), parents should provide the greatest concern and possibility for their children to grow physically, emotionally and intellectually. They should surrender their freedom so as to consider their children a priority always. They are further reminded that they should regard their children as a lasting responsibility rather than behaving like ex-parents.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study is based on family systems theory which was introduced by Bowen (1985). It suggests that individuals cannot be understood in isolation from one another, but rather as a part of their family as the family is an emotional unit (Bowen, 1985). Family systems theory, also known as Bowen theory, provides a framework for examining family situations and behaviours in terms of past relationships and family histories. It offers a theory of family behaviour based on the principle that the family can be viewed as a single emotional unit made up of interlocking relationships existing over many generations (Kerr & Bowen, 1988).

A key concept in family systems theory is that the family is an emotional system or an emotional unit. The family members are emotionally interdependent and function in reciprocal relationships with one another. Therefore, the functioning of one member cannot be completely understood if taken out of the context of the functioning of the people closely involved with him (Kerr & Bowen, 1988).

Family systems theory argues that an individual's behaviour throughout the life course is closely related to the functioning in one's original family. One strength of family systems theory is that it conceptualizes "family" as encompassing a variety of family forms, including the immediate family with whom the individual lives, the extended family of relatives and friends, and the community at large.

Family systems theory views the family as a functioning unit that solves problems, makes decisions, and achieves collective goals. The emphasis is not on individual family members but on how the members interact within the family system, how they communicate, how family patterns evolve, and how individual personalities affect family members (Kerr & Bowen, 1988).

According to the family systems analysts, the implicit or explicit rules that hold families together is equilibrium. That is, a change in one part of the family or the external environment sets in motion an adjustment process to restore the family to the way it was in the past – to regain

equilibrium. Thus, during stressful times such as illness, unemployment, or the death of a loved one, family members must make changes and adapt so that the family can keep on going (Broderick, 1993).

A study by Fomby and Cherlin (2007) confirms there is evidence that quality parents' relationship and children's behaviour are reciprocally related. According to McLanahan, Tach & Scheneider (2013), living in a stable two-parent family is associated with positive development for children. Family systems theory suggests that children's development is intrinsically related to interactions among other actors within the family (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

One dimension of children's well-being that may be particularly affected by the quality of their parents' relationship is their behaviour. Greater behavioural problems during childhood have been linked to a range of adverse outcomes later in life, including lower odds of completing high school and attending college (McLeod & Kaiser, 2004), greater risk of unemployment after leaving school (Fergusson & Horwood, 1998), and higher odds of mental health problems and criminal behaviour (Fergusson, Horwood & Ridder, 2005).

Understanding the extent to which parental relationship quality is linked to behavioural problems may illuminate a key aspect of how stable families contribute to children's long-term success. According to McLeod and Kaiser (2004), family systems theory suggests that the family is a complex, dynamic, and integrated whole, in which each member influences and is influenced by all other members. McLeod (2009) further notes that, family structure plays an important role in helping an adolescent adjust and understand to the changes in their life and body.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was a descriptive survey designed to establish effects of causes of family disintegration on child development in Mugoiri Division specifically in Kiria Location. The Location of Kiria administratively comprises of three (3) Sub-locations namely; Ndutumi, Gaturi and Kiria. The population studied was 840 households including 80 children of ages 12-17. The 840 households chosen were evenly spread in the three sublocations. Random sampling was used to identify twenty eight households in each sublocation to avoid bias. Married couples and children in the 840 families were identified to ensure consistency in data collection. The key informants were as well purposively selected from the sublocations for consistency purposes. Out of a population of 840 families, a sample of 10 per cent was considered. Stratified random sampling technique gave each item in the population an equal chance of being selected. Primary and secondary data were utilized. This study used questionnaire and interview schedules as methods of collecting data. The researcher administered the questionnaire to the children, married couples and key informants. Key informant interviews were qualitative in-depth interviews with people who knew what was happening in the community. The research used both qualitative and quantitative data. The following mathematical model was used to show the relation between the variables:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \epsilon.$$

Where: Y = child development; $\beta_1 X_1$ indicates the objectives from 1; and ϵ as the error.

This was done with the help of the latest version of SPSS. The quantitative data was generated and subjected to the descriptive statistics feature in Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The data was entered into computer spread sheet and then transferred to SPSS for formal summary and analysis to generate mean and standard deviation, which was then presented using tables, frequencies and percentages. Inferential statistics was also used to make generalizations about the population from which the sample was drawn.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Drug Abuse and Child Development

The respondents were asked to rate the effects of drug abuse in a family and their relation to child development on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 represents strongly agree and 5 represents strongly disagree. Mean, standard deviation and percentage levels were computed for the variables given in table 1.

