

**CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON THE  
GENDER ROLES IN NAKURU MUNICIPALITY, NAKURU COUNTY, KENYA**

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requirements of the Award of Master of Arts Degree in Sociology (Community  
Development and Project Management) of Egerton University**

**EGERTON UNIVERSITY**

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## DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Declaration

This thesis is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has not been presented for the award of any degree in any Institution or University.

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### Recommendations

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my husband, Amos and to my sons Stephen and Timothy for their encouragement, prayers and emotional support during my studies.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep appreciation to my supervisors, Prof. Wokabi Mwangi and Mr. Francis Machira Apollos for their exemplary monitoring, guidance and continuous encouragement throughout the course of this thesis. I am indebted to the University fraternity for the assistance they have offered me towards finding the appropriate materials in coming up with this thesis.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Gender roles are mainly defined by the socio-cultural norms of any society. The purpose of this study was to investigate changing family structures and their impact on gender roles. This study focused on the changing family structures and its implications on gender roles. This study examined factors leading to changes in the family structures, explored how changing family structures have influenced gender roles and ascertained the influence of changing gender roles on children's behavior. This study was guided by two theories; gender schema and general systems theory. A descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted in Nakuru Municipality. A sample size of 202 respondents was selected through purposive and random sampling. Questionnaires and interview guide were used to collect data. Once collected, the data was coded, entered and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version (20) was used to analyze the data which was then presented in graphs, pie charts, percentages and tables for ease of comprehension. The study established that forces such as globalization, rural urban migration and education level had greatly accelerated change in family structure in Nakuru town. The changing family structures have influenced gender roles. Some of the influences included men losing their headship positions in the family, women taking up more responsibilities including having more authority over property. When parents delegated sensitive parenting roles to house-helpers, children tended to copy either the house-helpers or the parent that was close to them. Boys close to their mothers ended up copying them thus a reversal of gender roles. Forms of indiscipline were noticeable that could be linked to change in parenting style. This study therefore, gives a very clear understanding of the impact of the changing family structures on gender roles. Information generated provides a database for informed decisions to policy makers and help the Government of Kenya to address discrimination along gender lines that arise in the decision-making process, develop policies that define and guide families on specific gender roles.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>COPYRIGHT</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	<b>xiii</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	<b>xiv</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background to the Study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem .....	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	3
1.4 Broad Objective .....	3
1.5 Specific Objectives .....	3
1.6 Research Questions.....	3
1.7 Justification of the Study .....	4
1.8 Scope and Limitation of the Study .....	5
1.9 Definition of Terms .....	7
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK</b> .....	<b>8</b>
2.1 Introduction.....	8
2.2 Factors Leading to Changing Family Structures .....	8
2.2.1 Poverty levels in Families.....	8
2.2.2 Fertility Rates.....	9
2.2.3 The Shift from Polygamy Marriage Type in Africa .....	10
2.2.4 Single-Parenthood.....	11
2.2.5 Changes in Rural Areas .....	13

2.2.6	Childbearing .....	13
2.2.7	Employment.....	14
2.2.8	A Shift in Gender Roles.....	15
2.3	How Changing Family Structures has Influenced Gender Roles .....	17
2.4	The Influence of Changing Gender Roles on Children’s behavior .....	20
2.5	Theoretical Framework.....	24
2.5.1	Gender Schema Theory .....	24
2.5.2	General Systems Theory.....	25
2.6	Conceptual Framework.....	28
<b>CHAPTER THREE.....</b>		<b>30</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY .....</b>		<b>30</b>
3.1	Introduction.....	30
3.2	Research Design .....	30
3.3	Study Area .....	30
3.4	Unit of Analysis.....	33
3.5	Population and Sampling Procedure.....	33
3.5.1	Sampling Procedure and Sample Size .....	33
3.6	Methods of Data Collection.....	34
3.6.1	Questionnaires .....	35
3.6.2	Interview Guide .....	35
3.7	Data Analysis.....	36
3.8	Ethical Considerations .....	37
<b>CHAPTER FOUR .....</b>		<b>38</b>
<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>		<b>38</b>
4.1	Introduction.....	38
4.1.1	Response Return Rate.....	38
4.2	Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents .....	38
4.2.1	Gender of the Respondents .....	38
4.2.2	Age of the Respondents .....	39
4.2.3	Level of Education for each Gender.....	41
4.2.4	Level of Education of Spouse .....	41



4.2.5	Respondents' Marital Status .....	42
4.2.6	Respondents' Family Size .....	43
4.2.7	Number of Children under 5 years at the House .....	44
4.2.8	Respondents Occupation.....	45
4.2.9	Respondents Employment Status and Monthly Income .....	46
4.2.10	Spouse Monthly Income .....	46
4.2.11	Spouse Occupation .....	48
4.3	Factors Leading to Changing Family Structures .....	49
4.3.1	How Family Structure has changed .....	50
4.3.1.1	Reasons why Family Structures have changed.....	52
4.3.2	Contribution of Education to Change in Family Structure .....	53
4.3.3	Contribution of Rural Urban Migration to changes in the Family Structure .....	54
4.3.4	Contribution of Globalization to Changes in the Family Structure .....	55
4.3.4.1	How Globalization has contributed to Change in Family Structures .....	55
4.3.5	Contribution of Occupation to Changes in the Family Structure .....	57
4.4	Influence of Changing Gender Roles on Children's Behavior .....	59
4.4.1	Change in Gender Roles .....	59
4.4.2	Gender roles that have changed .....	59
4.4.3	Influence of Changed Roles on Children.....	61
4.4.4	Father Figure in the Case of Single Mothers .....	62
4.4.5	Male Role despite Changing Times.....	63
4.4.6	Female Role despite Changing Times .....	64
4.4.7	Assigning Specific Roles or Duties to Children by Gender .....	64
4.4.7.1	Rebelliousness of Children .....	66
4.4.8	Good behavior seen in Children .....	67
4.4.9	Bad Behavior seen in the Girl(s).....	68
4.4.10	Bad Behavior seen in Boys .....	68
4.4.10.1	Child indiscipline Status in School.....	69
4.4.11	Action taken In Curbing Indiscipline.....	71
4.4.12	Forms of Indiscipline among Children .....	73
4.4.13	Time Spent with Children in a Week.....	74

4.4.14 Most Undisciplined Child Gender wise .....	74
4.4.15 Freedom due to Family Structure .....	76
4.4.16 Roles delegated to the House help .....	77
4.4.16.1 Why Parents delegated some roles to the House Helps.....	78
4.5 How Changing Family Structures Has Influenced Gender Roles in Nakuru Municipality .....	78
<b>CHAPTER FIVE .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>81</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	81
5.2 Summary of the Findings .....	81
5.3 Conclusions of the Study .....	82
5.4 Recommendations.....	83
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Appendix I - Questionnaire .....</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Appendix II –Key Informant Interview Guide .....</b>	<b>104</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 3. 1: Data Analysis.....	37
Table 4. 1: Gender of the Respondents.....	39
Table 4. 2: Age of the Respondents.....	39
Table 4. 3: Level of Education for each Gender.....	41
Table 4. 4: Level of Education of Spouse.....	42
Table 4. 5: Respondents' Marital Status.....	42
Table 4. 6: Family size.....	43
Table 4. 7: Number of children under 5 years at the house.....	44
Table 4. 8: Respondents Occupation.....	45
Table 4. 9: Respondents Employment Status and Monthly Income.....	46
Table 4. 10: Spouse Monthly Income.....	47
Table 4. 11: Spouse Monthly Income.....	48
Table 4. 12: Spouse Occupation.....	48
Table 4. 13: Spouse occupation per Gender.....	49
Table 4. 14: Factors Leading to Changing Family Structures.....	50
Table 4. 15: How Family Structure has changed.....	50
Table 4. 16: Reasons why family structures have changed.....	52
Table 4. 17: Contribution of Education to Change in Family Structure.....	53
Table 4. 18: Contribution of Rural Urban Migration to changes in the Family Structure.....	54
Table 4. 19: Contribution of Globalization to Changes in the Family Structure.....	55
Table 4. 20: How Globalization has contributed to Change in Family Structures.....	56
Table 4. 21: Contribution of Occupation to Changes in the Family Structure.....	57
Table 4. 22: Contribution of Occupation to Changes in the Family Structure.....	58
Table 4. 23: Change in Gender Roles.....	59
Table 4. 24: Gender roles that have changed.....	60
Table 4. 25: Influence of Changed Roles on Children.....	61
Table 4. 26: Father Figure in the Case of Single Mothers.....	62
Table 4. 27: Male Role despite Changing Times.....	63
Table 4. 28: Female Role despite Changing Times.....	64
Table 4. 29: Assigning Specific Roles or Duties to Children by Gender.....	65

Table 4. 30: Rebelliousness of Children.....	66
Table 4. 31: Good behavior seen in Children.....	67
Table 4. 32: Bad behavior seen in the girl(s).....	68
Table 4. 33: Bad behavior seen in Boys .....	69
Table 4. 34: Child indiscipline Status in School.....	70
Table 4. 35: Relationship between Family Structure and Indiscipline cases of Children .....	71
Table 4. 36: Forms of Indiscipline among Children.....	73
Table 4. 37: Time spent with children in a week.....	74
Table 4. 38: Most Undisciplined Child Gender wise .....	75
Table 4. 39: Freedom due to Family Structure .....	76
Table 4. 40: Roles delegated to the House help.....	77
Table 4. 41: Why parents delegated some roles to the house helps. ....	78
Table 4. 42: How Changing Family Structures has Influenced Gender Roles in Nakuru Municipality.....	79

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: Changing Family Structures and their impact on Gender Roles.....28

Figure 2: Map of Kenya showing Nakuru Municipality and indicating study area .....32

Figure 3: Action taken In Curbing Indiscipline .....72

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CEDAW-</b>		Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
<b>CRC</b>	-	Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>GoK</b>	-	Government of Kenya
<b>MDGs</b>	-	Millennium Development Goals
<b>SPSS</b>	-	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>UNDP</b>	-	United Nations Development Programme

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

This study sought to investigate changing family structures and their impacts on gender roles in Nakuru Municipality. Over several decades as the traditional structure of families has changed, researchers have investigated the impact of different family forms on child wellbeing (Amato, 2005; Brown, 2004; Magnuson & Berger, 2009). In their studies family structures are reported to be changing. This change is noticeable globally. In every community, married couples have responsibilities and duties within the family structure. Gender division of labor among different societal groups is different depending on differences in the community structures, norms and value systems. In a country like Britain the family has undergone three major stages of development; pre-industrial family (1750) characterized as a stable productive economic unit. The father as head of household exercised economic control over family. Asymmetrical family (1750-1900) was disrupted by the industrialization process and had absent fathers (at work) and emphasized women's role as "mother" and domestic laborer. Symmetrical family (20<sup>th</sup> Century) was characterized as stable, child-centred and greater levels of equality between male and females (Young & Willmott, 2013).

In the Middle East upon introduction of Islam, gender and family roles changed. Islam advanced the placement of women in society although certain jobs were reserved for men. The status of women declined during Abbasid Empire. Subordination of women to fathers and husbands remained prevalent throughout the many generations that followed (Folger, 2012). In Europe, the Greek and Roman Empires had similar gender and family roles. Society stressed a tight family structure where the father had great authority. Women began to demand more rights as opportunities in work and education began to be offered to them. They gained suffrage after World War I in many European countries (Folger, 2012). In Australia the diversity of families is evident in the growth of non-traditional family structures. Vast majority of children live with their mother after parents separate in either single-parent families or in step or blended families. These trends are linked to the increase in divorce and separation (Wise, 2003).

In Africa, males were superior in society and polygamy was common in many tribes. Women participated in struggles for independence in many African states. The respect women gained through their political voice in independence led to their eventual gain of rights which included suffrage (Folger, 2012). According to Tietcheu (2006) the African societies have undergone changes. The changes are coming from inside the society mainly by the emerging new generation and from outside by the confluence of diverse foreign socio-cultural, ideological and religious movements quickened by today's globalized world. Families in Kenya have been evolving and there has been a paradigm shift in gender power relations according to a study carried out in Kiambu. There is now a gender role reversal as a result of which new gender identities have been created. Unable to live up to the unwritten cultural norms and values of behavior many men in Kiambu have succumbed to feelings of inferiority, uncertainty and frustrations. What used to be a culturally defined sharing of chores inside and outside the household has now changed.

Nakuru Municipality has started taking up a new status of being the most polluted and congested town in Kenya today due to the 1.7 million people who reside in this town. Among the challenges that are facing this Municipality are; shortage of water, street families and garbage collection, poor planning of housing, congestion and high level of insecurity (Wambugu, 2012).

UNDP, (2006) report indicated that due to shortages of water in Nakuru Municipality, women spend several hours a day collecting water creating lifecycles of disadvantages affecting millions of people with illness and lost education opportunities in childhood leading to poverty in adulthood. Bartram *et al.*, (2005) argues that access to improved water and sanitation is important because it acts as the foundation for healthy communities and results in significant health economic and social gains. Challenges facing Nakuru Municipality eventually have an impact on the family structures.

It is against this background that this study sort to establish whether changing family structures have led to a paradigm shift in the gender roles and establish its impact on the family structures within Nakuru Municipality.



## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In most societies the family systems are based on the gender roles. Gender roles help members to run the family within the bounds of the culturally defined responsibilities. However, change in the gender roles may affect the smooth functioning of the family. The changing lifestyles and socio-cultural environment, changes in the gender roles within the family have been inevitable. More women are taking up roles that were traditionally perceived as male roles while on the one hand men are either taking up female roles or abandoning their roles. The societal-defined gender roles may crash with the modern roles of family members and many families may experience the dilemma of the crashing gender roles. It is this complexity in family relations and roles changes at the household level that are not well understood. There is also limited research on this area and hence the need to investigate changing family structures and their impacts on gender roles in Kenya.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

### **1.4 Broad Objective**

The broad objective of this study was to investigate changing family structures and their impacts on gender roles in Nakuru Municipality.

### **1.5 Specific Objectives**

This study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- a) To examine factors leading to changing family structures in Nakuru Municipality.
- b) To explore how changing family structures have influenced gender roles in Nakuru Municipality.
- c) To ascertain influence of changing gender roles on children's behavior in Nakuru Municipality.

### **1.6 Research Questions**

This study was guided by the following questions:

- a) Which factors are leading to the changes in the family structures in Nakuru Municipality?

- b) What is the influence of changing family structures on gender roles in Nakuru Municipality?
- c) What is the influence of changing gender roles on children's behavior in Nakuru Municipality?

### **1.7 Justification of the Study**

First the findings of this study has contributed to existing knowledge on challenges facing family structures within Nakuru Municipality such as the increase in number of street children, school dropouts, sexual abuse and exploitation, economic exploitation and other forms of exploitation (United Nations, 2001). According to Kulei and Kihara (2014) other challenges include: child labor, commercial exploitation, and girls facing increased difficulties in accessing basic education and healthcare, child marriage and that the number of prostitutes has been on the increase. Yet in another study by Okemwa (2010), the number of unstable families has also been on increase.

Secondly, this study has shown the importance of the family structure in the society since families are the basic functional social units and are able to contribute to its smooth operation. Families are therefore the basic sexual unit, basic child-raising unit, basic communication unit, basic communication unit and friendship unit. Family structures help to have boundaries to what is right and what is wrong without which could result in higher crime rates which could cause the end of a peaceful society. Therefore, healthy families are the core of a healthy society when families are strong society is strong.

Thirdly, family structures have the most direct and lasting impact on all members of the family. For instance, it influences the children's learning and development of social competence, psychological well-being, developing positive attitudes and behavior. Families, therefore, are crucial partners in promoting positive social skills.

Fourthly, this study will help Nakuru Municipality achieve its Local Agenda 21. This agenda was meant to provide greater opportunities social, political, economical and administrative to address gender concerns.

Fifth, Nakuru Municipality has a representation of all the 42 ethnic Kenyan tribes which will enable the findings more appropriate for accurate generalizations. This Municipality also had a population growth as a result of post-election violence in 2008, increase in birthrates, rural-urban migration and boundary extensions amongst others. Therefore this study will aim at give a broad understanding of the complexities that have arisen as a result of changing family structures and offer solutions to challenges in the family structures.

