Introduction

- Significant number of grandparents are raising abandoned grandchildren by themselves, a decision that has redeemed such children from living their life in asylum or streets (Blum, 2007).
- There has been an increase in prematral births abandoned at the grandparents’ homes, a condition that has led to social changes and difficult responsibility to grandparents (Abrahamson, 2000).
- The situation has been worsened by the high prevalence rate of orphanhood due to HIV/AIDS pandemic with Africa accounting for an estimate of 48 million orphans in 2007 (UNICEF, 2009).
- A survey on Western Kenya homes found 29% with at least one dependent grandchild and 11% with 3 and above of which Abaana be simbu (premarital births) constitute the majority of abandoned grandchildren (Kilbride, 1997).
- These category of grandchildren are confronted with range of emotions, social stigma and traumatic experiences which threaten their self-esteem, autonomy and initiative abilities (Cox, 2000).
- Studies on socio-emotional condition indicate that children placed in the care of non-biological parents generally experience psychological, behavioural, emotional and mental functioning problems (Jones & Hansen, 1993).
- Grandparents are unlikely to provide effective parenting due to their own declining health, limited resources, and being out of touch with the current issues on parenting (Cox, 2000).

Study Hypothesis

Abandoned children raised by grandparents suffer socio-emotional impairment and also possess lower cognitive (mental) functioning.

Participants

This study will recruit 90 families drawn equally from three major groups; families with abandoned prematral births, families with abandoned orphan children and regular families where there are children between ages 4-6 years old and are attending preschools. Sampling is detailed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clusters</th>
<th>Area (in sq.km)</th>
<th>Population Density (Pers/sq.km)</th>
<th>Sample School</th>
<th>Sample children per Family Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kisumu Seme</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 6 6 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisumu West</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10 10 10 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisumu East</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>1105</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14 14 14 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30 30 30 90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AP: Abandoned Prematral Births. AO: Abandoned Orphan Children. RF: Regular Family Children (Every School sampled would give 2 randomly picked children from every Family Category)

Study Modal

**Independent Variables**
- Abandoned Prematral Births Raised by Grandparents
- Abandoned Orphan Children Raised by Grandparents
- Children Raised in Regular Families

**Dependent Variables**
- Socio-emotional Impairment (CBCL)
  - Depression
  - Anxiety
  - Restlessness
  - Anger out-bust
  - Anti-social Behaviour
- Cognitive Malfunctioning (WIPSY)
  - Low intellectual ability
  - Language Proficiency
  - Arithmetic ability
  - Memory Retention

**Intervening Variables**
- Age when moved in with grandparents
- Time since moved in with grandparents
- Child’s Gender
- Health of the Child (SHOG)
- Level of meeting Basic Needs (AM)
- Relationships with Grandparents (DPICs)

Measures

**Dependent Variables**
- Child Behaviour Checklist (CBCL; Achenback, 1991) – will be used to assess Socio-emotional Impairment in children by detecting anxiety, anti-social behaviour and other socio-emotional variables.
- Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scale of Intelligence (WIPPSI-IV; Wechsler, 2002) – Is child-friendly and developmentally appropriate tool used to measure different domains of cognitive development (i.e. memory, motor processing speed, visual spatial index, and language).

**Control Variables**
- Child Assessment Needs (CAN) Toolkit (World Bank, 2008) - Establish level at which basic needs of the children are met by assessing household characteristics.
- Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System (DPICs; Kenny, 2011) –Measure the quality/nature of caregiver-child social interactions.

Limitation

Having grandparents as primary caregivers raising up non-abandoned children is a phenomena that does not occur naturally otherwise that would have been the perfect comparison group for this study.

Summary

Abandoned children is a risk group, being raised by grandparents which is another risk group is undue risk exposure that require an intervention. Developing Support Groups for grandparents raising grandchildren will follow after conducting the proposed study; an intervention to buffer the effect of abandonment on child Socio-emotional & Cognitive development

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