The study undertook to establish whether drug abuse affects development of children and the extent to which it affects their physical, intellectual and emotional growth. Drug abuse which is a social condition is indicated by four types of abuse namely cigarettes, bhang, miraa and alcohol in Kenya. From the findings, 81.15% of the respondents agreed that cigarettes abuse affects the physical growth of children, while 10.64% of the respondents disagreed and 8.21% were neutral.

Moreover, 81.92% of the respondents agreed that cigarettes abuse affects the intellectual growth of children while 9% of the respondents disagreed with 9.02% being impartial. Furthermore, 82.85% of the respondents agreed that cigarettes abuse affects the emotional growth of children while 8.51% of the respondents disagreed and 8.64% were neutral.

Further the findings indicated that, 83.89% of the respondents agreed that bhang abuse affects the physical growth of children, while 11.70% of the respondents disagreed and 4.40% remained neutral. Moreover, 87.64% of the respondents agreed that bhang abuse affects the intellectual growth of children while 6.38% of the respondents disagreed and 5.98% were impartial. On the other hand, 81.76% of the respondents agreed that bhang abuse affects the emotional growth of children while 11.70% of the respondents disagreed and 5.31% remained neutral.

Additionally, 80.85% of the respondents agreed that miraa abuse affects the physical growth of children, while 8.51% of the respondents disagreed and 10.64% were neutral. Moreover, 81.58% of the respondents agreed that miraa abuse affects the intellectual growth of children while 8.51% of the respondents disagreed and 10.64% did not comment. On the other hand,

82.48% of the respondents agreed that miraa abuse affects the emotional growth of children while 11.70% of the respondents disagreed and 5.31% were neutral.

Table 1: Drug Abuse and Child Development

Parameters	F	F					f x	\bar{X}	d	Percentage Level (%)		
		1	2	3	4	5				Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Cigarettes abuse affects the physical growth of a child	153	51	16	12	8	387	1.6398	8.6411	81.15	8.21	10.64	
Cigarettes abuse affects the intellectual growth of a child	155	46	14	8	6	371	1.5720	8.3215	81.98	9.02	9.00	
Cigarettes abuse affects the emotional growth of a child	153	54	20	8	8	383	1.6229	8.1148	82.85	8.64	8.51	
Bhang abuse affects the physical growth of a child	152	52	10	8	14	389	1.6483	8.1247	83.89	4.41	11.70	
Bhang abuse affects the intellectual growth of a child	158	48	8	8	4	352	1.4915	5.3391	87.64	5.98	6.38	
Bhang abuse affects the emotional growth of a child	153	50	10	8	14	388	1.6441	8.1323	81.76	5.31	11.70	
Miraa abuse affects the physical growth of a child	154	49	20	8	8	373	1.5805	8.2318	80.85	10.64	8.51	
Miraa abuse affects the intellectual growth of a child	155	47	20	8	8	372	1.5763	8.5175	81.58	10.64	8.51	
Miraa abuse affects the emotional growth of a child	153	48	10	8	14	383	1.6229	8.1524	82.48	5.31	11.70	
Alcohol abuse affects the physical growth of a child	162	46	14	4	4	342	1.4492	5.7864	89.28	7.45	4.25	
Alcohol abuse affects the intellectual growth of a child	157	52	8	6	8	347	1.4703	6.4235	89.92	4.26	7.45	
Alcohol abuse affects the emotional growth of a child	161	55	4	4	2	333	1.4110	4.1127	93.86	2.13	3.19	
Total						21.587		42.893	1047.3	71.93	85.73	
Aggregate Mean						1.7989		3.5744	87.28	5.9941	7.1442	

Alcohol abuse had 89.28% of the respondents agreeing that it affects the physical growth of children, while 4.25% of the respondents disagreed and 7.45% were neutral. Moreover, 89.92% of the respondents agreed that alcohol abuse affects the intellectual growth of children while 7.45% of the respondents disagreed and 4.26% were neutral.

Furthermore, 93.86% of the respondents agreed that alcohol abuse affects the emotional growth of children while 3.19% of the respondents disagreed and 2.13% were neutral.

The above analysis shows that drug abuse has great impact on child development. An aggregate mean score of 87.28% of the respondents agreed that drug abuse affects children development with only an aggregate mean score of 7.14% disagreeing. It is established that Alcohol is the highly abused drug scoring 93.86%, followed by bhang with 87.64%, then cigarettes scoring 82.85% and miraa scores the least 82.43%.