The study findings may also be used by researchers and academicians as reference materials guiding future studies related to changing family structures and their impactions on gender roles. Data collected can be further analysed thematically to generate useful information for academic purpose.

### **1.8 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study was conducted in Nakuru Municipality within Nakuru County and was confined to household heads. Main focus was on the five wards within the Municipality namely; Lanet, Afraha, Kaptembwa, Baharini and Barut Estates of Nakuru.

The study focused on Nakuru County, whose operational conditions and characteristics affecting the research outcome may not be a reflection of the entire country. This means that generalization of the findings though possible needed to be done cautiously.

It was also anticipated that locating individual respondents would not be easy. At the time of data collection some household heads were not available and therefore the researcher had to make a number of visits seeking to get appointments at the convenience of the respondents.

The study relied heavily on the questionnaire as the main data collection instrument. To overcome this the questionnaires were properly validated and also the study used other tools such as interview schedules. The use of qualitative and quantitative mixtures complimented each other, thus getting the right results.

Some of the divisions in Nakuru Municipality were not be easy to access due to insecurity. Low-income areas were not secure hampering the researcher from moving about freely due to high crime rates and therefore he researcher had to dress appropriately and make prior arrangements with government official (e.g. Chief) in that locality in order to have a local as

an escort. On the other hand public transport within some of the wards for instance in the high class residential areas for instance (Milimani Estate) were not possible and therefore prior arrangements had to be made for private transport.

## **1.9 Definition of Terms**

**Family:** Refers to an intimate domestic group made up of people related to one another by bonds of blood, sexual mating, or legal ties.

**Family Structure:** Set-up of a family that is its composition and organization (single-parent, married couple, and cohabiting parents).

**Gender:** Refers to the state of being male or female (typically used with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones).

**Gender Role:** Refers to a set of societal norms dictating what types of behaviors are generally considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for a person based on their actual or perceived sex

**Socioeconomic Status:** refers to an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses a review of literature on factors leading to changes in the family structures; influence of the family structures on gender roles and the influence of changing gender roles on behavior of children. The chapter also presents the theoretical framework and conceptual framework of the study.

#### **2.2 Factors Leading to Changing Family Structures**

Factors leading to changes in the family structures may range from socio-economic factors, migration, and religion, and work/family conflict, fertility change, change in age at marriage and age at first birth, change in mortality, change in size and structure of the households, female headed households, marriage dissolution, women's economic participation, legal, political or environmental conditions, changing gender role attitudes, education which affects the way we act and think; the religious contexts and the global societal changes amongst others (Cancian and Danziger, 2009). This study focused on contributions by various authors.

##### **2.2.1 Poverty levels in Families**

Cancian and Danziger (2009) concluded that changes in family structure and changes in poverty are closely related. Single-mother families are about five times as likely to be poor as married-parent families. Although they are less likely to be poor than they were 50 years ago, single-parent families are more common, accounting for a larger share of all poor families. If the apparent strength of the link between poverty and family structure seems obvious, its nature is less clear. For example, having a child before getting married is associated with an increased likelihood of poverty. However, living in poverty also raises the likelihood of nonmarital childbearing. In addition, decisions about work, marriage, and childbearing are increasingly disconnected. Women are now more likely to work, regardless of marital or parental status. Women are also more likely to have children independent of marriage, and married couples with children are more likely to divorce. Overall, there is greater variety in family forms, the members of any given family are increasingly likely to experience changes in household structure over time, and children are increasingly likely to spend time in families that do not include both biological parents and that may include half siblings or step-siblings.

Cancian and Reed (2009) noted that changes in family structure and changes in poverty are closely related.<sup>1</sup> Single-mother families are about five times as likely to be poor as married-parent families.<sup>2</sup> Although they are less likely to be poor than they were 50 years ago, single-parent families are more common, accounting for a larger share of all poor families. Moreover, eligibility for income support programs, including cash welfare, food stamps, and the Earned Income Tax Credit, are tied to family composition. Members of such families are much more likely to be poor than members of any other families. In 2006 in the US, for instance, about 8 percent of married couples with children and 40 percent of single-mother families were poor. Even if this post will mainly be about the US, we reproduce below the evolution of poverty in Europe for different types of households. It is immediately seen how bad one parent families are doing. The interrelationship between family structure and poverty implies that changes in family structure may impact the nature and extent of poverty.

Avellar and Smock (2005) established that on average, married couples are less likely than cohabiting couples to be in poverty. The income-to-needs ratios, which measure family economic resources (family income divided by poverty threshold), were higher for married men and women than for cohabiting couples. The likelihood that married couples were in poverty was nine to 11 percent lower compared to cohabiting couples

### **2.2.2 Fertility Rates**

According to United Nations (2003), an inevitable outcome of declining fertility rates and increasing age at first birth in most of the countries in the world is a reduction in family size. Although the fertility rates in the rest of the Asian countries have declined significantly, in South Asia, the decline has been much slower (Freedman, 1995). Fertility decline is due to the combined effect of substantial socio-economic development achieved during in the last two decades and the effective implementation of family planning programmes. The contribution of socio-economic development to fertility decline was mainly by increasing the cost of children. It became irrational for many people to have large families. A main, emerging feature in the modern family system is the changing attitude towards the value of children. In traditional societies, where human labour was a source of strength to the family, more children were preferred to fewer. But as the economic contribution from the children in a family decreased,

because of a move away from agriculture, the need for large numbers of children decreased (United Nations, 2003).

Fertility behavior in sub-Saharan Africa, like other parts of the world, is determined by biological and social factors (Mekonnen, 2012). Several factors have contributed to sustain relatively high levels of fertility in most of sub-Saharan Africa. These factors include high levels of infant and child mortality, early and universal marriage, early child bearing as well as child bearing within much of the reproductive life span, low use of contraception and high social value placed on child bearing. In the face of perceived high infant and child mortality, the fear of extinction encouraged high procreation with the hope that some of the births would survive to carry on the lineage (Bigombe and Khadiagala, 1999).

Interestingly, it is also believed that Rwanda's birth rate is on the increase because Rwandans generally believe it is their moral duty to replace the one million or so people that perished during the genocide. In Kenya, where demographic data is more reliable, studies show that the speed of fertility decline has been steady: -2.64% in urban areas, and -1.62 in rural areas. Overall, there are moderate to large declines in fertility in Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, and Cote d'Ivoire, with smaller declines in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana, Senegal, and Sierra Leone (Mekonnen, 2012).

### **2.2.3 The Shift from Polygamy Marriage Type in Africa**

Merrick (2002) reported that Traditional African family patterns are slowly but progressively being altered as a result of the process of modernization which is exhibited through trends like urbanization. Family patterns that were the norm in traditional rural African societies are gradually being altered and substituted by modern values. Sub Saharan Africa has one of the fastest annual population growth rate (Merrick 202:41). It has the fastest rate of urbanization presently taking place in the world. The transformation of societies in the sub-continent from rural to urban settings has immensely contributed in triggering changes in family structure. This has triggered the distortion of cultural /traditional norms and values that characterized rural communities in the region.



A critical continuity in African family patterns relates to the persistence of polygamous practices. The much-anticipated decline in polygamous households is still far from a social reality in most African countries. In rural areas, polygamy survives largely because of the imperatives established by the sexual division of labour that marks the sphere of agriculture. Multiple wives, and by extension, many children, are valued because they continue to provide essential labour services in rural agricultural production. But in most African urban areas, polygamy, once fairly common, is becoming rare, in particular among the younger generations. Comparative studies from Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania show that monogamous households have taken a greater hold on society.

Among the Igbo of Nigeria, polygamy seems to be a declining form of marriage as the strength of the conjugal relationship predominates over other family and community relationships (Schafer, 1997). Young Igbo couples tend to have fewer children than their parents as knowledge and use of modern contraceptives has expanded. More importantly, increasing education, urban migration, and employment have created new courtship patterns that emphasize individual choice; these patterns, in turn, provide women with relative equality in the arena of sexuality and mate selection. These changes, however, have neither reduced the importance Igbo society places on fertility and parenthood nor altered the continuing importance of kinship networks in Nigeria. Consequently, while fertility rates have declined across generations and women have gained more decisional latitude in the family, the enduring importance of kinship rooted in African social structures continues to impose significant constraints on women's individual autonomy and choice (Kamene, 1992).

#### **2.2.4 Single-Parenthood**

Globally, one-quarter to one-third of all families are headed by single mothers, calling into question the normativeness of couple headed families. Developed countries, in particular, are experiencing an increase in single-parent families as divorce becomes more common. The United States has the highest percentage of single-parent families (34% in 1998) among developed countries, followed by Canada (22%), Australia (20%), and Denmark (19%). In developing countries, divorce is not as common, but desertion, death, and imprisonment produce single-parent families, primarily headed by women (Kinnear 1999). Rates vary country to country from a low of less than 5 percent in Kuwait to a high of over 40 percent in

Botswana and Barbados. In countries such as Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, and Tobago more than 25 percent of households are headed by women.

Historically, single-parent families were the result of parental death; about one-fourth of children born around the turn of the nineteenth century experienced the death of a parent before they reached age fifteen (Amato 2000). The factors most commonly related to the contemporary U.S. single-parent family are changing social and cultural trends, increased rates of divorce and nonmarital childbearing, increased employment opportunities for women, decreased employment opportunities for men (especially African-American men), and the availability of welfare benefits that enable women to set up their own households (Rodgers 1996). It has been estimated that 50 percent of children born in recent cohorts will spend some part of their childhood with a single parent as a result of separation, divorce, or out-of-marriage births.

Another factor that is undermining kinship-based family structures is the prevalence of single parenthood, particularly among young urban females (Antonie and Nanitelamio, 1991). As increasing numbers of women have joined the labour force, single and female-headed households have become a discernible pattern on the African social landscape.<sup>11</sup> Although some societies continue to frown upon women over 30 who are still single, accusing them of prolonging single-hood, this new trend reflects attempts to adapt to secular changes in educational status, employment and occupational mobility, and in some cases, the decline of marriageable men. However, studies from most African cities have also shown that female-headed households are over-represented among the poor. Africa's unplanned urban sprawls are populated with unmarried single and poor women who face considerable obstacles in overcoming dislocation, migration, and deprivation.

Foster, Jones, and Hoffman (1998) found that the economic status of adult single mothers is, on average, closer to that of teen single mothers than that of married peers. The economic status as measured by the income-to-needs ratio and its derivative class statuses in the year before and after a birth to single non-teenage (age 20 or older) mothers was more similar to that of teenage mothers than that of their married non-teenage peers. Furthermore, among the three groups of mothers, single non-teenage mothers were the most likely to use welfare in the year before and after giving birth

### **2.2.5 Changes in Rural Areas**

According to Silberschmidt (2001), the breakdown in the symbiotic and mutually beneficial exchanges between rural and urban communities is equally matched by radical changes within rural households. This results from the collapse of the traditional African family economy in which husbands were the chief breadwinners. This economy has gradually been making way for wage-earning family households whereby both the husband and wife have to strive to earn income primarily in the agricultural sector. Yet the transition to wage-earning households has occurred without corresponding shifts in power relations between the sexes, producing tensions that further destabilize the family. Silberschmidt's work on the Kisii in Kenya demonstrates the momentous changes in household structures as control over resources has shifted gradually away from men to women.

With rampant unemployment and dwindling resources, men's central roles as breadwinners have been redefined, making it impossible for most men to fulfill these roles. As a consequence, men have felt a loss of power, and, unable to provide for their families, they have frequently turned to alcoholism, brutality, rape, and extramarital sex for succor. In contrast, women's main role as daily household and farm managers remains in close conformity with the traditional expectations and thus they have been better able than men to achieve the social values embedded in their gender roles. Yet as men are threatened by societal changes, the persisting patriarchal structure of powers allows men to nullify women's economic contribution to the family, thus heightening poverty and marital stress.

### **2.2.6 Childbearing**

Changes in marriage patterns interact with changes in child-bearing and affect both poverty and the composition of the poor. To the extent that declines in marriage coincide with women having fewer children, reductions in the size of families reduce the resources needed to avoid poverty. The average number of children present in the household has declined over time, falling especially in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1970 women ages 35 to 39 had an average of 2.4 children; by 1990 they had an average of only 1.3 children. Because larger families need more income to avoid poverty, and because greater parenting responsibilities restrict women's work hours in the paid labour market, the declining numbers of children per woman can be expected to reduce poverty, all else equal.

Cancian and Reed (2008) observed that changes in marriage patterns interact with changes in childbearing and affect both poverty and the composition of the poor. Declining marriage and increasing divorce reduce the number of adults available to provide income to a household, increasing poverty. To the extent that declines in marriage coincide with women having fewer children, reductions in the size of families reduce the resource needed to avoid poverty. All other things equal, women are more likely to be poor the more children they have, both because larger families need more income to avoid poverty, and because greater parenting responsibilities restrict women's work hours in the paid labour market. Thus, the declining numbers of children per woman can be expected to reduce poverty, all else equal.

Thornton and Young-DeMarco, (2001) noted that Cohabitation, non-marital childbearing, and divorce are increasingly accepted. Changes in contraceptive technology and reduced fertility also contribute to women's increased labour force participation. Of course, it is difficult to distinguish cause and effect; mothers may be more likely to work in the market because they have fewer children, or they may be having fewer children because of the demands of greater labour force participation.

### **2.2.7 Employment**

All else equal, families are less likely to be poor the greater the number of adults and the fewer the number of children. Households that include adult males are less likely to be poor than those that include only adult females, both because men work more hours on average and because they earn more per hour on average. However, since 1970, women's labour force participation has increased, especially for women with children. In 1970, about 50 percent of all women ages 30 to 34 worked; from 1990 onward almost 80 percent did. In addition, gender gaps in labour market outcomes have declined. These changes affect the level and distribution of income among families headed by married couples as well as among families with single female heads. They also reflect changes in gender roles and contemporary expectations regarding the caretaking and employment responsibilities of mothers and fathers, which interact with the public policy context. As the relationship between family structure and work has changed, so too has the relationship between family structure and poverty. An accounting of changes in family and poverty must therefore incorporate the dramatic growth in women's labour force participation and the declining opportunities for men, especially those with less

education. In part, this decline reflects a growing disconnect between marriage and childbearing and childrearing. At the same time that single-mother families are more prevalent, increases in women's own earnings mean they are less vulnerable to economic hardship.

### **2.2.8 A Shift in Gender Roles**

After a war in any country there is a strong likelihood of changes occurring in the family structures. According to Crosby (2002) women face different challenges than men in the aftermath of war. When the men are killed or go missing during the war, women become their own providers and protectors. This makes them heads of their households. Women's lifestyles also changed as a result of religion and by being introduced to new employment and educational opportunities in their attempt to maintain traditional gender and social roles in the United States. However, some married women viewed their roles as wives and mothers as sacred based on Islamic scriptures and tended to feel stronger about maintaining the family hierarchical structure. Other women however took advantage of the concept of women's equality and resisted maintaining traditional gender assignments. Korpi (2000) revealed that the Protestant Churches in Europe have become more progressive than the Catholic Church in terms of women's role. This has given women more exposure as far as being in authority is concerned. Muslims and Buddhists seem to have less egalitarian gender role attitudes than Jews, Protestants and Catholics (Inglehart and Norris, 2003). The frequent attendance and interaction with religious people has been shown to be linked to less egalitarian values (Olson et al., 2006). On the other hand, religion and migration has also contributed to changes in the family structures. This study will therefore establish the influence of religion and rural-urban migration on the family structures in Nakuru Municipality.

Social and economic factors contribute to changes in the family structures as revealed in several studies. Tu & Chang (2000) established social and economic factors as the main force in changing the family structures. In a study carried out on gender role attitudes, the focus was on four interrelated perspectives that is, social normative, gender difference, paid employment life and education, family life and personal resources. All these had an influence on the gender role attitudes therefore contributing to changes in gender roles. Silberschmidt (2001) concluded that as a result of socio-economic changes men had lacked social value and self-esteem. Men had become multi-partnered (extramarital) casual sexual relations which weakened the material base of the male authority. Women on the other hand, were

aggressively responding to the challenges of economic hardship and they had created new social roles for themselves as a result of which they had started to challenge men and their position as heads of household.

