

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHARACTERISTICS OF
FAMILIES WHICH NEGLECT AND ABUSE CHILDREN: A
CASE OF RIFT VALLEY PROVINCE, KENYA.**

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BY

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A research Project Report submitted to the Graduate School in partial fulfillment
for the requirements for the award of degree of Master of Education Degree
in Guidance and counselling of Egerton University.

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EGERTON UNIVERSITY

MARCH, 2005

DECLARATION

I declare that this research project report is my original work and has not been presented for the award of diploma or degree in any other university.

Signed 

Date: 29/6/2005.

Name: David Nguti Wanyonyi

RECOMMENDATION

This research project report has been submitted for examination with my approval as University supervisor.

Signed 

Date: 29/6/05

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2008/73250 X

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my wife Margaret Nafula Wanyonyi and my daughter Selina Nangila Nguti, whose financial and moral support made this work possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Enormous amount of debt was accumulated in the course of research and writing of this project as well as the whole of this Masters Programme. In a bid to pay some of this debt, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the following people, without whom this study would not have been successful.

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However, I alone bear the full responsibility of the contents and shortcomings of this study.

May the good Lord Bless you all.

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ABSTRACT

For most people the idea that families neglect and abuse their children seems unreal. The truth is that families like these do live in our towns and cities though they are unknown to most people. This study aimed to trace the characteristics of families that neglect and abuse children. It sought to learn what these families are like, how they live and how they can be recognised. The study employed exploratory survey design whereby the population was cases filed with Child Welfare department in Rift Valley province. A total of 180 families were selected from seven different localities, that included two rural areas, two medium sized and two urban areas and one municipality. These included Nakuru, Kericho and Uasin Gishu districts. The records were selected by the judgement of professionally trained supervisors, as representatives of the total group of such cases of families coming to the department. The sample of 147 cases was purposively selected from the seven localities. Questionnaires and interview schedules were utilised for data collection, and the data was analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings of this study indicated that parents who abused and neglected their children tended to be indifferent to all the behaviour of their children. In order to effectively carry out future research and prevent child neglect and abuse some recommendations were made which include the community involvement in combating child abuse.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The actual incidence of child neglect and abuse are not known. There is wide disagreements as to the number of children who are neglected and abused each year in the Republic of Kenya. Sexual abuse is becoming alarmingly prevalent in Kenya exposing children to grave dangers; including HIV/AIDS infection. Evidence from a research carried out for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) shows that 10% of children are being abused by close family members. The worst scenario is in secondary schools, where 25% of girls, most of them at puberty record having been harassed by their teachers Children Act Monitor (August-September 008/3). Not that boys are any safer, for cases are being reported in some districts where they are sexually molested by older women. All these are happening regardless of the fact that the children Act expressly protects children from any form of abuse.

The unfortunate thing about child sex abuse is that it hardly comes out in open, especially when it involves close family members. Not only are the children helpless but they also do not know how to raise the matter and with whom. Also fear of discrimination should they ever reveal anything keeps weighing heavily on them. Cumulatively, all these show a society on the brink of destruction. One in which morals have been thrown out of the society. Therefore the challenge to the Children's Department, UNICEF and other organisations dealing with children's is to mount serious campaigns targeting parents, schools and communities to make them aware of the dangers facing children and of the ways of redressing the abhorrent practice.

While it is critical for the government and its partners to sensitize the public on the provisions of the children Act, efforts need to be made to provide parents and guardians with basic skills to detect cases of child neglect and abuse. As noted in the children Act Monitor (August-September 008/03) residents of a Nairobi estate rescued two children, aged eight and nine from four months of persecution at the hands of a step-mother and a negligent father. The children were nursing injuries on their chests and limbs. According to the neighbours who alerted the press about the children's plight, the wounds were inflicted by whippings and beating by the relatives. The children lived with their father and step-mother in a one roomed wooden shanty at Kibera, near the Langata sailing club. Local residents said that the two boys had also been starved. Another case of abuse was also reported in Nakuru district, where a man was charged with defiling a 12 year old girl. The man aged 40 appeared before a Nakuru court charged with the offence which was said to have been committed at Gatungu farm in Kabazi Nakuru district. The offender was said to be a relative to the victim.

Many children today are still victims, and the magnitude of the problem cannot be known with certainty. Experts admit that they really do not know how many children are victims of child neglect and abuse. Reliable information on the behaviour of parents who neglect and abuse is not available because of incidents and situations that are to be classified as child neglect and abuse, and also because of the non-public nature of many cases. According to Kempe and Others (1778) they stated that the lack of suitable definitions is primary source of confusion, misunderstanding and limited communication among investigators of child neglect and abuse. Others (Borland, Andrew and Headsten, 1978) have stated that at the present time child neglect and abuse has been adequately defined. The resulting problems were discussed by Zolba (1998), that it is often difficult for agents of societal institutions that is, physicians, nurses, social workers, teachers,

police, prosecutors, judges as well as concerned relatives and neighbours to decide when the time has been crossed between severe punishment and physical assault, even though the polar extremes are fairly clear.

There are very few reports on child neglect and abuse in schools and children's institutions although this kind of neglect and abuse is known to occur frequently all over the country. There are also no systematic records of the massive abuse and neglect of children due to inadequate medical care, inadequate education, and living conditions. Since abuse incidents tend to occur in the privacy of the home, all may not come to the attention of individuals or institutions who are required to report. These individuals and institutions may not actually report all the cases known to them. Physicians in private practice may be less ready to report incidents than are those in public hospitals.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There has been, until recently little but the newspaper reports of the occasional case to alert any one of the fact that child neglect and abuse exists in any great degree. Not the least strange aspect of this problem is the relative silence which has until last few years shrouded it. The very unpleasantness of the subject gives most people an impulse to turn away from it, and makes it easy to assume that there is no need for critical inquiry. These suggested the need for this study to trace the characteristics of families that neglect and abuse children in the country, to learn what these families are like, how they live and how they can be recognised and helped.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to trace the characteristics of families that neglect and abuse children.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of this study included:

- i) To find out if families that neglect children are different from families that try to destroy them.
- ii) To find out if there are different degrees of child neglect and child abuse.
- iii) To find out how these parents behave towards each other and toward their relatives and neighbours.