The above analysis shows that alcohol is the highly abused drug that affects the physical, intellectual and emotional development of children. As NACADA (2010) released the report that “Alcohol use has been associated with the highest burden of substance use disorders”. The brain functioning is greatly affected by use of alcohol and other drugs as observed by Kalat (2013) slowing down the brain performance.

Religion and Child Development

The respondents were asked to rate the effects of religion in a family and their relation to child development on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 represents strongly agree and 5 represents strongly disagree. Mean, standard deviation and percentage levels were computed for the variables given in Table 2.

The study undertook to establish whether religion affects development of children. Religion is a social condition indicated by regular, irregular and non-attendance of church. Table 4.10 above shows that 82.98% of the respondents agreed that regular attendance of church affects the physical growth of children while 11.70% disagreed and 5.31 % remained neutral.

On the other hand, 82.98% of the respondents agreed that the intellectual growth of children is affected by the regular attendance of church while 9% disagreed and 7% were neutral. According to 82.98% of the respondents, children are emotionally affected by the regular attendance of church while 11.70% disagreed and 5.31% remained neutral.

On irregular attendance of church, 88.30% % of the respondents were in agreement that it affects the physical growth of children, although 4.25% disagreed and 7.45% remained neutral. As to whether intellectual growth of children is affected by irregular attendance of church, 79.79% agreed while 13.83% disagreed and 6.38% were impartial. According to 88.29% of the respondents, irregular attendance of church affects the emotional growth of children while 7.45% disagreed and 4.26% remained neutral.

94.68% of the respondents agreed that non-attendance of church affects the physical growth of children while 3.19% disagreed and 2.13% were neutral. According to 82.89% of the respondents, non-attendance of church affects children intellectually while 11.70% disagreed and

5.31% were neutral. 82.98% of the respondents agreed that the emotional growth of children is affected by the non-attendance of church while 9% disagreed and 7% remained neutral.

Table 2: Religion and Child Development

Parameters		f					f x	\bar{X}	d	Percentage Level (%)		
		1	2	3	4	5				Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Regular church attendance affects the physical growth of a child	church	53	25	5	4	7	169	1.7979	4.13324	82.98	5.31	11.70
Regular church attendance affects the intellectual growth of a child	church	56	22	7	4	5	162	1.7234	4.19325	82.98	7.00	9.00
Regular church attendance affects the emotional growth of a child	church	53	25	5	4	7	169	1.7979	4.13324	82.98	5.31	11.70
Irregular church attendance affects the physical growth of a child	church	63	20	7	2	2	142	1.5106	2.83164	88.30	7.45	4.25
Irregular church attendance affects the intellectual growth of a child	church	51	24	6	7	6	175	1.8617	4.88615	79.79	6.38	13.83
Irregular church attendance the emotional growth of a child	church	59	24	4	3	4	151	1.6064	3.29335	88.29	4.26	7.45
Non-Attendance of Church affects the physical growth of a child	of	61	28	2	2	1	136	1.4468	2.00773	94.68	2.13	3.19
Non-Attendance of Church affects the intellectual growth of a child	of	53	25	5	4	7	169	1.7979	4.13324	82.98	5.31	11.70
Non-Attendance of Church affects the emotional growth of a child	of	56	22	7	4	5	162	1.7234	4.19325	82.98	7.00	9.00
Total							15.756	35.9923	770.22	53.83	65.52	
Aggregate Mean							1.7507	3.9991	85.58	5.98	7.28	

The above analysis shows that, on an aggregate mean of 85.58% of the respondents, children are physically, intellectually and emotionally affected by the religion, while 7.28% of the respondents on average disagreed. It was discovered that non-attendance of church scored the highest 94.68%, followed by irregular attendance of church with 88.30% and lastly regular attendance of church that scored 82.98%.

These findings show that children are positively affected by religion. However, to parents it was a clear indication that religion was not considered while choosing a marriage partner. As echoed by (Benokraitis, 2010) recently other aspects like education and earnings are considered to be

more important while choosing a spouse. Such kind of marriage is further condemned by (Malachi 2:13-16) because it opposes God’s desire for families to raise Godly children.

The analysis reveals that if only parents were guided by religion while choosing their spouses, they could preserve their families and consequently play their role better in raising their children. In return, the physical, intellectual and emotional well-being of children could be better protected.

Education Level and Child Development

The respondents were asked to rate the effects of education level in a family and their relation to child development on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 represents strongly agree and 5 represents strongly disagree. Mean, standard deviation and percentage levels were computed for the variables given in table 3.