According to Read (2003) Arab-American women had a much greater variation in gender role attitudes. The findings confirmed that groups from gender traditional societies had more conservative gender role attitudes than the natives. Traditionally, gender roles and division of child care and household labour have been found to be quite persistent in Indo-Caribbean families (Roopnarine & Krishnakumar, 2009) and Turks in Germany were found to have more conservative gender roles than Germans (Inglehart & Norris, 2003). The older generation had remained traditional performing expected gender roles. Within Nakuru Municipality this study will establish whether the older generation has been influenced to change gender roles expected of them and how this is influencing the family structure. On the other hand, for the younger generation this study will establish the gender roles they are performing. Berridge, Penn & Ganjali (2009) argue that gender and age are the two most powerful determinants of attitudes to gender roles. According to the older respondents, men were more 'traditionalistic' in their attitudes. Results suggested that egalitarianism in attitudes to gender would continue to increase in future as older cohorts of respondents died out. This study will establish whether gender and age have contributed to changes in the family structure.

Globalization has contributed to changes in the family structure and its influence has been felt within the Nakuru Municipality since men and women have continued to improve their economic status as a result of many opportunities to change their economic status. According to Mwangi (2002), as the Municipality continues to localize Agenda 21, household headship now greatly depends on economic responsibilities. The men will only hold their household headship when they are able to retain their economic support. Women have been able to improve the economic status such that some earn more than their spouses. This study will establish how this has influenced gender roles and establish whether household headship still belongs to the men and establish gender roles changes that have been experienced in the family structures. According to Kulik (1999) the spouse who contributes the most has greater influence in the decision making giving them more authority and power.

Silva, (2003) in a study conducted amongst the South and Central Asian region that change in fertility, in the age at marriage and age at first birth, in mortality, in size and structure of households, in the female headed households, marriage dissolution and increase at the women's economic participation have all contributed to changes in the family structure. While, Knox & Schacht (2000) indicates that gender roles can influence men and women in every aspect of their lives and relationships

In conclusion, there seem to be various factors contributing to changes in the family structures. In the case of Nakuru Municipality, this study will confirm whether this is the case or there are also other factors contributing to changing family structures.

### **2.3 How Changing Family Structures has Influenced Gender Roles**

The family structure seems to be experiencing several changes which seem to influence the gender roles. Beck-Gernsheim (2002) reveals that the content and context of the family life seems to have changed due to modernity. The content of the family life has become more individualized. New forms of the family structure such as single parents, cohabitating, step family, increase in age at first marriage, increase in proportion of young adults remaining single and divorce adults have all become prevalent in today's society. Otherwise, what used to be the life-long contract of marriage between couples is no longer the only foundation to build family life upon. Complex families with children from different biological parents living together in a social family have now become very common as well as having the same sex parents and even having partnership such as living-apart-together. Lauer & Lauer (1999) indicates that the demographers give an estimate that the step family will be the main type of the American family by 2010. This study will explore factors influencing change in the family structure in Nakuru Municipality.

Esping-Andersen (2002) observes that marriage has been transformed from an economic necessity to a personal option. Giddens (1996) states that relationships of today are guided by more "irrational factors" such as passion, love and self-satisfaction captured by the term "the pure relationship". These are issues that may contribute to changes in the family structure which have continued to influence gender roles. This study will establish factors leading to these changes. Previous research has shown negative individual-level outcomes for divorced

persons including greater stress, lower standards of living and difficulty in parenting (Amato, 2000). This study will establish impact of changing family structures on the gender roles.

According to Kimani & Kombo, (2010) in a study on the absence of fathers in the family revealed that it led to challenges in family survival since the father's role in a nuclear family is central to its harmonious existence and survival as a unit. The findings indicated that families with absent fathers suffered identity and provision crisis. Women bore extra burden of added reproductive and productive roles. On the other hand, (Amato & Keith, 1991) agrees that the absence of a parent may explain difficulties in adjustment and functioning among children growing up in single-parent families compared to those who grow up with both biological parents. This study will establish negative and positive influence of changing family structures on gender roles.

Silberschmidt (1992, 2001 & 2005) conducted studies which investigated men and their changing roles and its implication in the households and the implications within Kenya and Tanzania. These studies revealed that the role of men as household heads had disappeared. Many of the men had abandoned their family obligations and their role as household head seemed to be legitimized only by the patriarchal ideology. Patriarchal structures and stereotyped notions of gender seemed to hide the increasing disempowerment of many men. Unemployment or low incomes were found to prevent men from fulfilling their male role as heads of households and breadwinners. The men seemed to experience a loss of identity due to alcoholism and domestic violence. Impact of changing family structures on gender roles is therefore crucial and this study will establish the influence of these changes on the gender roles.

Changes in the family structures may also have positive influence on the gender roles. In comparison to remaining single, marriage has been linked to such psychosocial benefits as decrease in mortality rates and risk-taking behaviors, increase in health monitoring, sexual satisfaction, financial saving and employment wages (Waite & Gallagher, 2000). It is these positive benefits that may also influence the gender roles. On the other hand, separation and divorce have been associated with decrease in psychological well-being, happiness and self-acceptance, increase in health problems, risk of mortality, social isolation, financial strain, negative life events depression and alcohol use (Amato, 2000; Cherline & Furstenberg, 1994;



Cowan & Cowan, 1992). The threat of marital conflict, divorce and out of wedlock births has also led to an increased risk for families to experience poverty, alienation and anti-social behavior (Markman, Cox, Stanley & Kessler, 1996). Ermisch & Francesconi (1998) argue that we are today observing a postponement of marriage. While McRae (1999) suggests that cohabitation has had a continued growth. This study will therefore establish both the positive and the negative influences of changes in the family structure on the gender roles.

As long as the family structure is able to maintain a stable status, the family is able to function appropriately. According to Liu & Umberson (2008) the family structure and family processes are consistently regarded as important social determinants of health status. Married individuals are both physically healthier and have less psychological distress than separated, widowed, divorced and never-married (Demo & Acock, 1996; Gove, 1990; Kim & McKenry, 2002; Schoenborn, 2004). According to Ross, Mirowsky, & Goldsteen (1990) the economic benefits from the dual-earning potential of married individuals results in less material deprivation and provide greater access to health care. The economic benefits of marriage in turn have a positive effect on well-being. According to Umerson, Chen, House, Hopkins & Slaten (1996) married couples experience greater emotional support and social integration and have more support for maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Ren (1997) observes that supportive, cohesive family relationships lead to emotional satisfaction and alleviate distress, whereas conflict-ridden family relationships lead to demoralization and worse health assessments. According to Demo & Acock (1996) married and remarried mothers, the effects of marital conflict, happiness and stability were strong predictors of self-esteem, global well-being, and depression. This study will show positive influence of changing family structures on gender roles.

Improvement of the status of women may also contribute positively to the family structure. This can be seen in their ability to control their own destiny (Malhotra & Boender, 2002). Data from around the world show that increased education is associated with the empowerment of women (Malhotra, Pande & Grown, 2003). Educated women are more effective at improving their own well-being and that of their family. They are better equipped to extract the most benefit from the existing services and opportunities and generate alternative opportunities, roles and support structures. The effects of women's education are manifested in a variety of ways including increased income-earning potential and ability to bargain for resources within

the household, decision making autonomy, control over their own fertility and participation in public life.

Commitment by various countries to the equal rights for women and girls by ratifying the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) has greatly improved the status of women. CEDAW provides the women's equal enjoyment with men of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. The inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment has also been included in the Millennium Development Goal 3 (Australian Government, 2013).

#### **2.4 The Influence of Changing Gender Roles on Children's behavior**

Changing gender roles are likely to influence children's behavior either positively or negatively. According to McLanahan & Sandefur (1994); Cherlin (2001) differences in life outcomes are largely determined by the characteristics of the family, such as its composition and social and economic resources. One fundamental characteristic of the family that has significant and sustaining effects on children is its structure i.e. the number of parents and their relationships to the children in the household. A family structure can constrain the availability or economic and social resources that can promote positive outcomes and well-being (Schneider & Coleman, 1993). Research has continued to reveal that the family structure can facilitate or limit the ways in which parents are able to positively influence the future outcomes of the children (Amato & Keith, 1991; Amato, 2001; Sigle-Rushton & McLanahan, 2002). Cox & Paley (1997) confirms that family interaction is the sum total of all the family roles played within a given family and is a useful frame of reference for understanding the role of within family processes, or features of the family environment that impact on the individual child development. In this study, focus on the children's behavior is necessary to establish their outcome.

According to Kimani & Kombo (2010) the youth and the children in homes with absent fathers have problems of insecurity, stress, and drugs/substance abuse, early marriages, especially for girls, school dropout and family integration. Children from such homes felt insecure and suffered from stress, students never concentrated on studies due to uncertainty. Other

problems facing the children was lack of financial support and children falling into negative peer pressure. This study will focus on the challenges facing children.

Schneider, Atteberry & Owens (2005) discovered that the family structure and child outcomes have a connection. The study compared adults whose parents remained married, adults whose parents divorced reported negative outcomes on various well-being indicators including psychological well-being, marital stability, socio-economic status, and physical health. The study also indicated that family composition had significant effects on the academic experiences and social development of children. Rushton & McLanahan (2002) conclude that the emotional shock of divorce can create temporary obstacles and negative influence on children's achievement. Divorce has had negative influence. Schneider et al. (1993) as mentioned earlier indicated that most children in non-intact families were at an educational and social disadvantage compared to children in traditional families. In comparison to stepfamilies, cohabiting relationships and foster care appeared to be more deleterious with respect to child outcomes. The single parenting was not necessarily as a consequence of divorce, in some instances the parent had been widowed or abandoned, and some parents choose never to marry.

Some family structures may have a negative influence on the children. Entwistle & Alexander (1996) discovered that single mothers had lower expectations, and their expectations influenced children less than did the expectations of other parents. However, families with two biological parents reported the highest levels of educational expectations for their children but step-parent expectations had the lowest levels of parent expectations. (Astone & McLanahan, 1991). When parents do not spend time with their children or are not involved in their children's lives, the opportunity for social capital transmission is diminished (Coleman, 1988; Portes, 1998). Studies continue to demonstrate that when families communicate and provide guidance and support, young people are more likely to succeed in school and feel more positive about themselves (Csikszentmihalyi & Schneider, 2000; Schneider & Waite, 2005). Single parents often face limitation of economic resources. Research too shows that two parents generally earn more income than one parent alone, and this additional income is often dedicated to improving children's educational outcomes (Elder, 1980; McLeod & Shanahan, 1993). Single parents particularly mothers experienced higher rates of poverty than any other

type of family (Bane and Ellwood, 1983). While remarriage may provide more resources, stepparents may not allocate resources to stepchildren in the same way that biological parents would. Children in other types of two-parent homes such as those headed by grandparents, relatives, or foster parents also tended to be at a distinct disadvantage compared with children in intact families (Chase-Lansdale, Brooks-Gunn & Zamsky, 1994). This study seeks to establish how different family structures (single parent, two parents etc) are influencing the children's outcomes.

Björklund, Ginther & Sundström (2004) study, showed that there is a relationship between the family structure and children outcomes. In spite of the fact that the family structure and the public policy environments in the Sweden and United States of America differed significantly, living in a non-intact family negatively related to child outcomes. It was realized that the true effect of the family structure is more complex than the biological relationship of parents to children in both countries. This study will establish the situation in Nakuru Municipality, how different family structures are influencing children outcome.

Craigie, Brooks-Gunn & Waldfogel (2010) agree that children born to unwed parents had worse cognitive, behavioral and health outcomes than children born into traditional married families. Children born to married parents who later divorced had worse test scores and aggressive behaviors relative to their counterparts in stable married families. Children born to cohabiting parents were disadvantaged while children born to cohabiting parents who later split did significantly worse than those in stable married families. Unstable cohabitation exacerbated child socio-emotional and health problems relative to stable cohabitation and transition to marriage. Children born to single parents had the most consistently adverse outcomes regardless of family stability. It was concluded that both family structure and family stability matter, and that stability mattered most for children born to cohabiting parents. This study will establish positive and negative impact of different family structures.

Parental separation has been reported with a wide range of adverse effects on children's well being that persist into adulthood. There was adverse impact on the cognitive capacity (Fergusson, Lynskey and Horwood, 1994), schooling (Evans et al. 2001), physical health (Dawson, 1991), mental and emotional health (Chase-Lansdale et al. 1995), social conduct and behavior (Morrison and Coiro, 1999), peer relations (Demo and Acock, 1988), criminal

offending (Hanson, 1999), cigarette smoking (Ermisch and Francesconi, 2001), substance use (Fergusson, Horwood and Lynskey, 1994), early departure from home (Mitchell et al. 1989), early-onset sexual behavior (Ellis et al. 2003) and teenage pregnancy (Woodward et al. 2001).

At a later stage in children's life the family structure seems to still determine their outcome. Oteyo & Kariuki (2009) examined the extent to which the family factors, peer-group influence, exposure to pro-alcohol and cigarettes mass media content and level of self-esteem contribute to the use of alcohol and cigarettes. The findings of the study revealed that there was a significant association between parental influence and alcohol and cigarettes use among the respondents. Siblings using drugs imitated their parents since they took it as an acceptable behavior. Peer-group encouraged peers to use alcohol and cigarettes. Mass media content also contributed to use of these drugs. The level of self-esteem was negatively correlated with the level of alcohol and cigarettes use. Peer-group influence had the strongest contribution to high alcohol and cigarettes use. In Nakuru Municipality this study will give a deeper understanding to challenges facing children such as school dropouts, early teenage pregnancies, the influence of divorce and separation, delinquent behavior amongst today's children (unruly children); increase in alcoholism, drug addictions and abuse; and loss of interest into serious marriage relationships and how this is influencing the children's behavior.

Burton & Jarrett (2000) revealed that neighbourhood quality has a considerable impact on child outcomes. Neighbourhood characteristics such as neighbourhood poverty have been shown to influence parents' behavior. Parents in high crime or dangerous neighbourhoods tend to exert more parental control (Earls, McGuire and Shay, 1994). Relationships between neighbourhood poverty and elevated rates of crime (Sampson, Raudenbush & Earls, 1997), declining social capital (Putnam, 2000), greater risk of environmental hazards (Bullard, 1990) and higher rates of domestic violence and child abuse (Rank, 2000). This study will establish other factors such as these and how it is influencing children's behavior.

It is speculated that the effect of family structure may vary depending on child gender. Absence of the father may affect boys more than girls whereas girls may be more threatened by the entrance of a stepfather (McLanahan and Teitler, 1999).

However it may be concluded that children can grow up happily, healthy and without serious problems in all kinds of families but children in two-parent households are more likely to escape poverty and less somatically and emotionally vulnerable (Kiernan & Mueller, 1998).

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

This study was guided by two theories; Gender schema theory which gives a deep and clear understanding on how we are able to adapt or assimilate roles that initially belonged to the other gender by explaining how culture is able to influence gender roles. The second theory is general systems theory on the other hand will be used in this study to give an understanding on how changes have occurred in the society since it does give focus on society, its structures and their significance for other structures. Society is made up of different parts termed as systems such as economy, education, family, religion, legal system and that each part has its own function.

### **2.5.1 Gender Schema Theory**

According to Bem (1993) this theory recognizes the importance of social and cultural factors and concludes that gender schemas are developed through an individual's observation of societal classifications of masculinity and femininity. This theory postulates that children learn how their cultures and/or societies define the roles of men and women and then internalize this knowledge as a gender schema. Children's perceptions of men and women are thus an interaction between their gender schemas and their experiences. Finally children incorporate their own self-concepts into their gender schema and assume traits and behaviours that they deem suitable for their gender.