1.5 Research Questions

Questions to guide this study were stated as follows:

- i) Are families that neglect children different from families that try to destroy them.
- ii) Are there different degrees of child neglect and child abuse.
- iii) How do parents who neglect and abuse children behave towards each other and towards their relatives and neighbours.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study is significant on the ground that addressing this problem by identifying the characteristics of families that neglect and abuse children may help in reducing cases

of child neglect and abuse in the country. It is also important that the findings of the study can help the government and its partners to sensitise the public on the provisions of the children Act, and foster greater public understanding of parents and guardians that neglect and abuse children. Families hopefully can learn to do much more and greatest possibilities of change can come with the children.

1.7 Assumption of the Study

This study was based on the assumptions that:

- i) Families that were included in the study sample gave the required information honestly.
- ii) Appropriate information was obtained in the departments of children welfare.

1.8 Limitations and Scope of the Study

This study covered three districts that included Nakuru, Uasin Gishu and Kericho districts in Rift Valley Province. In each district one rural area, one medium sized area and one urban area and Nakuru municipality were targeted. Social agencies departments in each district were the main source of information and were used for the purpose of selecting files and locating the respondents. The study was somehow limited in the sense that some of the families had moved from localities of the study and other families were uncooperative in disclosing their own behaviours.

1.9 Definition of Terms

The following terms were operationally used in the study.

Abuse: Is hurting/mistreating a child causing physical as well as emotional pain.

Bruise: An injury that does not break the skin but causes raptures of small underlying vessels with resultant discoloration of tissue.

Burn: Injury produced by burning.

Caretaker: Anyone responsible for the health and well-being of a child. A caretaker may be a parent, guardian, foster parent, teacher, baby sitter, or other person charged with the care of a child.

Injury: A damaging wounding or maiming which adversely affects health, looks, comfort, or success.

Malnutrition: Faulty or inadequate nutrition, state resulting from inadequate or improper feeding.

Neglect: Failure to provide the basic needs of a child or leaving a child without any care or under the care of strangers.

Physical abuse: These are physically harmful actions directed against a child. It could be by inflicting injury such as bruises, burns, head injuries, poisoning, killing, pulling ears, hitting the head on the wall, slapping, caning, kicking, battering and child labour.

Public hospital: A hospital that receives financial support from the government and offers secondary health care through out-patient or in-patient services.

Scar: A mark left by the healing of injured tissue.

Sexual abuse: The involvement of a child with a parent, caretaker or an adult in any form of sexual activity and/or exploitation to which the child cannot give consent by law, or because of their ignorance, dependence, developmental immaturity or fear.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The review of literature is organised in a way to present the history of child neglect and abuse, causes and dynamics of neglect and abuse, types of injuries, demographic characteristics of neglected and abused children, characteristics of abusive and neglective parents, socio economic status of the family, and theoretical framework.

2.2 History of Child Neglect and Abuse

Violence towards children is not a new phenomenon. Brutality in its many forms is deeply rooted in our cultural and religious history (Thomas, 1998). Throughout the years some kinds of child neglect and abuse have been justified and rationalised in many ways. In primitive times, the explanation involved the believed need to please certain gods or to expel evil spirits. Ritualistic killing, maiming, and severe punishing of children in attempts to educate them, exploit them or to sometimes rid them of evil spirits have been part of history since biblical times. Throughout the bible there runs a theme of child murder and abuse. The bible narrates the story of Moses where the Pharaoh ordered the slaying of children, by ordering the mid wives to kill the young ones. Then, upon learning that they failed to carry out his orders, he commanded that all male children be cast into the river. Deuteronomy 21:14 states "Thou shall beat him with the rod, and shall deliver his soul from hell".

Sampson commented on neglect and abuse that, "children have died of it for centuries, and those it does not kill outright are frequently crippled" (Sampson, 1996).

Infanticide has been documented so much in almost every culture, both civilized and uncivilised, that it can almost be considered a universal phenomenon. Many reasons have been given for the murdering of the young children that includes, the maintenance of discipline, the elimination of defective, religious superstition and the presence of a cultural system in which children were not highly valued (Fontana, 1984). It is also observed by (Fontana, 1984) that infanticide has been practiced throughout history to limit family size, to relieve the financial burden, and to assure crop growth by human sacrifice to the appropriate gods. He claims that children have been slain, abandoned, and sold into slavery by parents unable to support them, by individuals and nurses greedy for money, and by rulers fearing loss of their powers. Other children, perhaps more fortunate than those murdered were mutilated to increase their appeal as beggars or freak performers. Mutilation included gouged eyes, deformed feet, and amputated limbs (Thomas, 1998).

Aristotle was quoted by Russel (1974) "The justice of a master or a father is a different thing from that of a citizen, for a son or a slave is property, and there can be no injustice to one's own property". The idea of ownership gave the Roman father the right to sell, abandon, kill, devour, or dispose of his offspring's (Van Stolic, 1976). Block (1973) reported that during the Alexandrian era abandoned infants were left on dung heaps and devoured by dogs or were sold as slaves. The recurring theme of "spare the rod and spoil the child" persists in child-rearing practices and is only currently being challenged by the emerging idea that children are persons with rights of their own for which society must take responsibility.

As stated above, child neglect and abuse has been part of our culture throughout the years, but only recently has been pattern of neglect and abuse been identified and described in terms of an emerging understanding of the phenomenon through different types of principles, in this surge of interest, the problems of neglected and abused children

are taking on a new phase in our history. Child neglect and abuse has become a monumental challenge.

2.3 Causes and Dynamics of Neglect and Abuse

There is at present an extensive body of literature presenting various theories on the causes of child neglect and abuse. Some authors emphasize the psychological components while others stress factors of social and economic stress, social isolation, and unemployment. Others give special attention to the interplay of mental, physical and emotional stresses. Another dimension of the phenomenon results from specific child-rearing traditions and practices of different social classes and ethnic groups and the different attitudes these groups hold towards physical force as an acceptable measure in rearing their children. In addition, the environment change circumstances may transform an acceptable disciplinary measure into an unacceptable outcome resulting in relatively severe injury to the child. Another cause involves many environmental stress factors which may weaken, or even temporarily paralyse a person's ability to control his impulses and aggressive and destructive feeling towards powerless children. Underlying these pressures is the traditional acceptance of some amount of physical discipline, while discipline practices vary widely, there is generally understood to be a line somewhere over which parents do not step. In times of intense frustration or personal pressures parents sometimes do slide over that line.