Table 3: Education Level and Child Development

Parameters	F					f x	\bar{X}	d	Percentage Level (%)		
	1	2	3	4	5				Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Education level of parents affects the physical growth of a child	53	25	5	4	7	169	1.7979	4.13324	82.98	5.31	11.70
Education level of parents affects the intellectual growth of a child	53	25	5	4	7	169	1.8559	4.84406	84.94	6.03	9.03
Education level of parents affects the emotional growth of a child	56	22	7	4	5	162	1.7234	4.19325	82.75	7.00	9.00
Total							5.3772	13.1705	250.67	18.34	29.73
Aggregate Mean							1.7924	4.3902	83.56	6.11	9.91

The study sought to find out whether there is a relationship between education level of parents and children development, and the extent to which they affect their physical, intellectual and emotional growth. From the findings, 82.98 % of the respondents agreed that education level of parents affect the physical growth of children, while 11.70% of the respondents disagreed and 5.31% were neutral.

Moreover, 84.94% of the respondents agreed that education level of parents affect the intellectual growth of children while 9.03% of the respondents disagreed with only 6.03% being impartial. Furthermore, 82.75% of the respondents agreed that education level of parents affect the emotional growth of children while 9.00% of the respondents disagreed and 7.00% were neutral. The analysis shows that education level of parents had great impact on intellectual growth of children on child development. An aggregate mean score of 84.94% of the respondents agreed that education level of parents affects intellectual growth on children development with only an aggregate mean score of 9.03% disagreeing. Whereby, the parents’ level of education

highly affects the intellectual growth of children scoring 84.94%, while physical and emotional follow with 82.98% and 82.75% respectively.

The study reveals that families with poor education background lack enthusiasm in educating their children which in turn harm their children’s intellectual development. As Ballard (2002) noted that there is likelihood of a relationship between less education and lower earnings that may lead to criminality and children born outside marriage. According to Ballard, the higher the level of education, the higher the wealth is generated.

Liberalism and Child Development

Married Couples were the only respondents who were asked to rate the effects of liberalism in a family and their relation to child development on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 represents strongly agree and 5 represents strongly disagree. Mean, standard deviation and percentage levels were computed for the variables given in Table 4.

Table 4: Liberalism and Child Development

Parameters	F					f x	\bar{X}	d	Percentage Level (%)		
	1	2	3	4	5				Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Liberalism among parents affects the physical growth of a child	63	20	7	2	2	142	1.5106	2.83164	88.30	7.45	4.25
Liberalism among parents affects the intellectual growth of a child	51	24	6	7	6	175	1.8617	4.88615	79.79	6.38	13.83
Liberalism among parents affects the emotional growth of a child	59	24	4	3	4	151	1.6064	3.29335	88.29	4.26	7.45
Total							4.9787	11.0111	256.38	18.09	25.43
Aggregate Mean							1.6596	3.6704	85.46	6.03	8.51

The study undertook to establish whether liberalism in a family affects development of children. Liberalism is a social condition indicated by consultation between married couples and non-consultation. Table 4.12 above shows that 88.30% of the respondents agreed that liberalism affects the physical growth of children while 4.25% disagreed and 7.45 % remained neutral. On the other hand, 79.79% of the respondents agreed that the intellectual growth of children is affected by the liberalism while 13.83% disagreed and 6.38% were neutral. According to 88.29% of the respondents, children are emotionally affected by the liberalism while 7.45% disagreed and 4.26% remained neutral.

The above analysis shows that liberalism affects the development of children with an aggregate mean of 85.46% of the respondents agreeing and only 8.51% of the aggregate mean of respondents disagreeing. Liberalism highly affects the three domains of child development as follows: physical (88.30%), emotional (88.29%) and intellectual (79.79%).

The permissiveness of the society has contributed to absence of some parents from home that has caused many children lack physical, intellectual and emotional. Absence of parents is a clear indication that a day does not end without a cry from a neglected child. These children also lack guidance resulting to many being swayed by what else the society is offering, consequently affecting the physical, intellectual and emotional wellbeing of children (Jaggar, 2005).

INFERENTIAL STATISTICS

The study tried to find the degree of multi-collinearity between the independent and dependent variables. The analysis was done using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The objective was to establish whether the independent variable construct (social conditions) had a significant relationship with the dependent variable (child development). The correlation matrix is given in Table 5.

Table 5: Bivariate Pearson Correlation Coefficient

		SC	CD
SC	Pearson Correlation	1	.321*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.019
	N	174	174
CD	Pearson Correlation	.321*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.019	
	N	174	174

Independent Variables: Social Conditions (SC) Dependent variable: Child Development (CD)

The results in Table 5 display the correlation amongst family disintegration causes and child development in Mugoiri Division in Murang’a County. Social Conditions were clearly and meaningfully correlated with the Child Development at ($r = .321^*$, $p = .019$, $\alpha = .05$).