According to Reid et al. (1995) gender schema theory provides an understanding of racial, ethnic variations in gender roles and shows their cultural norms. This makes it ideal for this study since Nakuru Municipality has a representation of all the 42 ethnic tribes in Kenya.

Thus gender schema theory will enable us understand how family structures are able to change influencing the gender roles. It will give an understanding on how a child is able to learn from their environment and culture in which they live in. Later in life this theory makes it clear on how children are able to copy changed gender roles thus acquiring new identities which influence their family life. This theory that helps to show how changes in the family structure

have brought in “new culture” of changed gender roles within the Nakuru Municipality. This theory is appropriate since it shows the relationship between the individual’s cognitions (gender schemas) and the cultural construction of gender. It will help us understand whether there is a breakdown of traditional gender roles leading to various challenges in the family structures influencing increase in the number of street children, street families, drug addiction, prostitution, early teenage pregnancies amongst others. This theory will also give an understanding on factors influencing changes in family structures and how gender roles have changed within the family structures. However, gender schema theory will be complemented by the general systems theory which then will give an understanding on how family structures function.

In conclusion, gender schema theory gives an understanding to factors influencing both the family structure and the gender roles. While the general systems theory gives an understanding on how family structures function and operate as a system.

### **2.5.2 General Systems Theory**

Ludwig von Bertalanffy originally developed this theory in 1936 and defined it as “a set of elements standing in interaction” in other words as a group of things which have something in common. Bertalanffy suggested a very general framework of describing and analyzing systems and demonstrated the existence of systems is morphisms that is the existence of general mathematical descriptions that explained the dynamic behavior of very different kinds of systems at different scales and across fields as diverse as physics, biology, economy and sociology.

According to (Ritzer, 2003), general systems theory is a modification of functionalism and structural functionalism. General systems theory evolved as a result of increasing complexity of problems that could not be addressed with more traditional for example analytical approaches. The theory assumes that no matter how complex or diverse the world is it will always be possible to find different types of organization in it. It uses an approach that is appealing since it reduces a complex problem to a set of simpler problems.

Bossel (1999) further views the society as a super system made up of three main systems – the human support and the natural systems and several subsystems that are interlinks and it

underscores the interdependence of the subsystems. In the family structures relationships are important. They include genetic, social, verbal, political, economic, geographical and other exchanges. Those with many relationships are more likely to be employed, with family, in good health, mobile and active as well as those that are busy. Those with few relationships are the unemployed, broken families, poor health, very young, very old, minority groups and inactive. Relationships may be based on family, age, social class, religions, geographical, economic, racial and other ties. General systems theory will give a deeper understanding on importance of relationships within the family structure.

General systems theory will also enable us understand the family structure and how it operates as a system consisting of various parts. This theory asserts that intimate group must be analyzed as a whole; the group has boundaries that distinguish it from other groups. Family structure as a system has various roles for each member which contributes to its proper function. This theory focuses on the relationships between various units and with its environment. Changes in environment mean that the system will change in some way to adapt to the new realities. This theory will give an understanding on what happens to the gender roles when changes occur in the family structure.

General systems theory will give an understanding on how family structures function as a unit and the changes that influence gender roles. Individuals, in this case family members cannot be understood in isolation from one another. This theory compares family roles to a Homeostasis/Equilibrium which describes the conditions inside a system. If there is a desire to make a change in a system there is a need to alter its “steady state” by modifying some of the conditions in that system. Anything which alters the energy flow within or between parts of a system will bring about changes. Therefore this helps explain how changes in the family structure have an impact on the gender roles.

General systems theory has many advantages. It is suitable for describing situations as they exist. Has ability to show the complex web of relationships in operation as a system moves toward its goal or goals. Systems theory is not limited historically; it can be used to help make meaningful predictions about what can be reasonably expected in future. It has survived the test of time. It has faced its critics and remains a viable theory used by a cross section of



academia. If the theory lacked credibility it would have eventually died out. This theory remains viable. It is a theory that helps observers gain an understanding of situations in a variety of settings giving a better understanding to the family structure as a social unit. It will also provide a framework in which to study complex variables (family structures and gender roles). In this study, general systems theory makes it easy to understand relationships within a family structure showing how men, women and children relate. The ideas and concepts of general systems theory can be valuable as ways to understand and conceptualize human beings, communication, their communities and their environment. As an approach useful for working with social changes, general systems theory offers a unique perspective and framework.

## 2.6 Conceptual Framework

The diagrammatic representation of the relationship between the study variables was as provided in Figure 1.

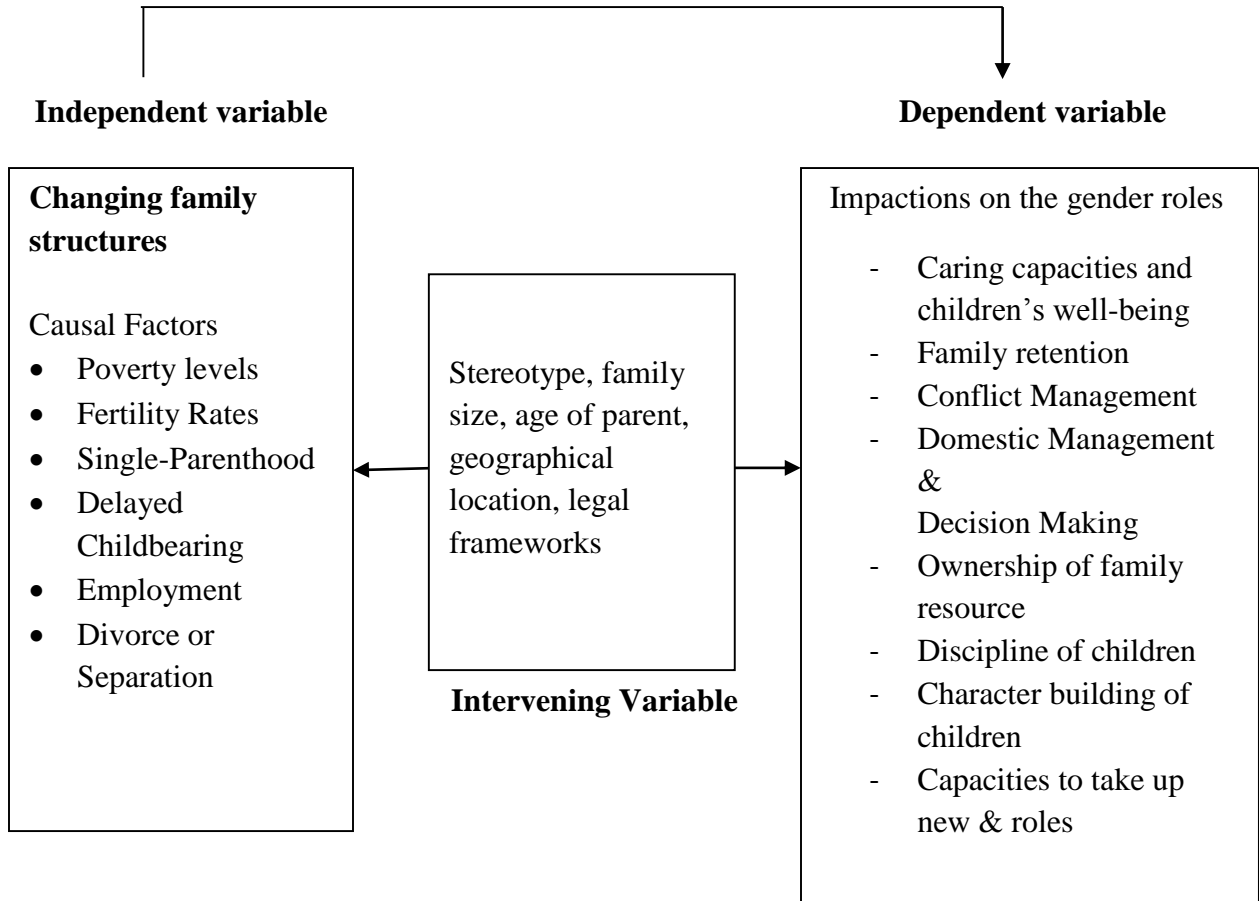


Figure 1: Changing Family Structures and their impact on Gender Roles

The independent variable represents factors that contribute to the changes in the family structure which include; education, socio-economic factors, employment, changing demographics as the population ages, fertility rates have declined over the long term, change in age at marriage, marriage dissolution, change in mortality, change in the structure of households, migration and women economic participation amongst others.

Dependent variable represents the impact of changing family structure on the gender roles. The changing gender roles and how they are influencing the function of the family structure. Functions such as the caring capacities and children's well-being, family retention, conflict management, domestic management & decision making, ownership of family resource,

discipline of children, character building of children and the capacities to take up new roles are all important roles in the family structure. The smooth functioning of these roles ensures a stable family structure. Failing to perform these roles affects the smooth functioning of the family structure.

The intervening factors are the unforeseen factors which influence is the family structure. These are variables such as gender, age, stereotypes, culture and the legal frameworks. These may not be major but they too contribute to the changes in the family structures. Diagram below shows the relationships between the three variables, independent, dependent and the intervening variable. Independent variable that is, the family structure is influencing the gender roles while the intervening variable seems to have influence family structures and gender roles.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the study methodological aspects to be undertaken. These include the research design, study area, population and target population, determination of sample size, sampling procedures, instrumentation, and methods of data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The study used cross-sectional survey which allowed an exploration of the changing family structures. According to Bryman (2001) this design entails the collection of data on a number of variables concerning more than one case, simultaneously and at a single point in time in order to detect patterns of associations/relationships and in this study this research design made it possible to collect data on the various factors influencing the family structure. Collected data was analyzed and information generated used to make a generalization in Nakuru Municipality since cross-sectional survey is flexible and allows the retention of the holistic characteristics of real-life events (in this case the gender roles) while investigating the family structures.

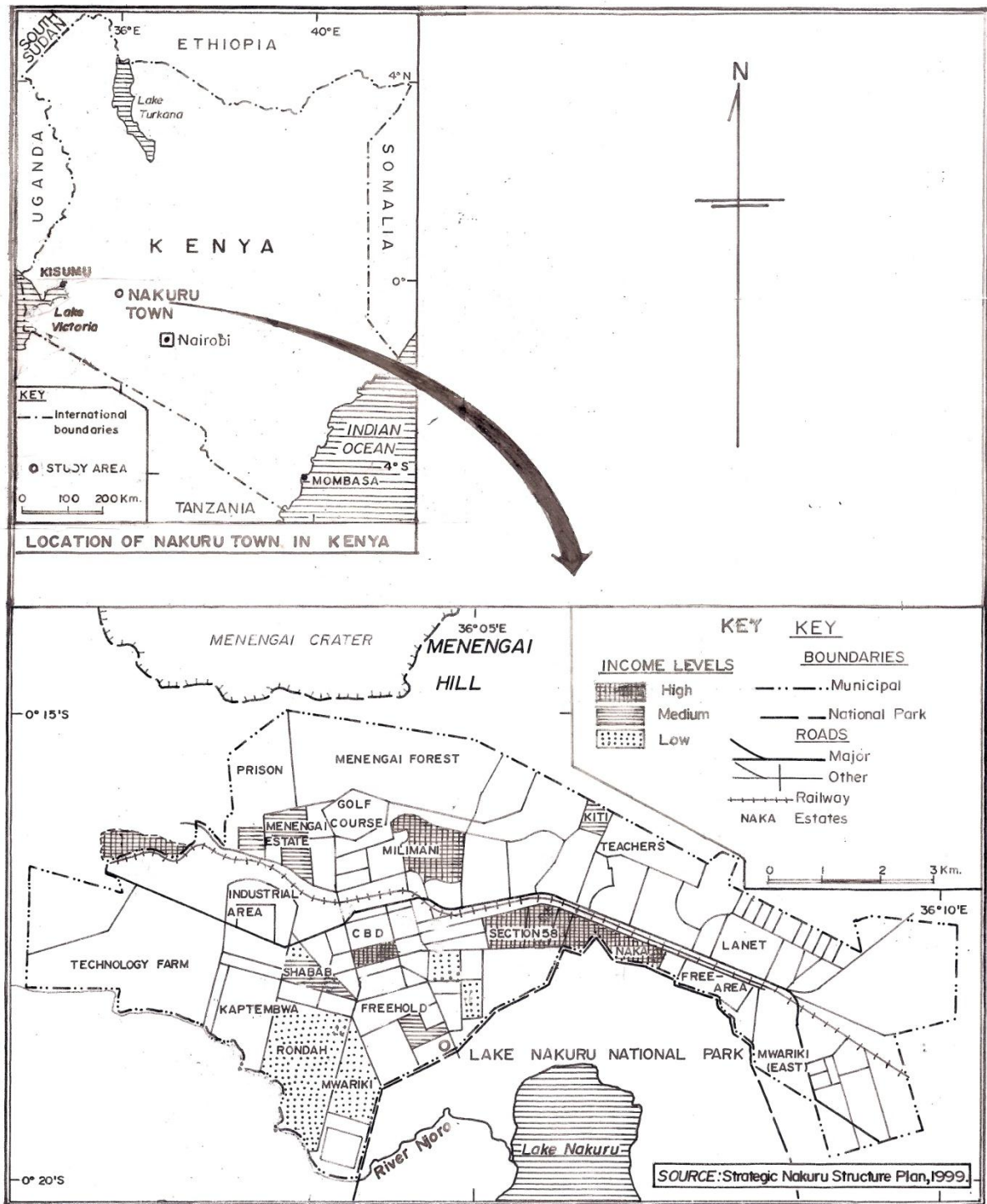
#### **3.3 Study Area**

This study was undertaken in the cosmopolitan Nakuru Municipality in Nakuru County. The town is located 160 km North West of Nairobi. It hosts various races and has all tribes of Kenya with different cultures, ideologies, religions, politics, social and economic aspirations. Major economic sectors are commerce, industry, tourism, agriculture and tertiary services. It is centered on the bed of the great East Africa Rift Valley.

The town is between the scenic Menengai Crater in the North while the Lake Nakuru in the South which is a tourist attraction. The soils are of loose volcanic type. Individuals, corporate organization, community based organizations, religious groups and other agencies participate in sustainable urban development initiatives which are of social, economic and environmental significance. The town has a vibrant economy especially since 2008 when there was an influence of people fleeing post-election conflict hotspots and settled in the town. The town's economy is based on broad sectors such as commerce and trade, manufacturing industry, service, tourism, agriculture and forestry and informal trade and industry.

In the past three decades the population has had a tremendous increase. Nakuru Municipality has a large number of informal commercial activities such as hawking of cheap, light commodities, sale of second hand clothes, food and vegetable kiosks, fruits, grains and many agricultural products. These activities are operated mainly in stalls, mobile and stationary kiosks on the streets and in the residential areas. These activities provide earnings to those who are not in the formal employment. Community based saving groups and Small and Micro Enterprises help to address the financial situation.

Nakuru Municipality was chosen for this study due to its recent expansion in terms of economic, political and social changes. The socio-economic aspects have changed over the years thus influencing the family structure. Different tribes live together in over eighty (80) neighborhoods. This made it possible to get a broader view on changes in the family structures.



**Figure 2: Map of Kenya showing Nakuru Municipality and indicating study area**

### 3.4 Unit of Analysis

Household heads that are married, single or cohabiting.

### 3.5 Population and Sampling Procedure

Total number of households in Nakuru Municipality is 68,469. Sample size was calculated from this number of households in Nakuru Municipality as stated by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (GoK, 2010).

#### 3.5.1 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

The sample size (202) was calculated using Kothari (2004) formula. According to Kothari (2004) if the items in the population are homogeneous, a small sample can be sufficient to describe the population.

Stratified sampling technique was employed, whereby, sampling frame was drawn from the five divisions in Nakuru Municipality namely; Lanet, Afraha, Kaptembwa, Baharini and Barut. Within these divisions, the Municipality has fifteen Civic Wards namely; Lanet, Menengai, Afraha, Hospital, Industrial-Area, Shabab, Kaptembwo, Rhoda, Langalanga, Lake-View, Shauri-Yako, Bondeni, Kivumbini, Barut-East and Barut West.