Kempe (1978) believes that the actions of parents – child bitterness are based on modelling, that is, parents who were beaten excessively themselves come to be parents who beat their own children. Fontana (1984) suggest that while there is in a culture a relationship between children rearing beliefs and the acts of violence against children pity is extremely difficult to accept the possible implication that the deliberate and sometimes ingenious torture inflicted by so many abusing child-care individuals is a natural

extension. He says that parents who question themselves in their attitude, who are aware of their flashes of anger, who do not blame their children for their own abuse, who are concerned about their disciplinary motivations, and who wonder if their instinct to retaliate is normal and then restrain themselves instead are not abusers.

According to Steele (1978) there are certain personality factors and traits prominent in abusive and neglectful parents, these include immaturity, association dependency, extremely low self-esteem, a sense of incompetence and difficulty in seeking pleasure and finding satisfaction in the adult world. Such parents are characterized by social isolation and a reluctance to seek help, significant misperceptions of the child, a fear of spoiling children, and strong belief in the value of punishment and a serious lack of ability to be strongly aware of the child's conditions and needs.

2.4 Types of Injuries

It can not always be accurately predicted of what effect abuse and neglect will have because victims most often suffer multiple damage and individual susceptibility to harm differs. Also, while each type of maltreatment is distinct in principle, in practice there is so much overlapping that rarely only one type of abuse or neglect is seen, at least when a troubled family is observed over a long period of time. This overlapping and coincidence is one reason people are inclined to link abuse and neglect under the broader term maltreatment, whether the terms abuse and neglect, or maltreatment are used, the central issue remains one of protecting the child from damage and exploitation and setting and enforcing high standards of care for children.

The types of injuries inflicted upon children are many and appear in different forms. Baken (1974) reported that children have been whipped, beaten, starved, smashed against walls and floors, held in ice water baths, exposed to extremes of outdoor temperatures, burned with hot irons and steam pipes. Children have been tied and kept in

upright positions for long periods. They have been systematically exposed to electric shocks, forced to swallow pepper, soil, urine, vinegar, alcohol, and other odious materials, buried alive, had scanting water poured over their genitals, had their limbs held in open fire, placed in roofs and fire escapes in such a manner as to fall off, placed in roadways where automobiles would run over them, bitten, knifed, and shot and had their eyes gonged out.

There are definite factors known to be harmful to all children but they must be qualified, physical factors in the extreme are the clearest, at least in comparison with more subtle, less obvious manifestations and particularly with reference to children's psychosocial development. It becomes more difficult to answer any question that calls for fine lines of discrimination. Despite the fact that possible types of injuries resulting from abuse are extremely varied, physicians and others have attempted to describe the types of injuries commonly resulting from maltreatment. Fontana (1984) described the abused child as having a history of failure to thrive, malnutrition, anaemia, poor skin hygiene, irritability, a repressed personality and other obvious signs of obvious neglect. The more severely abused children are seen in emergency rooms of hospitals with external evidences of body trauma, bruises, abrasion, cuts, lacerations, burns, soft tissue swelling and haematomas.

Schloesser (1984) surveyed Kansas physicians and found that 14 to 85 abuse cases were reported as fatal. Elmer and Gregg (1987) studied sequelae to abuse in 50 children and found eight had subsequently been killed. Greengard (1974) reported that six out of 34 abused children treated at one hospital were later killed by their caretakers. Nutritional deprivation has also been frequently reported as a cause of death (Dowan and Duckworth, 1978). As can be seen by the examples cited, abused children are fatally injured by a variety of means. The review of the literature concerned with types of

injuries should be interpreted with some caution since no studies could be found which utilized sampling techniques to obtain a representative study group. The studies cited, however, probably represent typical populations of severely abused cases as seen by medical personnel.

2.5 Demographic Characteristics of Neglected and Abused Children

Some attempts have been made to identify and describe the demographic characteristics of abused and neglected children. Perhaps the most amazing characteristics of the human being is its flexibility and adaptability. Children can learn to live with a wide range of circumstances. The price that children pay for this adaptability is often developmental damage if they must adapt to unhealthy circumstances. Those who live in abusive and neglectful environment learn to accommodate to the hurtful things they experience. There are several normal processes through which they are damaged. These processes have been described and observed by many clinicians, theoreticians, and researchers. Johnson and Morse (1988) found that 50 percent of their sample of 101 children was under the age of three. Kemp et al (1978) stated that the majority of the cases was preschoolers, O Neil, Meacham, Griffin, and Sawyers (1976) found that the majority of the 110 children in their study were under two years of age. Gil (1976) found that boys were abused and neglected more frequently than girls for every age group under the age of twelve years and neglected more frequently than girls for every age group under the age of twelve years.

Some reasons have been given for the very young child's vulnerability to abuse; Gil (1976) found that economic hardship was a factor in one half of the cases studied. In another study he reported that the mother as the attacking parent in 50 out of 60 cases. However in cases where the caretaker was reversed, and the mother worked outside the home, the father was more abusive. Simons et al (1976) found that mothers were

perpetrators in 29 percent of the cases and the father in 19 percent. Hall (1987) quoted two studies, one which stated that fathers are responsible for more abuse and neglect than mothers and another which stated that mothers are responsible for more abuse and neglect than fathers.

2.6 Characteristic of Abusive and Neglective Parents

Parents who abuse, or neglect do not appear unusual. They are not necessary psychotic or cruel. Abusing parents are usually ordinary people caught up in the complexities of life. They are often isolated by their own choice and find it difficult to reach out to others for the support and help they need in order to gain control of their lives. It is impossible and impractical to try to categorize the abusing and neglecting parent. Abuse and neglect are found in every category. Abusers are white, black, brown, yellow, and red. Abusers are atheistic, agnostic, protestant, Jewish, Muslims and Catholics. They live in the wealthiest suburbs and in slums. They live in city houses and in rural farms. They tend to share only two common characteristics, they abuse and neglect their children, and they need and usually want help. However, a few general characteristics seem to occur often in research about abusing and neglecting parents. These characteristics do not fit all parents, but they tend to combine with others.

According to Elmer and Gregg (1987), one characteristic is the preference to privacy that leads to isolation. Abusing and neglecting parents are isolated from supportive groups such as friends, relatives, neighbours and the community as a whole. They also consistently fail to participate in community gatherings. Another one that shows up often in the research is the lack of trust. They seem to trust no one. This inability to trust makes it difficult to develop relationships. It makes it difficult to reach out to others when they are in need. Consequently, the lack of trust combined with a preference for privacy and isolation produces loneliness and depression. A majority of

abusing and neglecting parents were abused or neglected by their own parents, experienced deprivations if not physical abuse as children. During the past years extensive efforts have been made to identify psychological explanations of abuse. Attempts have been made to identify common traits in the abuser as well as in the child who has been maltreated.