The research used simple OLS Regression analysis to understand the fundamental influence association among the variables. The analysis was compound in nature as there were two sovereign variables and one restraining variable. Multiple regression analysis convoluted calculation of coefficient of determination (R²), Analysis of Variances (ANOVA) and regression coefficients.

Table 6: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.804	0.646	0.644	0.298

a. Predictors: (Constant), social conditions

In Table 6, the general correlation coefficient (R) between the sovereign variable family disintegration causes and the reliant on variable child development was found to be .804. This

indicates that there was a robust optimistic association amongst family disintegration causes and child development in Mugoiri Division. Furthermore, it shows that the model expounds only 64.6% of the variations in child development amongst Mugoiri Division residents as shown by coefficient of determination (R²) of 0.646 with the residual of 35.4% of the variation in child development being described by other aspects.

Table 7: Analysis of Variances

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	f	Sig.
1	Regression	27.847	1	27.847	314.160	.000 ^b
	Residual	15.246	172	0.089		
	Total	43.093	173			

Dependent Variable: child development, b. Predictors: (Constant), social conditions.

According to Table 7, the F value of 314.160 with a general implication of model 1 was .000. The level of importance was lower than 0.05 and this means that family disintegration causes shows statistically important impact on child development amongst residents of Mugoiri Division.

Table 8: Coefficients of Independent Variable

Model		Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.	Collinearity	
		Coefficients					Statistics	Tolerance
		B	Std. Error	Beta				
1	Constant	4.258	.807		5.277	.000		
	SC	1.089	.084	.064	12.96	.000	.653	1.532

a. Dependent Variable: child development (CD)

Table 8 further, shows the coefficients of social conditions, the values of **p** and values of **t**. The model was thus estimated as shown in equation (2).

$$CD = 4.258 + 1.089 SC$$

The evaluated model condition improves the causal impact connection between family disintegration causes and child development. The esteem 4.258 is the block term of the model demonstrating the level of child development when the free factors in the model are held steady at zero. Social conditions had statistically significant influence on child development ($\beta_1 = 1.089$, $t = 12.964$, $p = .000$ and $\alpha = 0.05$). The results therefore indicate the social conditions had a significant influence on child development in Mugoiri Division.

CONCLUSION

The prevailing social conditions of the family such as drug abuse, level of education, religion and liberalism influenced greatly the physical, intellectual and emotional growth of children. The drug abuse took a lead in the social conditions that affect the child growth whereby alcohol emerged to be the most abused drug. This is due to the fact that alcohol as a drug is legal in the country, which is readily available and sold at varying costs depending on the brand and the quantity.

From the analysis, alcohol also took a lead among all the causes of family disintegration that affect children development by occupying 93.86%. Additionally, alcohol abuse has also been associated with the parents drinking to alleviate stress as a result of family conflicts. This leads to family disintegration, misuse of family finances and the parents becoming less productive leading to increased negative effects on child development.

The family structure also greatly influenced the children growth. This was because children who were raised in non-intact family experienced more emotional turbulence and economic hardships as compared to their counterparts who had stable nuclear families. Similar results were evident within the lives of children whose parents were often absent from home

RECOMMENDATIONS

Government should create counseling centres for married couples whereby marriage counseling can be taught and awareness enhanced concerning family preservation. Further, tight measures need to be taken so as to control alcohol consumption levels which will prevent conflicts at home. Seminars for men should be oftenly organized in churches and in the community by administrators to make them take up their responsibilities as the heads of the families and be good role models.

Parents should have interest in their children's wellbeing, by avoiding absence from home. This is because children will grow better physically, intellectual and emotionally with parent's involvement in their lives. The children develop better physically, intellectually and emotionally when the parents devote their time in the welfare of their children. The parents should be enlightened that their children are long term responsibility who not only requires basic necessities, but also their physical presence to prevent them from being swayed by what the society is offering.

Parents should be encouraged to amicably solve their family differences and conflicts when they occur rather than resulting into separation which affects the children development in all realms. The family should not result into drug abuse and children neglect when differences occur between the parents. Nevertheless, the parents should act as role models in their families to bring up children who can differentiate between right and wrong.

Government should provide weighted policies on parents who practice drug abuse and neglect their children and fail to provide basic needs to them. Moreover, those who engage these neglected children on labour should be prosecuted so as to protect the rights and freedom of the said children. Moreover, the government should set up industries and other generating avenues in the country so as to enable the parents make enough money to cater for their children's wellbeing.

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