Kothari (2004), formula was used to calculate the sample size for this study as follows:

$$n = \frac{z^2 \times p \times q \times N}{e^2 (N - 1) + (z^2 \times p \times q)}$$

whereby:

n	=	is the required sample size
$z^2$	=	is the standard normal deviate set at (1.96) which corresponds to 95% confidence level.
p	=	is the proportion in the target population estimated to have characteristics being measured
q	=	the proportion that will not be studied i.e. (1-p)
e	=	the precision rate or the acceptable error.
N	=	Total number of households within Nakuru Municipality
	=	68,469

Therefore the sample size of this study was calculated as follows:

$$n = (1.96)^2 \times 0.05 \times 0.95 \times 68,469$$

$$(0.03)^2(68,469 - 1) + (1.96)^2 \times 0.05 \times 0.95$$

$$n = 202$$

The study employed cluster sampling technique in accessing the target sample. The three clusters used included high-class, middle-class and low-class classifications on the basis on income and occupation. Therefore sample size of 202 respondents was then divided proportionately (using proportionate sampling approach) into three categories that is sixty-seven households (67) for two groups; that is high class and middle class and sixty eight (68) for the low class group. The three groups represented respondents from high-class, middle-class and low-class statuses. The key informants were ten (10).

### **3.6 Methods of Data Collection**

This study used two instruments for the data collection that is, use of questionnaires and the interview guide for the key informants. As Morgan (1988) notes, key informants provided information that would be less accessible without the interactions with such informed people. This is attributed to the reality that such interactions stimulate people in making explicit their views, perceptions, motives and reasons.

Data was collected through self-administered questionnaires. Questionnaires were preferred owing to their simplicity in administration and reported effectiveness under descriptive design. They were used to collect data from household representatives. The questionnaires were filled under the guidance of the researcher. The researcher then created an atmosphere conducive to the respondents, to enable them open up and answer the questions asked correctly. The study also administered interview schedules for the students using the same approach.

Prior to data collection the questionnaires were pilot tested in Nakuru town using 10% of the respondents. Twenty-one (21) household members were selected basing on the strata that is Rhonda, Kenlands and Mlimani. Care was taken to ensure that the participants did not form part of the main study. The outcome of the pretest was used to enhance the quality of the questionnaires.



### **3.6.1 Questionnaires**

This study mainly used questionnaires which were distributed to all respondents of this study. It was used to explore information on the changing family structures and their influence on the gender roles within the Nakuru Municipality. The use of closed-ended questions had an advantage as it made it easy to analyze since it was in an immediately usable form. This made it easier when administering the questionnaires since each item was followed by alternative answers. They were economical to use in terms of time and money. However, there were disadvantages in that it was more difficult to construct since all categories must be well thought out. It also limits respondents who must answer questions with only choices given. However, questionnaires can be a source of bias during data collection which would be a distortion in the collected data as it would not be representing the reality. This was overcome by making sure that vaguely phrased and leading questions were avoided and that questions were in a logical order in line with the objectives. The questionnaires were however pre-tested for length, content, wording, clarity of questions and instructions. Once pre-tested, the required amendments were made and the instrument applied.

### **3.6.2 Interview Guide**

These were a set of questions that key informants were expected to respond to. This made it possible to obtain data required to meet the specific objectives of the study. They were used to standardize the interview situation so that the interviewers asked the same questions in the same manner. Effective communication during interviews was crucial and interviewers were trained before the beginning of the study.

Interviews have several advantages in that they provide in-depth information which cannot be obtained with a questionnaire. They guard against confusing questions since questions can be clarified. They are more flexible and very sensitive allowing personal information to be extracted from the respondent. The interviewer had the advantage also of being able to clarify and elaborate the purpose of this study and effectively convince respondents about the importance of the research. This was advantageous since the interviewer was able to obtain more complete and honest information yielding a higher response rate. However, interviews have disadvantages in that they can be very time-consuming. Setting up, interviewing, transcribing, analyzing, feedback, reporting and they can be costly. They require

communication and interpersonal skills. During the interview there was note taking. Responses were recorded as the respondents talked. This note taking was advantageous since the information was readily accessible during the data analysis and no information was left out owing to forgetfulness or any other kind of omission.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

Once the questionnaire and the interview guides were administered, the raw data was systematically organized. Data was coded, entered and analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version (20). This study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches, that is, both descriptive and inferential statistics was used to analyze data. The first objective of this study which was to examine factors influencing changes in the family structures mainly used descriptive analysis. The second objective of this study was to explore the influence of changing family structure on the gender roles and chi-square to test was used to test whether there is a relationship between family structures and the gender roles while the third objective to ascertain influence of changing gender roles on children's behavior chi-square showed relationship between gender roles and children behavior.

**Table 3. 1: Data Analysis**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Type of variable(s)</b>	<b>Method of Analysis</b>
To examine factors influencing changes in family structures.	Categorical	Mode, median, mean, bar chart, pie chart, percentages, frequency distribution tables
To explore how changing family structures are influencing the gender roles	Categorical	Chi-square test
To ascertain influence of changing gender roles on children's behavior.	Categorical	Chi-square test

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

Approval was sought from the Board of Postgraduate Studies, Egerton University. A research permit was also sought from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation. Personal information was kept anonymous while conducting the study, the researcher also received informed consent from the people involved in the study giving an assurance that information obtained was strictly for the purpose of this proposed study only. Confidentiality and anonymity of information collected was adhered to.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents findings of the study. The findings are presented under the following headings: Demographic characteristics of the respondents; Factors leading to changing family structures; how family structures have influenced gender roles at household level; and the influence of family structures.

##### **4.1.1 Response Return Rate**

The study was able to obtain 182 respondents out of the targeted 202. Thus translating into 90% response rate, the reason for non-response in some cases was due to lack of co-operation and misplacement of the tools by the respondents. However, the completed tools were considered statistically sufficient to provide a non-biased view of the information sought.

#### **4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The results for the demographic characteristics of the respondents were as presented in this section.

##### **4.2.1 Gender of the Respondents**

Gender is a range of characteristics of femininity and masculinity. Depending on the context, the term may refer to such concepts as sex (as in the general state of being male or female), social roles (as in gender roles) or gender identity. Gender was considered in this study to play an influential role in the perception of the respondents on changing family structures and their impact on gender roles. The response in respect to the gender of the 182 respondents was as provided in Table 4.1 below.

**Table 4. 1: Gender of the Respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	55	30%
Female	127	70%
	182	100%

As provided in Table 4.1, the study was able to reach 70% female and 30% male. This was due to the availability and willingness to participate in the study by females compared to males. However, the study is able to capture useful information from both gender represented in the study.

#### **4.2.2 Age of the Respondents**

Age of the respondents in this study was considered to influence the respondents view on the changing family structures and their impactions on gender roles; with the younger respondents not realizing much change compared to the elder ones. The response in respect to the age of the respondents participating in the study was as provided in Table 4.2

**Table 4. 2: Age of the Respondents**

<b>Age bracket</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
20-30 years	14	7.7
31-40 years	67	36.8
41-50 years	66	36.3
51-60 years	35	19.2
Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.2 show that 36.8% of the respondents were aged between 31 years and 40 years, 7.7% were aged between 20 years and 30 years, while 55.5% were aged 41 years or above. This implied that almost all the respondents were aged above 30 years. This shows that most of respondents were mature enough and experienced to provide useful information for the study.

### 4.2.3 Level of Education for each Gender

The response for the level of education for each gender was as provided in Table 4.3

**Table 4. 3: Level of Education for each Gender**

		Level of your education				Total	
		'O' Level	'A' Level	College	University		
Gender	Male	F	12	5	0	38	55
		%	21.8%	9.1%	0.0%	69.1%	100.0%
	Female	F	29	15	8	75	127
		%	22.8%	11.8%	6.3%	59.1%	100.0%

According to Table 4, 69.1% of the male and 59.1% of the female respondents had attained university degree, 40.9% of the female and 30.1 of male respondents had attained either college level or secondary school level. This showed that the respondents selected had at least secondary education level and thus were fairly represented in this study to avoid biasness and they were knowledgeable enough to provide information sought through the questionnaires. Rasmussen Men, especially those with less education, have experienced stagnant or declining rates of employment. These changes in family structure and employment are interrelated. For example, delays in marriage may reduce fertility, thereby reducing demands for work within the home and facilitating women's market work.

### 4.2.4 Level of Education of Spouse

The response to the level of education of the respondents' spouse was as provided in Table 4.4.

**Table 4.4: Level of Education of Spouse**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Not Applicable	25	13.7
Primary Level	2	1.1
Secondary Level	31	17
A Level	27	14.8
College	11	6
University	86	47.3
Total	182	100

As shown in Table 4. Above, 47.3% of the respondents' spouse had attained university level, 37.8% either secondary level or above, while 14.8% had attained primary level or below. Most of the respondents had educational level above 'A' level, thus implying that they were well educated, hence their perception in this study was from an informed point of view. According to a study by the OECD (2011) across many countries both in the developing and developed countries, women with higher levels of education are more likely to live in households without children. We observe that in this study 70% of the respondents were women.

#### **4.2.5 Respondents' Marital Status**

The result in respect to the respondents' marital status was as provided in Table 4. Marital status was considered in this study crucial in influencing the perception of the respondents as regards to the family changes in family structure.

**Table 4.5: Respondents' Marital Status**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Married	144	79.1
Married Contractual	4	2.2
Separated	5	2.7
Widowed	11	6
Single	18	9.9
Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.5 showed that 79.1% of the respondents were married, while the rest were either single parents separated, while 10% were widowed. The implication is that most



the respondents were married, and thus it was useful to find out how their family structures were today. The percentage of single parents was not favourable considering the fact that single parents have been found to have great challenges in bringing up children. For instance, Clark & Hamplová (2013) found that Children of divorced women typically had the poorest outcomes. These results highlight the vulnerability of children with single mothers and suggest that policies aimed at supporting single mothers could help to further reduce child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. Divorce brings about changes in the lives of mothers that can induce stress and diminish the capacity for warm, involved, and consistent parenting. Foremost among these changes is the loss of socioeconomic, social, and health resources. Following a divorce, mothers and children experience a substantial drop in their standard of living (Bradbury & Katz, 2002), in part because of the loss of economies of scale and in part because many nonresidential fathers fail to pay adequate child support (Garfinkel & McLanahan, 1986).

#### 4.2.6 Respondents' Family Size

In determining the family size, the respondents were asked to indicate their number as a family, that is parents and children and the response was as provided in Table 4.6.

**Table 4.6: Family size**

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Not Applicable	4	2.2
One	5	2.7
Two	14	7.7
Three	55	30.2
Four	30	16.5
Five	28	15.4
Six	28	15.4
Seven	5	2.7
Eight	8	4.4
None	2	1.1
Eleven	3	1.6
Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.6 show that 59.3% of the respondents indicated that in total their family sizes were made up of three or less persons. This shows that most household sizes were smaller compared to the past where nuclear families were large.

#### 4.2.7 Number of Children under 5 years at the House

The respondents were asked to indicate the number of children under 5 years at their house and the response was as provided in Table 4.7.

**Table 4.7: Number of children**

Number of children under 5 years	Frequency	Percentage
None	36	19.8
One	44	24.2
None	51	28
Two	36	19.8
Four	5	2.7
Three	7	3.8
Seven	1	0.5
Nine	2	1.1
Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.7 show that 44% of the respondents had either one or two children, 8.1 had four or more, while the rest had none. There are also cases where some families (2.2%) did not have children. Most of the families thus still had young children and that explains why in the later section most respondents had housemaids, and thus had transferred this responsibility to housemaids an aspect that adds to change in gender roles. The age of children was likely to influence parent's lifestyle which in the advent of poverty coupled with family income levels, could even trigger separations or occupational mobility of mothers. OECD (2011) found that Cohabitation is becoming increasingly popular among the younger generation as they cohabit before potential marriage and as an alternative to marriage. Overall, changing partnership patterns mean that more children now live in sole-parent and reconstituted families.

#### 4.2.8 Respondents Occupation

The respondents were asked to indicate their occupation, that is, if whether employed or unemployed was as shown in Table 4.8.

**Table 4. 8: Respondents Occupation**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Unemployed	9	4.9
Employed	129	70.9
Self Employed	44	24.2
Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.8 show that majority of the respondents (70.9%) were employed, while 24.2% were self-employed, while 4.9% were unemployed. Those employed were mainly from the public sector working teachers, doctors, clerks or accountants, while those in the private sector were made up of varied categories such as managers, doctors, accountants, drivers, security officers. It was important that perception of respondents per occupation is established since as the findings show some occupation tended to influence behavioural aspects related to change in family structure.

#### 4.2.9 Respondents Employment Status and Monthly Income

A comparison of monthly income against respondents' occupation is given in Table 4.9.

**Table 4.9: Respondents Employment Status and Monthly Income**

Monthly Income	Respondents Occupation		
	Unemployed	Employed	Self Employed
0	10	0	0
<10,000	0	10	6
<20,000	0	19	10
<30,000	0	20	7
<40,000	0	18	7
<50,000	0	21	4
<60,000	0	8	2
<70,000	0	6	3
<80,000	0	5	2
<90,000	0	7	0
>100,000	0	14	3

According to the Table 4.9 the highest monthly incomes were registered among the employed respondents, followed by self-employed. This implied that most income was earned through employment status. Most employed couples tend not to have enough time for family gender specific roles and thus would delegate these tasks to house helps.

#### 4.2.10 Spouse Monthly Income

Spouse monthly income was considered a crucial factor for possible family structure change and thus, the respondents were asked to provide this information. The response in respect to respondent's spouse monthly income was as provided in Table 4.10.

**Table 4.10: Spouse Monthly Income**

<b>Monthly Income</b>	<b>Female spouse</b>	<b>Male spouse</b>	<b>Total</b>
No response	9	48	57
<10,000	7	1	8
<20,000	11	9	20
<30,000	10	11	21
<40,000	6	10	16
<50,000	4	14	18
<60,000	4	11	15
<70,000	0	7	7
<80,000	0	4	4
<90,000	0	3	3
>100,000	2	11	13
Total	53	129	182

The findings in Table 4.10 show that most of the respondents indicated that their spouses earned between 20000 and 60000 Kenya shillings. Highest income levels were reported to be earned by male spouses, implying that males earned more than females. This is also illustrated in Table 4.11 below. Kalmijn, (1991) noted that in a traditional marriage market, a good education has been considered particularly important for men because their income and occupational prestige largely determined the socio-economic status of the family. Therefore, women have tended to prefer men with a high(er) level of educational attainment. Today some men with low income tend to shy away from marriage thus working women would rather raise their children as single parents than stay with a man who can live up their economic expectations.

**Table 4.11: Spouse Monthly Income**

	Monthly Income	Gender		Total
		Female spouse	Male spouse	
<b>What is their average monthly income?</b>	No response	9	48	57
	<10,000	7	1	8
	<20,000	11	9	20
	<30,000	10	11	21
	<40,000	6	10	16
	<50,000	4	14	18
	<60,000	4	11	15
	<70,000	0	7	7
	<80,000	0	4	4
	<90,000	0	3	3
	>100,000	2	11	13
<b>Total</b>		53	129	182

**4.2.11 Spouse Occupation**

The respondents were asked to indicate their spouse occupation and the response was as provided in Table 4.12.

**Table 4.12: Spouse Occupation**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Unemployed</b>	48	26.4
<b>Employed</b>	82	45.1
<b>Self Employed</b>	52	28.6
<b>Total</b>	182	100

According to Table 4.12, 45% of the respondents indicated that their spouses were employed, 28.6% indicated that their spouse self-employed, while 26.4% indicated that their spouses were unemployed. This implied that most of the respondents were either employed or self-employed, and could give us an insight of the influence of occupation on family structure. A comparison was made to deduce the employment status between female and male status and the result were as presented in Table 4.13

**Table 4.13: Spouse Occupation per Gender**

<b>Spouse Occupation</b>	<b>Gender</b>		<b>Male Spouses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
	<b>Female spouses</b>	<b>Percentage</b>		
Unemployed	8	15%	40	31%
Employed	32	58%	50	39%
Self Employed	15	27%	37	29%
Total	55	100%	127	100%

The findings in Table 4.13 show that there was high employment level among female spouses than male spouses. In fact, the level of unemployment among the male spouses stood at 31% compared to that of female spouses at 15% considering the fact that traditionally the man is the head of the family. This was bound to be a source of conflict, subsequently leading to a shift or change in family structure. Men who lose their jobs are more likely to divorce - and be divorced by - their working wives, according to research into the emotional impact of unemployment.