The analysis of the literature concerned with psychological characteristics of abusers has shown that some researchers have postulated an association between abuse and mental disorders. In a small sample of four cases Cohen, Rephling, and Green (1996) reported that each family was impulsive, immature, and burdened with emotional problems. In a study by John and Morse (1978) 35 percent were disturbed. Sussman (1998) stated that mental disease, chronic brain syndrome, paranoid schizophrenia, neurotic tendencies and extreme immaturity were found in all nine out of 21 abusive families. Delsordo (1993) however, only found four cases of mental illness among 80 cases of mental illness. Reinhart and Elmar (1994) stated that "it seems safe to venture that every abused child represents an accumulation of acute psychological and social problems". They further noted that abusive parents had a tendency to translate affect states into activity without intervention of conscious thought or intolerable self-hatred. Young (1984) reported that such parents had a pervasive fascination with the punishment of children. Fulk (1984) stated that abusers may possess strong aggressive tendencies, impulsive behaviours, and inadequate mechanisms for controlling impulsive behaviour.

2.7 Socio-Economic Status of the Family

Sociologist Serapio R Zolba provided an alternative explanation for the over-representative of the lower socio-economic classes in abused and neglected samples. "Lower-class parents find that their misconduct is everyone's business. More educated upper-class parents are less visible. They use the means to conceal their actions" (Zolba

quoted in Fontana 1984). Holter and Friedmon (1978) studied abusive and neglectful families and concluded that these families had found organizational links within their communities and Gil (1971) cited the lack of community involvement. Young (1977) cited economic stress, lack of family roots, lack of financial support from the extended families and social isolation. The age of abusers has also been investigated. Van Stolk (1996) reported that the average for fathers was approximately 30 years and the average for the mothers was 26 years. Others (Holter and Friedman, 1998) reported a slightly younger average, mothers were 23 years and father were 25 years. These findings however, must be interpreted in light of the fact that reporting rates may be higher among certain socio-economic groups.

2.8 Characteristics of Abused and Neglected Children.

It is clearly known from observation that even in the same family, children differ greatly. One child may be passive, quiet and uninterested in people while another may be excitable aggressive, hyperactive, and boisterous. Thus it is difficult to try to characterize abused and neglected children. Often abuse and neglect start at birth. Sometimes in the first few moments after birth parents react negatively towards the new born. If parents hand expectations which are other than what they see they form a negative opinion that continues through the child-rearing years. Strangely, abused and neglected children do not usually express hatred toward abusive and neglectful parents. In fact, a child will often refuse to admit that abuse and neglect has occurred. He or she does not understand his or her parents behaviour and often believes that the abuse and neglect occurred because she/her did something wrong. The child will therefore feel guilty about his/her supposed misbehaviour and will seek love and forgiveness from the abusive and neglectful parents.

Milowe and Lourie (1994) suggested that children contributed to the abuse and neglect through their defects. Some such defects have been identified. Morris, Gould, and

Mathews (1996) have stated that children with toilet training problems are likely to be linked with abuse and neglect. Terr (1978) noted that withdraw and indifference are often observed in abused and neglected children. That abused and neglected children are frequently depressed and passive. Bryant et al (1978) postulated that the deviant behaviour exhibited by these children are the result of abuse and neglects. Indeed as pointed out, certain problems result from physical abuse. The fact that there is agreement among authors that abused and neglected children are often disturbed seems to indicate that a correlation between abuse and deviant behaviours is likely to exist.

2.9 Conceptual Framework

Keeping people together under one roof is not the same as maintaining the family. Children born out of wedlock are always victims of neglects and abuse from stepparents. This emanates from the weak bond of love between them. Family differences or disputes, quarrels and fights also lead to physical abuse of children. Children find themselves embroiled in these kinds of fight or are hurt unknowingly. Poverty has a major impact on families and this lead to child labour. At times the stress that parents go through because of poverty leads to the physical abuse and neglect of children. Drugs have great influence on people and most of those who use then end up neglecting and physically abusing children. Children from divorce marriages in the hands of the uncaring parents who physically abuse them. In polygamous homes, there are cases of physical abuse because of the animosity existing between different mothers.

Pressure from parents who demand excellence from their children especially in education. Communal violence such as the tribal clashes that started in 1991. Whenever there are rival groups fighting children are neglected or abused. The effects of child neglect and abuse can be summarised as physical injuries, development of delinquency, run away from home and find a temporary solace in the streets. Other effects may include

poor performance in school, school drop out, stunted growth and development and the involvement in drug abuse and harmful substances and finally death.