### **4.3 Factors Leading to Changing Family Structures**

The respondents were asked to indicate if in their opinion, they felt that family structure had changed and the response was as given in Table 4.14.

**Table 4.14: Factors Leading to Changing Family Structures**

		Gender		Total
		Female spouses	Male Spouses	
<b>Respondents' Occupation</b>	Unemployed	8	40	48
	Employed	32	50	82
	Self Employed	15	37	52
		55	127	182

The findings as provided in Table 4.14 show that majority of the respondents (98%) agreed that family structure had changed, while 2% did not feel so. This implied that, it was an open fact that family structure had changed, among communities in Nakuru town.

#### 4.3.1 How Family Structure has changed

The respondents were asked to indicate the ways in which family structure had changed to which they responded as provided in Table 4.15.

**Table 4.15: How Family Structure has changed**

	Frequency	Percentage
Reduced family size	131	72%
Change in family headship	122	67%
Single Parent family	87	48%
Separated family structure	65	36%

The findings in Table 4.15 were as presented in the subsections below:

**Size of the family:** The findings show that 72% indicated that the change in family structure was reflected in the form of reduced family size. The reduction of the family size is attributed partly to economic difficulties, low levels of income, the high cost of living, the costs of education of children and the desire to maintain a better standard of living, which is best achieved within the more affordable smaller size family. Consequently, the nuclear family with



its parents and children became the model of society and soon ruled out the traditional, extended family usually constituting three generations.

**Female Headed Households:** The findings also show that 67% indicated that change in family headship contributed to the change in family structure. The increase in female headed households is due to variety of reasons including widowhood, migration, non-marital fertility and marital instability (Bruce and Lloyd, 1992). In recent decades an increasing number of women, particularly rural women, have become heads of households because men, the traditional heads of households, had left for work or other reasons. Moreover due to civil unrest, and displacement, a refugee situation exists in a number of countries in the region, often resulting in females taking over the task of running the household.

**Single Parents Family:** 48% of the respondents indicated that single parent family is one of the factors that contributed to change in family structure. Households that include two adults generally have greater opportunities to avoid poverty, since the second adult on average adds more to potential income than to needs. Thus, declines in marriage and increases in divorce are both poverty increasing. Cohabiting couples may capture the same benefits as marriage, though the implications of cohabitation for official poverty measures, as well as for actual economic well-being, are complex.

**Separated family structures:** The results show that 36% indicated that separated family structures also contributed to change in family structure. It is no longer the case that all marital unions, whether formal or informal reach the final dissolution through death. A considerable proportion of unions are disrupted suddenly for reasons such as desertion, separation or divorce. An obvious failure in family relationship is where husband and wife cease to live together. Divorce is the final dissolution, leaving both spouses legally free to enter another marriage contract.

#### 4.3.1.1 Reasons why Family Structures have changed

Respondents were asked to state the main reasons responsible for the change in family structure in Nakuru.

**Table 4. 16: Reasons why family structures have changed**

Reason	Frequency	Percentage
Cost of living	93	51%
Nature of occupation and earning	53	29%
Level of education of women leading conflicts and divorce	36	20%
Marriage not a prerequisite for family	34	19%
Divorce and Separation	25	14%
Responsibility sharing	14	8%
Neglect of responsibilities	12	7%
Culture Erosion	12	7%
Extra marital affairs	11	6%
No Response	10	5%
Frustration in the family due to high salary by women	10	5%
Lack of trust to one another	9	5%
Reversed gender roles source of conflict	8	4%
Liberalization and decision making	7	4%
Women have become independent and bread winners	7	4%
Pressure of modern life	6	3%
Work place challenges	3	2%

The findings in Table 4.16 were as presented in the following order. Cost of living (51%), Nature of occupation and earning (29%), Level of education of women leading conflicts and

divorce (20%), Marriage not a prerequisite for family (19%), Divorce and Separation (14%), Responsibility sharing (8%), Neglect of responsibilities (7%), Culture Erosion (7%), Extra marital affairs (6%), No Response (5%), Frustration in the family due to high salary by women(5%), Lack of trust to one another(5%), Reversed gender roles source of conflict(4%), Liberalization and decision making(4%), Women have become independent and bread winners(4%), Pressure of modern life (3%), and Work place challenges (2%).

### 4.3.2 Contribution of Education to Change in Family Structure

The respondents were asked to state whether or not the following aspects of their education has contributed to changes in family structure and the response was as presented in Table 4.17.

**Table 4. 17: Contribution of Education to Change in Family Structure**

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Education has led to independent mindedness, especially in decision making	88	48%
More time spend on studying and life exposure	55	30%
Distance of work place and lifestyle	45	25%
Well family and birth control	42	23%
Family breakdown due higher salary of female partner	36	20%
Erosion of culture	28	15%
It has women to be rebellious in marriage	21	12%
No response	5	3%
Women uplifting their standard of living	4	2%

The findings in Table 4.16 show that education had contributed towards change in family structure in the following ways: Education has led to independent mindedness, especially in

decision making (48%); More time spend on studying and life exposure (30%); Distance of work place and lifestyle (25%); Well family and birth control (23%); Family breakdown due higher salary of female partner (20%); Erosion of culture (15%); It has women to be rebellious in marriage (12%); Women uplifting their standard of living (2%). This implied that education level did contribute to changes in family structure.

### 4.3.3 Contribution of Rural Urban Migration to changes in the Family Structure

The respondents were asked to explain how rural urban migration had contributed to changes in the family structure and the response was as presented in Table 4.18.

**Table 4. 18: Contribution of Rural Urban Migration to changes in the Family Structure**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Interaction and lifestyle change	102	56%
Extra Marital Affairs	99	54%
Abandonment of rural responsibilities by men	94	52%
Small families due to economic strain	60	33%
Erosion of cultural heritage	55	30%
No Response	42	23%
Peer group motivation	30	16%
Responsibility sharing	23	13%
it leads to high expenses and mistrust	22	12%
Spouses are left in rural areas	12	7%
Less time spend for family	11	6%
It has led women to be the head of the family because men are in towns	7	4%
Overcrowding in urban house settings	1	1%
High cost of living	2	1%

The findings in Table 4.19 show that rural urban migration had contributed to changes in the family structure in the following ways. Interaction and lifestyle change was cited by 56% of the respondents,

#### 4.3.4 Contribution of Globalization to Changes in the Family Structure

The result in respect to whether or not globalization contributes to changes in the family structure was as presented in Figure 6.

**Table 4.19: Contribution of Globalization to Changes in the Family Structure**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	171	94%
<b>No</b>	11	6%
	182	100%

The findings in Table 4.19 show that almost all the respondents save 4% agreed that globalization had contributed to changes in the family structure of households in Nakuru Town. Globalization thus, seems to have greatly influences in the family structure of households. It has led to new lifestyles, which are associated with family disruption and social and domestic violence. Globalization has given birth to some form of hybrid identity, which is not favouring the traditional family structure. This finding is in line with the finding by Sobha (2006) which associated globalization is with rapid and significant human changes. The movement of people from rural to urban areas has accelerated, and the growth of cities in the developing world especially is linked to substandard living for many. Family disruption and social and domestic violence are increasing.

##### 4.3.4.1 How Globalization has contributed to Change in Family Structures

The respondents were asked to explain how they felt globalization had contributed to changes in the family structure and the response was as provided in Table 4.20.

**Table 4.20: How Globalization has contributed to Change in Family Structures**

<b>Contribution of globalization</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Copied lifestyle and values	92	51%
Exposure to change steering information	87	48%
Borrowed family behaviours and practices leading to breakups	44	24%
New definition of parental roles and responsibility	41	23%
Erosion of cultural family values	26	14%
Separation and Neglect of family matters	22	12%
Birth control methods thus small families	15	8%
Foreign cultures has led to immorality	14	8%
Interracial marriage	12	7%
No Response	11	6%

The findings in Table 4.18 show that 51% of the respondents indicated that globalization had led copied lifestyle and values, 48% indicated that globalization had exposed families to external information that contributed to change in family structure. 24% of the respondents stated that it had led to borrowed family behaviours and practices leading to breakups; while 23% linked it to new definition of parental roles and responsibility. Other issues attributed to globalization included: erosion of cultural family values; separation and neglect of family matters; birth control methods thus small families; foreign cultures has led to immorality; and interracial marriage. Copied lifestyles do influence the changes in the traditional family structure. Sobha (2006) argues that the difference in regions, topography and climate allow for different types of lifestyles and culture. The family is exposed to change steering information which in time either tears it a part or influences the family structure. Today information is rapidly shared through social media; through networks such as Facebook, which is detrimental to the traditional family structure. Behaviours from other civilization have through globalization brought a new definition of parents' roles and responsibilities and to be precise, reversed gender roles. Parker and Wang (2013) noted that the way mothers and fathers spend

their time has changed dramatically in the past half century. Dads are doing more housework and child care; moms more paid work outside the home.

#### **4.3.5 Contribution of Occupation to Changes in the Family Structure**

The result in respect to whether or not occupation contributes to changes in the family structure was as presented in Table 4.21

**Table 4.21: Contribution of Occupation to Changes in the Family Structure**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	161	88%
<b>No</b>	21	12%
	182	100%

The finding in Table 4.21 show that 88% of the respondents agreed that occupation of family members in Nakuru had contributed to changes in the family structure, while 12% did not think so. Marital status is also strongly linked to views about the ideal work situation, and the gap in views between married and unmarried mothers has widened significantly in recent years. These contributions was experienced in the following areas presented in Table 4.22

**Table 4.22: Contribution of Occupation to Changes in the Family Structure**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Children left under care of house help	92	51%
Demanding occupation leading to family crisis (Such as unfavourable work timings / schedules)	88	48%
Parents having little time for their family responsibility	86	47%
Different work location means spouses are living separately	77	42%
Unfavourable work schedules	75	41%
Women undermining men due to high salary and Superior career	65	36%
Equality in responsibilities	56	31%
Nature of work expose marriage to new life styles	31	17%
Ability for each spouse to own property	26	14%
Occupation is now a basis for marriage partner choice and stay in marriage	22	12%
No response	16	9%

According to the findings in Table 4.22 the occupation of family members in Nakuru had contributed to changes in the family structure in the following ways: Children left under care of house help due job commitment by both parents (51%); Demanding occupation leading to family crisis (Such as unfavourable work timings/schedules) (48%); Parents having little time for their family responsibility (47%); Different work location means spouses are living separately (42%); and the fact that occupation had made women to start undermining men due to high salary and superior career (36%). Other issues with a percentage below 35% included: increased equality in responsibilities; exposure to new lifestyles; ability by each spouse to own property separately; and the fact that occupation is now a basis for marriage partner choice and stay in marriage.



#### **4.4 Influence of Changing Gender Roles on Children’s Behavior**

Changing gender roles in parents is considered critical in this study as to have an influence on children behavior. Both parents need to be present. Because the father plays such a critical role in the development of children's gender roles, his absence has been related to disruptions in gender typing in preadolescent boys and to problems in relationships with peers of the opposite sex for adolescent females. Families actively play a role in gender-role socialization by the ways in which they organize the environment for the child. Boys and girls are dressed differently, receive different toys to play with, and sleep in bedrooms that are furnished differently.

##### **4.4.1 Change in Gender Roles**

The respondents were asked to indicate whether or not gender roles that have changed and the response was as provided in Table 4.23.

**Table 4.23: Change in Gender Roles**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	179	98%
<b>No</b>	3	2%
	182	100%

According to Table 4. 23 almost all the respondents (98%) agreed that gender roles had changed in families. This implied that indeed gender roles had changed significantly. Men were performing roles that were traditionally meant for women, while women were also performing the roles performed by men.

##### **4.4.2 Gender roles that have changed**

The respondents were asked to indicate the gender roles that have changed and gave the Responses provided in Table 4.24.

**Table 4.24: Gender roles that have changed**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Provision for the Family is left to one spouse (women)	87	48%
Neglect of responsibility (transfer of task to house helps)	85	47%
Responsibility of children to take care of themselves	72	40%
Equality in sharing of responsibilities	71	39%
Family headship and decision making	45	25%
Parents spending less time with children	44	24%
Land ownership was illegal but now is legal	23	13%
Too much work transferred to children by parents	22	12%
Not Response	6	3%

The findings in Table 4.24 show that according to the respondents gender roles have changed as follows: Provision for the Family is left to one spouse (women) (48%); Neglect of responsibility (transfer of task to house helps) (47%); Responsibility of children to take care of themselves (40%); Equality in sharing of responsibilities (39%); Family headship and decision making (25%); Parents spending less time with children (24%); Land ownership was illegal but now is legal (13%); and Too much work transferred to children by parents (12%).

The findings show that some responsibilities that were meant for men such as provision of food through farming, hunting have now been left for the women. Another interesting shift is the fact that some critical responsibilities have been shifted to the house helps. Parents seem to have neglected their roles and thus leaving children with nothing important to learn from them. Another important aspect noted is the fact that there are today child headed households and children taking care of themselves. This shift is not good, since it may interfere with the children's' personality and social growth. Family headship has also shifted in that today there are so many women headed households.

#### 4.4.3 Influence of Changed Roles on Children

The parents were asked to indicate what they saw in their children copying from them and the response was provided in Table 4.25.

**Table 4.25: Influence of Changed Roles on Children**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Not Applicable	39	21.4
Hardworking, determination and confidence	36	19.8
Role and occupation	21	11.5
Academics	18	9.9
Responsible and availability	15	8.2
Christianity Life	12	6.6
Household chores	8	4.4
Independence	6	3.3
Dressing	5	2.7
Aspiration	5	2.7
Integrity	5	2.7
Decision making and Academics	4	2.2
Humbleness	4	2.2
Generosity and love	3	1.6
Not answered	1	0.5

The findings in Table 4.25 show that some of the virtues that children learned from their parents. The percentage scores for the aspects were as follows. Hardworking, determination and confidence (19.8%); Role and occupation (11.5%), Academics (9.9%); Responsible and availability (8.2%); Christianity Life (6.6%); Household chores (4.4%); Independence (3.3%); Dressing (2.7%); Aspiration (2.7%); Integrity (2.7%); Decision making and Academics (2.2%); Humbleness (2.2%); and Generosity and love (1.6%). This implied children are learning or copying a lot from the parents, their behavior and the way they go about their responsibilities. The findings show that at least virtues like hardworking, determination and confidence, implying thus that the opposite (laziness and lack of confidence) is also copied. The roles and occupation are also copied, thus the shift in roles is also copied by the children.

What we note here that the shift in changed roles is actually being copied by children and thus time is coming when the traditional roles will be long forgotten.

#### 4.4.4 Father Figure in the Case of Single Mothers

The respondents were asked to indicate the father figure in case of single mothers and the response was as provided in Table 4.26.

**Table 4.26: Father Figure in the Case of Single Mothers**

<b>Father Figure</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Boy friend</b>	2	7%
<b>Uncles</b>	9	33%
<b>Brothers</b>	4	15%
<b>Grand father</b>	2	7%
<b>Father</b>	3	11%
<b>Myself</b>	5	19%
<b>Churches members and friends</b>	2	7%
	27	100%

The findings in Table 4.26 show that 33% respondents indicated that the father role in the case of single mothers' role was played by uncles, 15% indicated mothers themselves, 15% indicated the role was performed by brothers, 11% by father, 7% by grandfather, 7% by church members and friends. Note that there was a response of father, this is in the case where the parents have separated but had made some arrangements in case of extreme needs. In the past there was nothing like an absent father, since in most communities the child belonged to the community thus the community members would step to assist.

#### 4.4.5 Male Role despite Changing Times

The response to males' role despite changing times were provided in Table 4.27.

**Table 4.27: Male Role despite Changing Times**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Family responsibility ie Education	66	36%
Chief bread winner / provider	50	27%
Head of family	30	16%
Security for the family	25	14%
Land buying and Dowry negotiations	10	5%
House Construction and Homestead setting	7	4%
Property owner	7	4%
Decision making on complex family issues	6	3%
Family investment	3	2%
No response	3	2%

The findings in Table 4.27 show that the male roles that remained unchanged despite the changing times were as follows, family responsibility such as education (66%) chief bread winner/provider (27%) family headships (16%) security for the family (14%) land buying and dowry negotiations (5%) house construction and homestead setting, property owners, decision making on complex family issues and family investments. the findings show that indeed male roles have changed greatly with only a few traditional roles being retained.

#### 4.4.6 Female Role despite Changing Times

The response in respect female changing roles despite changing times was as provided in Table 4.28.

**Table 4.28: Female Role despite Changing Times**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Cooking	115	63%
Household chores (washing clothes, cleaning)	100	55%
Raising children	87	48%
Healthcare for children	62	34%
Taking care of family	25	14%
Gender advice to female children	25	14%

The result in respect to female roles despite changing times was provided as follows in order of frequency: Cooking (63%); household chores (55%); raising children (48%) healthcare for children (34%); taking care of family (14%); and gender advice to female children (14%). The findings showed most traditional roles of female had been retained as opposed to male roles. Cooking, household chores and raising children were still to a great extent considered female roles.

#### 4.4.7 Assigning Specific Roles or Duties to Children by Gender

The parents were asked to indicate whether or not they assigned specific roles/duties/activities to your children by gender and the response was as provided in Table 4.29.

**Table 4.29: Assigning Specific Roles or Duties to Children by Gender**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Do you assign specific roles/duties/activities to your children by gender?	No response	8	4.4
	No	140	76.9
	Yes	34	18.7
	Total	182	100
If yes, which ones?	Not Applicable	149	81.9
	Nature of work	33	18.1
	Total	182	100
Give reasons why?	Not Applicable	149	81.9
	Like it	2	1.1
	Risks Involvement	4	2.2
	To know the right roles for them	20	11
	Gender issue	7	3.8
	Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.29 show that majority of the respondents (76.9%) indicated that they did not assign specific roles/duties/activities to your children by gender; the 18.7% that did so indicated that they were guided by the nature of work and not gender.

#### 4.4.7.1 Rebelliousness of Children

The findings in respect to the rebelliousness of children was as provided in Table 4.30.

**Table 4.30: Rebelliousness of Children**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Rebelliousness of Children	No	120	65.9
	Yes	62	34.1
	Total	182	100
If yes why?	Not Applicable	113	62.1
	Gender issues	52	28.6
	Overburdened	1	0.5
	Lazy	2	1.1
	Distractions	5	2.7
	Peer pressure	9	4.9
	Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.30 show that 65.9% of the parents did not see their children as being rebellious, while 34.1% thought otherwise. Those that saw their children as rebellious attributed these behavior to factors such as gender issues (28.6%), Peer pressure (4.9%); distractions (2.77%); and laziness (1.1%). This implied that families were doing all it takes to ensure that their children are disciplined, but the lingering question is how this is done. This is however, discussed in section 4.5, where we note the role of house-helpers.



#### 4.4.8 Good behavior seen in Children

The response in respect to good behavior seen in boys and girls was as provided in Table 4.31.

**Table 4.31: Good behavior seen in Children**

		Frequency	Percentage
Good behaviour seen in Girls	None	2	1.1
	Obedient	93	51.1
	Household chores and Education	63	34.6
	Dependent	1	0.5
	Hardworking	18	9.9
	Co-operative	4	2.2
	Taking care of babies	1	0.5
	Total	182	100
Good behaviour seen in Boys	Performing all Chores	21	11.5
	Courage and creative	42	23.1
	None	1	0.5
	Decision Making	12	6.6
	Protection and assisting girls	52	32.4
	Proper Dressing	1	0.5
	Obedient	48	26.4
	Co-operative and hardworking	4	2.2
	Looking after livestock	1	0.5
	Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.31 show that the main good behaviors seen in girls included obedience (51.1%), Household chores and education 34.6%. Others behaviour included being hardworking, co-operative and 5taking care of babies. Good behavior seen in boys included protectiveness and assisting girls (32.4%), courage and creativeness (23.1%), obedience (26.4%) and performing all chores. This implied most parents were keen in transferring good attributes down to their children. There is shift from the traditional roles in that we notice that boys are seen performing all chores.

#### 4.4.9 Bad Behavior seen in the Girl(s)

The parents were asked to indicate what behavior they saw in their girl child(ren) and the response was as provided in Table 4.32.

**Table 4.32: Bad Behavior seen in the Girl(s)**

		Frequency	Percentage
<b>What bad behavior do you see in the girl(s)?</b>	Disobedient	27	14.8
	Dressing Mode	26	14.3
	Laziness	11	6
	Drugs	11	6
	Teenage pregnancies and drinking	9	4.9
	None	5	2.7
	Long Chatting	4	2.2
	Expensive Life Style	3	1.6
	Doings their own things without consultation	3	1.6
	Sneaking	2	1.1
	Dating at young age	2	1.1
	Slow in decision making	2	1.1
	Selfish	2	1.1

The findings in Table 4.32 show that according to parents, bad behavior seen in girls today as follows: Disobedience (14.8%), inappropriate dressing mode (14.3%), laziness (6%), drugs (6%), teenage pregnancies and drinking (4.9%), long chatting on social media (2.7%), and expensive life style. These problems seen in children would not be condoned sometime in the past, when the family was intact and parental responsibilities were taken seriously.

#### 4.4.10 Bad Behavior seen in Boys

The respondents were asked to indicate the bad behavior seen the boy child (ren) to which they responded as provided in Table 4.33.

**Table 4.33: Bad Behavior seen in Boys**

	<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
What bad behavior do you see in the boys(s)?	Drugs	26	14.3
	Arrogant	23	12.6
	Disrespectfulness	17	9.3
	Dressing style	15	8.2
	None	6	3.3
	Oppressing girls with work	5	2.7
	Watching movies most of times	5	2.7
	Fighting	3	1.6
	Asking disrespectful questions	3	1.6
	Dating daily	3	1.6
	Uncooperative	2	1.1
	Latecomer in the house	2	1.1
	Taking advantage of girls weakness	1	0.5
	Carelessness in their duties	1	0.5

The findings in Table 4.33 show that the main bad behaviours seen in boys included drug abuse (14.3%), arrogance (12.6%), disrespectfulness (9.3%), inappropriate dressing style (8.2%), oppressing girls with work (2.7%), Other included fighting, dating daily, late-coming to the house, women behavior and careless in their duties. These behaviors seem to be caused or created by the fact that family structure is changing. Therefore we can say that change in family structure has led to these bad behaviours.

#### **4.4.10.1 Child indiscipline Status in School**

The respondents were asked to indicate if they have ever been called to school for any indiscipline case for their child or children. If so, they indicate how many times. To this, they responded as provided in Table 4.34.

**Table 4.34: Child indiscipline Status in School**

		<b>Have you ever been called to school for any indiscipline case for your child or children?</b>			
			<b>No Response</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>If yes, how many times?</b>	No Response	F	9	128	0
		%	100.0%	97.0%	0.0%
	Once	F	0	0	22
		%	0.0%	0.0%	53.7%
	Twice	F	0	2	14
		%	0.0%	1.5%	34.1%
	Thrice	F	0	1	1
		%	0.0%	0.8%	2.4%
	More than Thrice	F	0	1	4
		%	0.0%	0.8%	9.8%
	Total	F	9	132	41
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The findings in Table 4.34 showed that 132 out of 182 (73%) indicated that they had never been called to school for any indiscipline for their child or children, the rest either had been called or chose not to respond to the question. The 41 respondents that have been called to school indicated as follows: 53.7% of the 41 had been called once, 34.1% indicated twice, 9.8% indicated more than thrice. This show that not so many parents used in the study had been called to school for their children’s indiscipline cases, most of those that had been called indicated that had asked so once or twice. To establish the relationship between family structure and children’s indiscipline cases in schools a Pearson correlation was computed as shown as below.

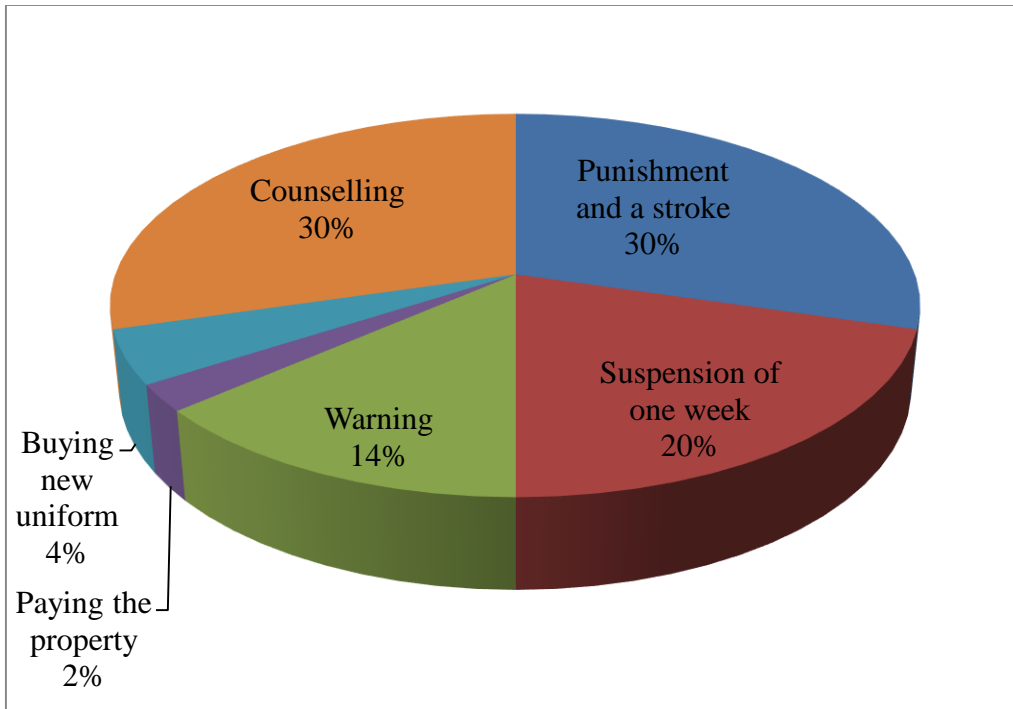
**Table 4.35: Relationship between Family Structure and Indiscipline cases of Children**

		<b>Family structure has changed</b>	<b>Indiscipline case for child or children</b>
Family structure has changed	Pearson	1	.046
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2- tailed)		.537
	N	182	182
Have you ever been called to school for any indiscipline case for your child or children?	Pearson	.046	1
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.537	
	N	182	182

The findings in Table 4.35 show that there is a positive Pearson correlation between changed family structure and indiscipline cases of children at 0.046. However, this is slightly below the significance level at 0.05. This implied that even though there is a relationship, it is not statistically significance. Other factors seem to be in play besides change in family structure in contributing to children indiscipline

#### **4.4.11 Action taken In Curbing Indiscipline**

The response in respect to the action taken to curd indiscipline cases among children are as provided in Figure 7.



**Figure 7: Action taken In Curbing Indiscipline**

The findings in Figure 7 show that the actions taken to address indiscipline among children included: punishment and a stroke (30%), counseling (30%), suspension of one week (20%), warning (14%), buying new uniform (4%), paying the property (2%). From the responses it emerges that the form of indiscipline determined the form of punishment to be applied. The study also shows that the children were also punished at home.

#### 4.4.12 Forms of Indiscipline among Children

The response to the forms of indiscipline was as provided in Table 4.36.

**Table 4.36: Forms of Indiscipline among Children**

	Frequency	Percentage
Irregular school attendance	11	6
Defiance	9	4.9
Rudeness to teachers	6	3.3
Harassing classmates	5	2.7
Chronic avoidance of work	3	1.6
Arriving late during opening day	3	1.6
Shortening of school uniform	2	1.1
Alcohol abuse	1	0.5
Lack of respect of property	1	0.5
Harassing classmates and Verbal insults	1	0.5
Exam Malpractice	1	0.5
Make-up Application	1	0.5
My child is disciplined	138	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>100</b>

As shown in Table 4.36, while 76% of the respondents indicated that they did not notice indiscipline cases in their children, the rest reported the following forms of indiscipline seen in their children. Irregular school or class attendance (6%), defiance (4.9%), rudeness to teachers (3.3%), harassing classmates (2.7%), chronic avoidance of work (1.6%), arriving late during opening day and shortening of school uniform. Other forms of indiscipline included: alcohol abuse, lack of respect of property, harassing classmates and verbal insults, exam malpractice, and make-up application.

#### 4.4.13 Time Spent with Children in a Week

The response in respect to the amount of time spent with children in a week was as provided in Table 4.37.

**Table 4.37: Time Spent with Children in a Week**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Never available to spend time with children	15	8%
Less than twenty four hours per week	43	24%
Between one day and three days	78	43%
More than three days	46	25%
	182	100%

The findings in Figure 10 show that 43% of the parents indicated that they spent between one and three days with their children, 25% spent more than three days, 24% spent less than 24 hours per week, while 8% never spent time with their children. This implied that very few parents could afford spending more time with their children. This could be due to changes brought about by occupation and busy schedules. When looking at section 4.2.5 of this document we note that 70.9% of the respondents were employed and some self-employed. This explains why a high number could only spend between one and three days with their children preferably over the weekends.

#### 4.4.14 Most Undisciplined Child Gender wise

The respondents were told to indicate which child was most undisciplined or misbehaved child (boy or girl) well as indicate the reason why, and the results are as provided in Table 4.38.



**Table 4.38: Most Undisciplined Child Gender wise**

		<b>Which child is most undisciplined or misbehaves?</b>			
			<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>None</b>
If yes what could be the reason	Not Applicable	F	33	3	74
		%	39.3%	25.0%	86.0%
	Young age	F	3	4	2
		%	3.6%	33.3%	2.3%
	Peer Pressure	F	34	2	5
		%	40.5%	16.7%	5.8%
	Arrogant	F	11	0	4
		%	13.1%	0.0%	4.7%
	None	F	0	0	1
		%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
	Disobedient	F	1	1	0
		%	1.2%	8.3%	0.0%
	Too Much love by parents	F	0	2	0
		%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%
	Freedom	F	2	0	0
		%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Total		F	84	12	86
		%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The findings in Table 4.38 show that most of undisciplined children according to most of the respondents were boys representing 84 out of 182, while girls represented 12 out of 182. The main factors contributing to the forms of indiscipline included: peer pressure which counted for 40.5% (male) and 16.7% (female) and young age for girls (33.3%). Too much love by parents was a contributor to girls indiscipline. Other reasons cited include freedom and arrogance.

#### 4.4.15 Freedom due to Family Structure

The findings in respect to whether or not parents accord their children freedom to do whatever they want was as provided in Table 4.39.

**Table 4.39: Freedom due to Family Structure**

	Not		No		Yes		Total
	Applicable						
	F	%	F	%	F	%	
Have you had cases of teenage pregnancy in your home?	20	11	154	84.6	8	4.4	100
Are your children free to do what they want?	0	0	162	89	20	11	100
Have you had to delegate some of your roles to the house-help?	2	1.1	59	28	121	70.9	100

The findings in Table 4.39 show that most parents had no cases of teenage pregnancies at their homes represented by 84.6%, while those who had such cases, were represented by 4.4%. 162 respondents (89%) said that their children are not free to do what they want while 20 respondents represented by 11% said that their children are free to do what they want. This therefore shows that most parents are concerned into shaping their children behavior, to become better members of the society. Majority of the parents delegated some of their roles to the house help as represented by 70.9% while 28% of the parents did not delegate any roles to the house help. This shows that 121 of the respondents had full trust to their house helps as opposed to 59 respondents.