Independent Variables

Extraneous Variables

Dependent Variables

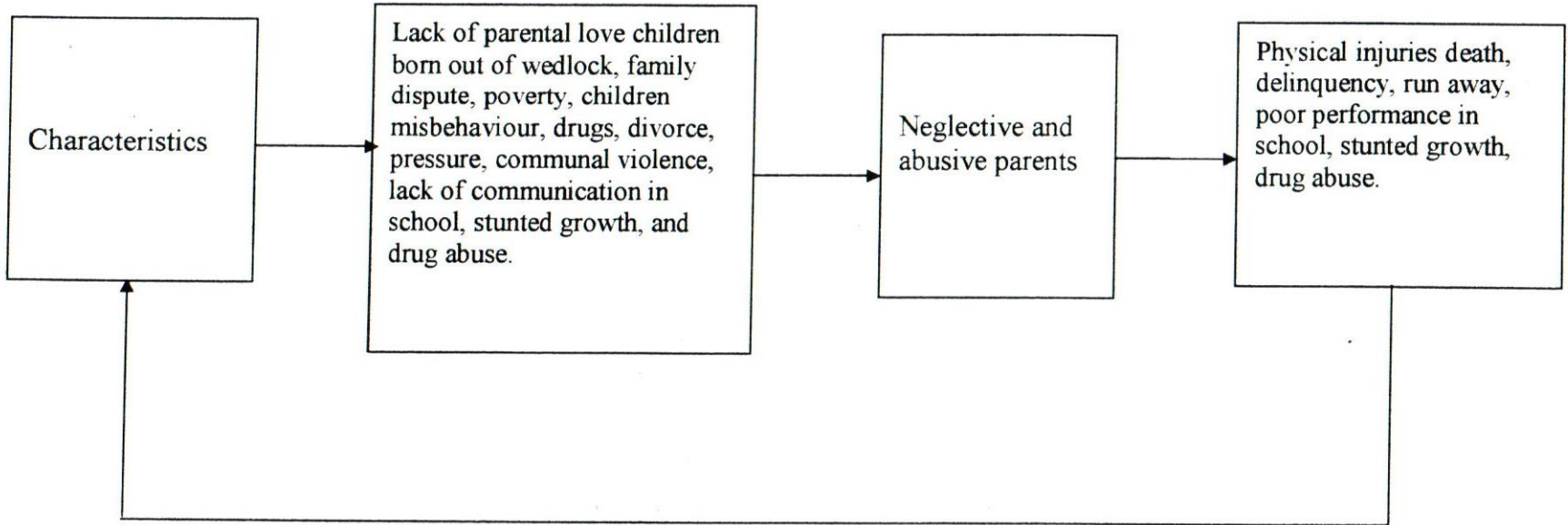


Fig 2.1. Causes and effects of child neglect and abuse

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter dealt with the description of the research procedures. These includes the research design, location of the study, population, sample and sampling procedure, instrumentation, data collection procedures and data analysis.

3.2 Research design

The study was an exploratory survey, which employed an ex post facto design whereby no treatment was given to the respondents before the study was conducted. This design was selected because it appropriately allowed the investigation of the independent variables and the dependent variables.

3.3 Location of the Study

The study was conducted in Nakuru, Uasin Gishu and Kericho districts. The localities represented all the categories of the sample. These locations were chosen because they are urban ad cosmopolitan, thus representative of almost the whole of the population of the country in terms of social, economic and cultural backgrounds found in the country. There are people of high, medium and low social-economic status. Persons from almost all ethnic groups and religious backgrounds are also found in these locations.

3.4 Population

The target population for this study were cases filed with public child welfare agencies in Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, and Kericho districts in Rift Valley province during the years of 2000 – 2004 as shown in the tables below. These welfare agencies are charged with handling cases of child neglect and abuse. A total of 180 families were selected from seven localities within the three districts.

Table 3.1: Population size of victims in Nakuru District

YEAR	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
2000	4	3	7
2001	6	5	11
2002	8	7	15
2003	8	6	14
2004	12	7	19
TOTAL	38	28	66

Table 3.1: Population size of victims in Uasin Gishu District

YEAR	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
2000	5	3	8
2001	5	5	10
2002	7	4	11
2003	9	5	14
2004	8	4	12
TOTAL	34	21	55

Table 2.3: Population size of victims in Kericho District

YEAR	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
2000	4	5	9
2001	5	6	11
2002	9	8	17
2003	4	7	11
2004	6	5	11
TOTAL	28	31	59

3.5 Sample and Sampling Procedure

All records were selected by the judgement of professionally trained officers, as representative of the total group of such families coming to their agency between 2000 and 2004. Out of 180 cases which were purposively selected for the study, only 147 families were located and studied. All the three districts were well represented as can be seen in the table below.

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Table 3.3: Sample Size

DISTRICT	AREA	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
	MUNICIPALITY	7	5	12
NAKURU	RURAL	8	2	10
	SMALL TOWN	6	4	10
	URBAN	8	5	13
UASIN GISHU	RURAL	10	8	18
	SMALL TOWN	9	6	15
	URBAN	12	8	20
KERICHO	RURAL	8	7	15
	SMALL TOWN	14	4	18
	URBAN	13	3	16
TOTAL		95	52	147

3.6 Instrumentation

Two instruments were used. There was a checklist schedule to help in locating the families that were identified to participate in the study. The other instrument was used as a self-administered questionnaire for parents who can read and write. The same instrument was also used as an interview schedule for parents of low educational level. The questionnaire was used to obtain information about the parents behaviour towards children, marital roles, and family standards of behaviour.

3.7 Data collection Procedures

A research permit was obtained from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Thereafter, authority was sought from the Provincial Child Welfare Department to conduct research – utilising records of cases reported to the department from 2000 – 2004. The researcher then travelled to the three districts and administered the questionnaires and conducted the interviews with other participants.

3.8 Data Analysis

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences was used in the analysis. The data was analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Percentages were used to describe and summarize data from the parents.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the presentation of the research findings and discussions. The findings are based on the three objectives which are generally represented by 30 items. On the basis of their empirical meaning, the items fell into 3 main categories; parental behaviour toward children, marital roles, and family standards of behaviour.

4.2 Parental behaviour toward Children

In this category there are 18 distinguishing items which are generally related to parental treatment of children. All of these items concern physical neglect or abuse. These items are listed in table 4.1 and give the percentages of true responses. All of these items concern physical neglect or abuse. "Inadequate feeding" was, of course, the determining criterion for defining severe neglect and therefore appeared in 100% of the severe neglect cases. It was important for the other 3 groups, but to a considerably lesser extent. It appeared in 66.1% of the severe abuse families and in 62.2% of the moderate abuse. It was conspicuously less in moderate neglect, 40.6%. Its prevalence in the abuse cases and the relatively small difference between severe and moderate abuse are noteworthy. It is possible that inadequate feeding in these families has a punitive connotation.

Table 4.1: Significant items concerning parental behaviour toward children

	SEVERE ABUSE		MODERATE ABUSE		SEVERE NEGLECT		MODERATE NEGLECT	
	Total N	% True	Total N	% True	Total N	% True	Total N	% True
Severe beating with other than hand	43	99.0	32	73.0	50	54.8	32	0.0
Physical torture	43	62.8	33	26.0	60	0.04	31	0.0
Consistent denial of normally accepted activities	42	70.0	30	56.0	60	10.0	28	10.4
Inadequate feeding	43	66.1	36	62.2	58	100.0	34	40.6
Negative verbal statements of feeling for children	41	79.9	31	55.0	56	40.4	32	22.4
Lack of cleanliness	42	54.5	32	59.9	58	95.2	33	61.9
Inadequate clothing	41	63.0	34	65.0	50	98.4	33	69.7
Refusal to let	41	60.2	33	26.2	50	15.6	32	18.6

child attach himself to anyone else								
Abusive language	43	76.4	32	74.5	52	60.0	30	50
Positive verbal statements of feeling for children	56	26.4	30	60.0	56	62.4	32	50.0
Refusal to cooperate with anyone else in care of child	40	83.7	35	73.5	54	61.9	32	40.6
Slapping and beating with hand	41	83.3	27	71.4	53	47.2	26	56
Failure to give needed medical care	40	75.6	32	65.6	50	95.2	30	71
Leaves children alone for hours	42	27.9	33	48.5	52	64.5	32	43.8
Hostile and refusing placement of children	40	60	30	41.9	52	26.3	33	32
Refusal of help	41	66.7.	34	50.0	52	43.6	32	31.3

for child								
Willing for placement of children	39	42.5	31	61.3	56	69.0	25	48.8
Nagging and scolding	42	83.2	28	70.2	52	53.2	28	47.8