#### 4.4.16 Roles delegated to the House help

The results to whether parents delegated roles to house help, was presented in Table 4.40

**Table 4. 40: Roles Delegated to the House Help**

	Not		No		Yes		Total	
	Applicable							Percentage
	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Family investment	52	29	128	70	2	1	100	
Paying of the bills (electricity, water etc)	50	27	124	68	8	4	100	
Paying for children(s) education	52	29	126	69	4	2	100	
Upkeep of the family	54	30	104	57	24	13	100	
Doing laundry	54	30	36	20	93	51	101	
Preparing meals	52	29	26	14	104	57	100	
Grocery shopping	52	29	37	20	93	51	100	
Cleaning house	52	29	18	10	112	62	100	
Washing dishes	52	29	12	7	118	65	100	
Caring for children	55	30	35	19	92	51	100	
Disciplining/punishing children	54	30	81	45	47	26	100	
Working in the yard	55	30	72	40	55	30	100	
Making minor home repairs	54	30	88	48	40	22	100	

The findings show in Table 4.40, some of the major roles delegated to house helps included washing dishes (65%), cleaning the house (62%), preparing meals ( 57%), doing laundry, grocery shopping, and caring for children represented by 51% respectively. Most respondents indicated that house helps were not delegated family investment (70%), paying bills (68%), paying for children education (59%), and upkeep of the family (54%). This shows that these roles were majorly undertaken by the parents included doing laundry, preparing meals, grocery shopping, cleaning house, washing dishes and caring for children.

#### 4.4.16.1 Why Parents delegated some roles to the House Helps.

The findings as why parents delegated some roles to the house helps, was as presented in Table 4.41.

**Table 4.41: Why Parents Delegated Some Roles to the House Helps**

	Frequency	Percentage
Not Applicable	52	28.6
Nature of occupation	101	55.5
Attending college	2	1.1
Responsibility for them to perform those duties	17	9.3
Avoiding Idleness	1	0.5
General work that does not require confidentiality	1	0.5
Not answered	6	3.3
To avoid overworking my children	2	1.1
Total	182	100

The findings in Table 4.41 show that most respondents (101 out of 182) delegated some of the roles to the house helps because of the nature of their occupation as represented by 55.5%. 52 respondents represented by 28.6% saw no need to delegate roles to the house helps.

#### 4.5 How Changing Family Structures Has Influenced Gender Roles in Nakuru Municipality

The response as to how changing family structure has influenced gender roles in Nakuru town was as provided in Table 4.42.

**Table 4.42: How Changing Family Structures has Influenced Gender Roles in Nakuru Municipality**

	<b>N</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
Most household chores are done by women.	182	1	5	4.04	1.223
Currently women have been forced to take up family responsibilities that earlier on were performed by men.	182	1	5	3.95	1.238
As children grow up irrespective of gender they tend to identify more with their mothers.	182	1	5	3.62	1.246
Men tend to be listened to and obeyed more than the women in the households.	182	1	5	3.56	1.027
Women contribute more towards the upkeep of the family	182	1	5	3.52	1.353
In current times most men have lost the headship position in the households in decision-making.	182	1	5	3.47	1.345
Women have more influence on their children behavior than men.	182	1	5	3.47	1.338
Women take care of most of the financial responsibilities in the home.	182	1	5	3.40	1.291
Men have more authority over children than women in most households.	182	1	5	3.31	1.302
Your working life interferes with the gender roles you perform.	182	1	5	3.24	1.432
Men contribute more towards the education of their children.	182	1	5	3.11	1.562
Most of the ownership of the family property is owned by men.	182	1	5	3.03	1.599
Men pay for most bills in the household.	182	1	5	3.00	1.464
The male household is the main bread winner of this household.	182	1	5	2.97	1.392
Men are able to handle all conflicts within the household.	182	1	5	2.57	1.376
Women have more authority over property than men in most households.	182	1	5	2.42	1.271
Men take care of all issues concerning discipline in a home.	182	1	5	2.40	1.333
Men spend more time with their children.	182	1	5	2.33	1.367

The findings in Table 4.42 show that most household chores are done by women (4.04); currently women have been forced to take up family responsibilities that earlier on were performed by men (3.95); as children grow up irrespective of gender they tend to identify more with their mothers (3.62); men tend to be listened to and obeyed more than the women in the households (3.56); Women contribute more towards the upkeep of the family (3.52); In current times most men have lost the headship position in the households in decision-making (3.47); Women have more influence on their children behavior than men (3.47); Women take care of most of the financial responsibilities in the home (3.40); Men have more authority over children than women in most households (3.31); Your working life interferes with the gender roles you perform (3.24); Men contribute more towards the education of their children (3.11); Most of the ownership of the family property is owned by men (3.03); Men pay for most bills in the household (3.00).

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter summarizes and concludes the study as carried out. At the end of the chapter, some useful recommendations are proposed by the researcher to the school management, based on the research findings. This chapter comprises the summary of the study findings, conclusions of the study and recommendations; suggestions for further research and the study's contribution to existing knowledge. The purpose of the study was is to investigate changing family structures and their impactions on gender roles.

In order to accomplish this, the study was guided by the following research objectives;

- a) To examine factors leading to changing family structures.
- b) To explore how changing family structures has influenced gender roles in Nakuru Municipality.
- c) To ascertain influence of changing gender roles on children's behavior.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Findings**

This section contains a summary of the findings presented in the order of the research objectives.

- i. The study sought to examine factors leading to changing family structures. Forces such as globalization, rural urban migration and education level had jointly or severally accelerated change in family structure in Nakuru town. According to the findings, the main factors leading to changing family structures included high cost of living, nature of occupation and earning, level of education of women leading conflicts and divorce, marriage not a prerequisite for family, divorce and separation, responsibility sharing, neglect of responsibilities, and culture erosion and extra marital affairs.
- ii. Changing family structures has influenced gender roles in Nakuru Municipality in the following ways. Currently women have been forced to take up family responsibilities that earlier on were performed by men. As children grow up irrespective of gender they tend to identify more with their mothers; Women contribute more towards the upkeep of the family; In current times most men have lost the headship position in the households in decision-making (as shown by a mean score of 3.47); in some

households, women take care of most of the financial responsibilities in the home; and in some cases women have more authority over property than men in most households as opposed to the past.

- iii. Regarding the influence of changing gender roles on children's behavior, the study established as follows. The findings show that most children irrespective of the gender, tended to copy from the parent that was close to them. Now that the child was left with the maid, they copied mostly from the maids. The boys who were close to the mother ended up copying what the mother was doing as a result, a reversal of gender roles. Forms of Indiscipline were noticeable that could be linked to change parenting style. The findings show that most parents did not have enough time with their children in a week and had in fact delegated critical parenting roles to the maids.

### **5.3 Conclusions of the Study**

Based on the study findings the study concludes as follows:

- i. Family structure had indeed changed owing to forces such as globalization, education, rural-urban migration. This situation was further compounded with factors such as high cost of living, demanding occupation, level of education of women. These factors make the traditional family structure unfavorable to some couples. Education brings with it the understanding that small family size is better than large family size, and that women can manage family affairs without male dominance.
- ii. Changing family structures have had both positive and negative influences on gender roles. Women have been faced by circumstances to take up family responsibility. Consequently, there are situations where men have lost headship leaving women to exercise authority over property. Within the structures, men and women have learnt to appreciate each other's roles and redefine gender roles.
- iii. Most parents in Nakuru town seem to have delegated sensitive parental roles to the house helps. Children were copying very much from the house help since they spend very little time with their parents. Cases of undisciplined children are linked to failure of parents to exercise their direct authority to the children as it was in the past. In other words, change in family structure was a contributor to decaying morals.



#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Following the findings and conclusions the study recommends the following:

- i. The Government of Kenya should consider putting in place policies that define and guide families on the specific gender roles, since the change in family structure has led to unfavourable reversal of gender roles.
- ii. The Government of Kenya should consider availing resources and a supportive environment for educating families on the possible dangers associated on the shift of parental responsibilities on children due to change in family structure.
- iii. Parents should consider allocating time to be with their families away from their busy schedule so as to be able to provide adequate parental guidance and support to their children.
- iv. The Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Culture should consider putting policies in place that support the traditional family structure against harmful forces such as negative effects of globalization and negative education.
- v. The Government of Kenya should consider setting appropriate structures that reach the household level to detect, understand and resolve family structure oriented challenges that affect gender roles and parental responsibilities.
- vi. There is need for the Government of Kenya to take action against irresponsible parents to ensure that no children are adversely affected by the dynamics of family structure.

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**APPENDICES**  
**Appendix I - Questionnaire**

My name is Joyce Manyara. I am a Master of Arts student in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Egerton University. Currently I am carrying out a research on **Changing Family Structures and its Implications on Gender Roles**. You have been randomly selected to take part in this study by completing this questionnaire which will enable me collect the data needed to achieve the objectives of this study. The information provided herein will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Participation is voluntary.

I \_\_\_\_\_ accept to voluntary participate in this study.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A – Background Information**

This section of the questionnaire refers to background or biographical information of respondent.

Tick appropriate response and answer where applicable.

1. Gender

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Age

20 – 30       31 – 40       41 - 50       51 - 60

3. Level of your education.

Primary Education	Secondary	A Level	College	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Level of education of your spouse

Primary Education	Secondary	A Level	College	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Marital Status

Married	Married – Contractual*	Separated	Widowed	Divorced	Single

6. The number of persons residing in your house for the last two weeks \_\_\_\_\_

7. The number of children < 5 years residing at your house in the last two weeks? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you have an occupation? Please tick ✓ appropriate box

Yes  No

9. If yes what are you engaged in? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is your average monthly income?

≤10,000	
≤20,000	
≤30,000	
≤40,000	
≤50,000	
≤60,000	
≤70,000	
≤80,000	
≤90,000	
≥100,000	

11. What occupation is your spouse engaged in? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is their average monthly income? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B - (Factors Influencing Change in the Family Structures (i.e. changing from nuclear to single parenthood, cohabiting, step-parenthood etc.)**

Please tick ✓ appropriately

13. Do you think family structures have changed today?

Yes  No

\* A marriage between a prospective husband and wife, which settles in whole or in part their respective rights and obligations as regards the marriage.

14. If yes explain how?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

15. Has education contributed to changes in family structures?

Yes  No

16. If yes explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

17. Do you think rural-urban migration has contributed to changes in the family structure?

Yes  No

18. If yes, specify how?  
.....

19. In your opinion has globalization contributed to changes in the family structure?

Yes  No

20. If \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_ how?  
\_\_\_\_\_

-

21. Is occupation today contributing to changes in the family structure?

Yes  No

22. If \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ specify \_\_\_\_\_ how?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Section C - Changing Gender Roles**

23. Have gender roles changed today?

Yes  No

24. If yes, which roles have changed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

25. Explain how the roles mentioned above have changed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

26. What role(s) are you performing today that was not permissible in the olden days?  
\_\_\_\_\_



27. Has this caused any conflict at home?  
 Yes  No
28. If yes, describe the nature of conflict? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
29. Has this caused any conflict with extended members of the family?  
 Yes  No
30. What do you see your children copying from you?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
31. If you are a single parent who provides the father figure for your boy (s)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
32. What role (s) are still strictly male despite changing times?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
33. What role (s) are still strictly female despite the changing times?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
34. Do you assign specific roles/duties/activities to your children by gender?  
 Yes  No
- i) If yes, which ones?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Give reasons why? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
35. Are children rebellious over some duties?  
 Yes  No
36. If yes why?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

37. What strategies do you use to ensure the duties are done?

---

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38. What good behavior do you see in the girl(s)?

---

---

39. In the boy(s)?

---

---

40. What bad behavior do you see in the girl(s)?

---

---

41. In the boy(s)?

---

42. Please tick ✓ appropriately

**Section D- Gender Roles Influence on Family Structures**

**Please tick appropriately:**

- |                          |          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Strongly Agree</b>    | <b>-</b> | <b>1</b> |
| <b>Agree</b>             | <b>-</b> | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Uncertain</b>         | <b>-</b> | <b>3</b> |
| <b>Disagree</b>          | <b>-</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Strongly Disagree</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>5</b> |

Statements	Please tick ✓ appropriately				
	1	2	3	4	5
a. The male household is the main bread winner of this household.					
b. Men pay for most bills in the household.					
c. Most of the ownership of the family property is owned by men.					
d. Men take care of all issues concerning discipline in a home.					
e. Most household chores are done by women.					
f. Men spend more time with their children.					
g. As children grow up irrespective of gender they tend to identify more with their mothers.					
h. Men are able to handle all conflicts within the household.					
i. Women contribute more towards the upkeep of the family					
j. Men contribute more towards the education of their children.					
k. Women have more authority over property than men in most households.					
Statements	Please tick ✓ appropriately				
	1	2	3	4	5
l. Men have more authority over children than women in most households.					
m. Men tend to be listened to and obeyed more than the women in the households.					
n. In current times most men have lost the headship position in the households in decision-making.					
o. Women have more influence on their children behavior than men.					
p. Your working life interferes with the gender roles you perform.					
q. Women take care of most of the financial responsibilities in the home.					
r. Currently women have been forced to take up family responsibilities that earlier on were performed by men.					

**Section D -Influence of Changing Gender Roles on Children’s Behavior.**

43. Do you have any school going children?

Yes  No

44. If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

45. Have you ever been called to school for any indiscipline case for your child or children?

Yes  No

46. If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

47. Explain the action that was taken?

---

---

48. What was the nature of indiscipline?

S/No.	Nature of indiscipline	Please tick ✓ appropriately
1.	Cigarette Smoking	
2.	Alcohol	
3.	irregular school attendance	
4.	Harassing classmates	
5.	Verbal insults	
6.	Rudeness to teachers	
7.	Respect of property	
8.	Defiance	
9.	Chronic avoidance of work	
10.	Others (Please specify)	

49. Explain what activities you are engaged in when with the children? \_\_\_\_\_

---

50. How much time in a week do you spend with your children in a week? \_\_\_\_\_

51. Are indiscipline cases punished in your home?

Yes  No

52. If yes explain \_\_\_\_\_

---

53. Which child is most undisciplined or misbehaves?

Male	1
Female	2

54. If yes what could be the reason?

---

55. Have you had cases of teenage pregnancy in your home?

Yes  No

56. How many of your grandchildren have been born outside wedlock? .....

57. Are your children free to do what they want?

Yes  No

58. If yes, what are they allowed to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

59. What must they seek permission for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

60. Who grants permission?

Mother	<input type="checkbox"/>
Father	<input type="checkbox"/>

61. Have you had to delegate some of your roles to the house-help?

Yes  No

62. State the role (s)

S/No.	Role	Please tick ✓ appropriately
1.	Family investment	
2.	Paying of the bills (electricity, water etc)	
3.	Paying for children(s) education	
5.	Upkeep of the family	
6.	Doing laundry	
7.	Preparing meals	
8.	Grocery shopping	
9.	Cleaning house	
10.	Washing dishes	
11.	Caring for children	
12.	Disciplining/punishing children	
13.	Working in the yard	
14.	Making minor home repairs	
15.	Other (Please specify)	

63. Give reasons why \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The End.

Thank you so much for your time and co-operation.

## Appendix II –Key Informant Interview Guide

S/No.	Question	Answer
1.	Do you think family structures have changed today?	
2.	Has education contributed to changes in family structures?	
3.	Do you think rural-urban migration has contributed to changes in the family structure?	
4.	Has globalization contributed to changes in the family structure?	
5.	Is career today contributing to changes in the family structure?	
6.	Have women taken up gender roles performed by the men?	
7.	Do men pay for most bills in the household?	
8.	Does most of the ownership of the family property belong to the men?	
9.	Do you think most men have lost their headship position in the household?	
10.	Do you think women contribute more towards the upkeep of the family?	
11.	Are there cases of misbehavior among children such as smoking, illegal, substance abuse e.g. drugs, alcohol?	
12.	What would you say contributes to children's misbehavior?	
13.	Are parents spending enough time with their children today?	
14.	Are there cases of teenage pregnancy today?	

The End.

Thank you so much for your time and co-operation.