“Severe beating” was, of course, by definition present in all severe abuse cases and in less severe and consistent form was true of 78% of the families in the moderate abuse group. Associated with this item, were the “presence of physical torture”, “the consistent denial of normal activities to the children”, and “negative verbal statements of feeling about the children”, physical torture of the children was present in 62.8% of the families in severe abuse, but only 26% of the families in moderate abuse. It appeared in 0.04% of the cases in severe neglect, and not at all in moderate neglect. This indicates that parental torturing of children was confined to the abusing groups, and there was a conspicuous difference between severe and moderate abuse. This would seem to indicate that, wherever even isolated physical torture of a child is found, it can be expected that the child is also subjected to severe beatings at least sporadically.

A similar pattern of difference appeared with the item of “Consistent denial of normally accepted activities” to children. This denial appeared in 70% of the families in severe abuse, 56% of those in moderate abuse, in 10% of the families in severe neglect and in 10.4% of those in moderate neglect. Participation in formal and informal neighbourhood activities were denied. These children had often to be home from school at a specific moment, and any delay even so slight one is that occasioned by a casual, impromptu bit of conversation was dangerous to them. While the results were damaging

for both groups of children, there is a considerable psychological difference between the two situations. The children of neglecting families were not deprived of their freedom and their chance for other contacts in the same way nor to the same degree and those from abusing families.

The item "negative Verbal statements of feeling for children" referred to gross parental expressions of hostility and aggression. Parents stated bluntly that they hate the children. Some expressed an open wish to kill them or a hope they would die. This kind of parental behaviour was true of 79.9% of the families in severe abuse, 55% of those in moderate abuse. It existed in 40.4% of the severe neglect cases and in 22.4% of those in moderate neglect "Lack of cleanliness" referred to a consistent condition of dirtiness that attracted attention to the children and represented both a health hazard and a social handicap. It was true of 95.2% of the families in severe neglect, 61.9% of those in moderate neglect, 54.5% of the cases in severe abuse and 59.9% of those in moderate abuse.

"Inadequate clothing" described parental indifference to the way children were dressed. Small children were often left to run about the home with little or no clothing even in cold weather. This was true of 98.4% of the severe neglect families, of 69.7% of moderate neglect, of 63% of moderate abuse. There is a steady reduction in degree, with severe neglect at the top, moderate neglect and moderate abuse at a roughly similar level, and severe abuse at the bottom, showing the least neglect in this area.

"Refusal to let a child attach himself to anyone else" referred to a parental ban on friendships or close personal relationships or close personal relationships between a child and anyone outside the immediate family of the severe abuse families, 60.2% referred to permit such attachments. In the moderate abuse group, 26.2% refused. Among the neglecting families, 15.6% of severe neglect and 18.6% of moderate neglect refused. The

severe abuse type was conspicuously different in this behaviour from the neglecting groups, and moderate abuse while higher on this item than neglecting families was considerably lower than severe abuse.

“Abusive language” referred to a consistent yelling at children in profane and vulgar terms. This kind of parental behaviour was present in 96.4% of the families in severe abuse, in 74.5% of those in moderate abuse. It was true of 60% of the severe neglect cases and of 50% of the moderate neglect.

The item “Positive statements of feeling for children” This described parental statements that praised the children, gave some indication of concern, and expressed some pride in them. It was true in 62.4% of the severe neglect families and 50% of the moderate neglect. Moderate abuse families were 60% while severe abuse diverged sharply with only 26.4% of the families showing any such behaviours.

“Refusal to cooperate with anyone else in the care of the child” referred to those situations in which an outside agency planned specific care for a child and asked for parental assistance. Of the severe abuse group, 83.7% of the families refused, and 73.5% of moderate abuse families denied parental assistance. In the neglecting families, 61.9% of severe neglect and 40.6% of moderate neglect were unwilling to give parental cooperation. There is a conspicuous difference between abusing and neglecting families. There is a steady reduction in the parental refusal of assistance, with severe abuse at the top and moderate neglect at the bottom less than half of the moderate neglect parents refused to cooperate with outside help.

“Slapping and hitting with hand” and “Nagging and scolding” are behaviours which are punitive but not necessary abusive. They both showed differentiation among the types. Slapping and hitting occurred in 83.3% of the severe abuse families and in 71.4% of the moderate abuse. It was true of only 47.2% of severe neglect and of 56% of

moderate neglect. Nagging and scolding were true of 81.4% of the severe abuse families and of 69% of the moderate abuse. They occurred in 54.3% of the severe neglect cases and in 55.2% of the moderate neglect. While they show much less variation in degree than the abuse items, they follow substantially the same pattern. It would be interesting to know whether the higher percentage of slapping and scolding in the moderate neglect group as compared with that in the severe neglect is indicative of a greater degree of discipline by moderate discipline parents. Parental behaviour characterized these items of physical neglect outlines a consistent pattern, in which severe neglect families show the highest incidence of such behaviour and severe abuse the lowest. Moderate neglect and moderate abuse tend to be considerably more similar. Slapping and scolding follow more closely the pattern of abusive behaviour.

“Failure to provide needed medical care” for children was most often true in the severe neglect group, 95.2% of the families. Severe abuse was next highest with 75.6% of the cases showing this kind of neglect. Moderate neglect and moderate abuse families were roughly similar, with moderate neglect showing 71% and moderate abuse 65.6%.

“Leaving children alone for hours” described a continuing pattern of parental behaviour, under circumstances where there was no rational necessity for leaving children unprotected and where their age required adult supervision. It did not refer to crisis situation where parents had no alternative, nor to single typical incidents, in the severe neglect group, 64.5% of the families left children alone for hours. In the moderate neglect group, 43.8% the families left children alone for hours. Families of the severe abuse type left children alone for hours in 27.9% of the cases. Moderate abuse families left children alone for hours in 48.5% if the cases. On both these items, severe neglect rated highest and severe abuse lowest. Moderate neglect and moderate abuse were closer to each other.

This is much the same pattern as was true of “Lack of cleanliness” and “inadequate clothing”

“Hostile and refusing to placement of children” They did not only oppose the idea of placement but were aggressively antagonistic to the agency. In this group fell 60% of the severe abuse families and 41.9% of the moderate abuse. Among the neglecting families 26.3% of severe neglect and 32.0% of the moderate neglect reacted with hostile refusal. The other parental response was exactly opposite and indicated “willingness to place the children”. These parents expressed such willingness either directly in words or indirectly in behaviour. This was true of 42.5% of the families in the severe abuse type and of 61.3% of the families in moderate abuse. Among the neglecting families it was true of 69% of severe neglect and 48% of moderate neglect. Both severe abuse and moderate neglect families were similar in their responses to this item, and it is unfortunate that the item cannot differentiate their motivations. It seems likely that parents in these two groups would differ in their reasons for their consent to placements. The same questions would have be raised in relation to the similarity of response between moderate abuse and severe neglect.

“Refusal of help for a child” described situations in which parents openly refused to permit some kind of assistance offered by an outside person or agency. In the abusing families, 66.7% of severe abuse and 50.0% of moderate abuse refused such help. In the neglecting families, 43.6% of severe neglect and 31.3% of moderate neglect refused. The same pattern of steady reduction of parental unwillingness from severe abuse to moderate neglect holds true with the difference that less than half of severe neglect refused outside help for their children.

4.3 Marital Roles

The second general division concerns marital roles. There were eight significant items which distinguished among the types. The table below lists these items and gives the percentages of true responses.

The item "Parents have defined responsibilities described consistent activities accepted and acted as family obligations. The presence of such defined responsibilities was true of 32.6% of the families in severe abuse, of 20.7% of those in moderate abuse, of 19.4% of the families in severe neglect and of 67.7% of those in moderate neglect. The high percentage in moderate neglect is outstanding and is one of the important indications of the greater degree of family organization in this group. In none of the other types does this appear as a predominant behaviour, although severe abuse is higher than the other two. In this area moderate abuse shows about the same degree of disorganization as severe neglect.

Table 4.2: Significant items concerning Marital Roles

	Severe Abuse		Moderate Abuse		Severe Neglect		Moderate Neglect	
	Total N	% True	Total N	% True	Total N	% True	Total N	% True
Parents have defined responsibilities	43	32.6	29	20.7	62	19.4	31	67.7
One parent imposes controls	43	60.5	32	37.5	63	19.0	33	57.6
One parent plans use of money	39	59.0	32	56.3	61	24.6	31	71.0
Neither parent imposes control	41	43.9	32	43.8	61	72.1	31	32.3
One parent makes all or most decisions	43	62.8	32	65.6	63	30.2	33	57.6

One parent carries all or most responsibilities	43	27.9	32	28.2	63	20.6	32	56.3
Neither parent takes responsibilities for decisions	41	87.8	32	68.8	63	81.0	33	54.5
Infidelity	32	50	24	45.8	52	68.8	24	50.0

“One parent imposes controls” referred to the restrictions imposed upon children and upon the other parent, as well as upon family activities as a whole. The parent might be father or mother. This was true of 60.5% of the severe abuse families of 37.5% of the moderate abuse families, of 19.0% of severe neglect and 57.6% of moderate neglect. The similarity between severe abuse and moderate neglect is interesting. Since controls without the circumscribing limits of responsibility lead to confusion and often to tyrannical conduct, this is an important index for the severe abuse group. Severe neglect families were low on this item, as would be expected. Moderate abuse families showed a considerably lesser degree of the severe abuse behaviour.

“One parent plans uses of money” described whether one parent made the decisions as to ways money was spent. The item was true in 59.0% of the severe abuse families and 56.3% of moderate abuse. It was present in 24.6% of the severe neglect families and in 71.0% of moderate neglect. The severe abuse and moderate neglect groups show the highest ratio of this behaviour, the nature of the planning would be of great importance in assessing the result.

“One parent makes all or most decisions” referred to the range of everyday decision affecting the family. It was true of 62.8% of the severe abuse families and of 65.6% of moderate abuse. Among neglecting families, it was true of 30.2% of severe neglect and 57.6% of moderate neglect.

“One parent carries all or most responsibility” The item was true for 27.9% of the families in severe abuse and 28.2% of moderate abuse. It was present in 20.6% of the severe neglect families and in 56.3% of moderate neglect. The high percentage of decisions by one parent in the severe and moderate abuse families was accompanied by a low percentage of responsibilities carried by one parent. In the severe neglect group both decision and responsibilities were carried by one parent in the severe neglect group, both decisions and responsibilities were carried by one parent in only a minority of the cases.

“Neither parent imposes controls” it was true of 39.5% of the families in severe abuse, of 60.6% of those in moderate abuse, of 77.8% of the families in severe neglect and of 45.5% of those in moderate neglect.

“Neither parent plans use of money” was true for 43.9% of the severe abuse families of 43.8% of the moderate abuse of 72.1% of the severe neglect families and of 32.3 of moderate neglect.

“Neither parents takes responsibility for decisions” was true for 87.8% of the families in severe abuse, for 68.8% of those in moderate abuse, for 81.0% of the families in severe neglect and 54.5 of those in moderate neglect. This item referred specifically to parental responsibility for decisions made by the parent.

When those items are considered in relation to each other, certain patterns emerge. Severe abuse families show the lowest ration of those where neither parent impose controls, the lowest where neither parent plans use of money and the highest where neither parent takes responsibility for the decision moderate neglect families show the next lowest ratio of those where neither parent imposes controls, are approximately the same as the severe abuse in the item of neither parent planning use of money, and the lowest of all the groups in the ratio of those where neither parent took responsibility. Severe neglect followed a consistent pattern with the highest ratio of parental failure to impose controls or

plan use of money, but it was not quite as high as severe abuse in parental failure to take responsibility for decisions. The moderate abuse group shared a high ratio of parental failure to impose controls, next to that of severe neglect, approximately the same ratio as several abuse and moderate neglect in failure to plan use of money, and fell between severe and moderate neglect in parental failure to take responsibility.

The final item in this division concerned with marital roles was the “presence of infidelity” by one or both partners. It was true in 50.0% of the severe abuse families and in 45.8% of the moderate abuse. It occurred in 68.8% of the severe neglect families and in 50.0% of moderate neglect. Except in severe neglect families where it would seem to reflect the general family disorganization, there is a surprising similarity in the preparation of infidelity among groups. It occurred in roughly half the families.

4.4 Family Standards of Behaviour.

This division of item is concerned with standards of behaviour as these applied to parental behaviour and attitudes and to family care. There are eight items that may be generally grouped under this heading. The following table lists those items and gives the percentages of the responses.

“Family routine is present” Family routine was defined as habitual and orderly ways of caring for the family members and the house. It was present in 40.5% of the severe abuse families, in 21.9% of the moderate abuse families, in 4.8% of the severe neglect families and in 39.4% of moderate neglect. The severe abuse and moderate neglect. The severe abuse and moderate neglect groups showed roughly the same proportion of families in which family routine was present. While the percentage was less than half of the total number of cases in both groups it was different from severe neglect. In effect, there was no regular routine in the severe neglect families. The moderate abuse

families were more disorganized in this respect than severe abuse, but much less so than severe neglect.

“Failure to keep house hold clean” This item referred to the failure of parents to keep themselves and their houses to a minimum standard of cleanliness. It was true in 52.5% of the severe abuse families and in 65.6% of moderate abuse. It was present in 87.3% of the severe neglect families and in 63.6% of moderate neglect. The severe abuse

Table 4.3: Significant items concerning family standards and behaviours

	Severe Abuse		Moderate Abuse		Severe Neglect		Moderate Neglect	
	Total N	% True	Total N	% True	Total N	% True	Total N	% True
Family routine is present	42	40.5	32	21.9	63	4.8	33	39.4
Hostility and attacks on other persons	42	66.7	32	50.0	62	33.9	31	22.6
Failure to keep household clean	40	52.5	32	65.6	63	87.3	33	63.6
Project on other persons	42	78.6	32	65.6	62	48.4	32	46.9
Does not spontaneously express remorse in words	43	90.7	33	78.8	62	95.2	33	72.7
Runs away	43	41.9	34	41.2	63	63.5	33	30.3
Does not relate parental behaviour with behaviour of children	43	93.0	33	75.8	63	88.8	32	68.8
No religious affiliation	37	67.6	29	69.0	57	91.2	27	70.4
No change in behaviour toward children	43	95.4	33	78.8	63	82.8	33	69.7

group showed the smallest ratio of household dirtiness, and there were families in this group where the house was clean and orderly. As would be expected, severe neglect families showed the highest proportion of filthiness. Moderate abuse and moderate neglect families were very similar on this item, and both groups showed a considerable degree of household disorganization.

“Hostility and attacks on other person” The parent responded to crises with a predominant attitude of antagonism and by attacking verbally the person who became involved in the situation. This was true of 66.7% of the severe abuse families and of 50.0% of the moderate abuse families. It was a typical reaction in 33.9% of the severe neglect families and in 22.6% of the moderate neglect. The distinction between abusing and neglecting families on this item is clear and points to the greater aggressiveness of abusing families.

“Projects on other persons” The parent blamed another person or persons for the situation, and the implication denied his own responsibility or participation in it. This was a common response in 78.6% of the abuse families, in 78.6% of the severe abuse families, in 48.4% of severe neglect and 46.9% of moderate neglect. The major distinction was between abusing and neglecting families, with abuse groups showing a considerably greater tendency to project blame on others. There was very little difference on this item between severe and moderate neglect groups.

“Runs away” This described parental withdrawal from the whole situation and was to some degree a physical running away. This might mean a parent who left home for some period of time to escape the stressful circumstances, or who merely went to the local bar and got drunk. It was a passive rather than aggressive response. This kind of reaction was true for 41.9% of the severe abuse, 41.2% of the moderate abuse, 63.5% of the severe neglect and 30.3% if the moderate neglect families. Abusing parents tended to meet

problems blaming and attaching others. Severe neglecting parents tended to run away from them, and the parents of moderate neglect showed the greatest capacity to meet them in a more realist form.

“A parent does not spontaneously express remorse in words” described any voluntary expressions of parental feeling. The absence of spontaneous remarks was true in 90.7% of the severe abuse families, in 78.8% of moderate abuse, in 95.2% of severe neglect families and in 72.01% of the moderate neglect. All of the families showed a conspicuous absence of such expressions of feeling.

“A parent does not relate parental behaviour with behaviour of children” described any indication that parents show their own actions as carrying any responsibility for undesirable behaviour in their children. Even when such behaviour might be children going to school dirty. It was true in 98.0% of severe abuse families, 75.8% of moderate abuse, 88.9% of severe neglect and 68.8% of moderate neglect. The difference here related almost entirely to degree, rather than to neglect and abuse as such.

“No change in behaviour towards children”. This was true for 95.4% of the severe abuse group, for 78.8% of moderate abuse, for 82.5% of the severe neglect type and for 69.7% of moderate neglect. This was most often true for severe abuse and severe neglect showed the greatest tendency toward change of parental behaviour, although the proportion was not great. There was the least change among the severe abuse parents. Active affiliation with a religious body would be an encouragement toward the maintenance of some standards of behaviour. The item “no religious affiliation” was an important one, since church membership could involve some measure of social control as well as respect for a standard of behaviour. There was no religious affiliation, however in 67.6% of moderate of the severe abuse families, in 69.0% of moderate abuse, in 91.2% of severe neglect families and in 70.4% of moderate neglect. It is interesting that severe

neglect families were less likely to be church members than severe abuse families.

Moderate abuse and moderate neglect families were virtually identical on this item.

Church membership was not however, common with any of the groups.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 SUMMARY

Throughout history, children have been subjected to many forms of abuse and neglect. Child abuse and neglect, however, had not received much attention in this country until recently. Currently research efforts have increased dramatically. Despite the growth of the research efforts, little is known about parental behaviour variables associated with abuse and neglect it was the purpose of this study to trace the profiles of behaviour of families that neglect and abuse their children. The following were specific objectives of the study:

- i) To find out if families that neglect children are different from families that try to destroy them.
- ii) To find out if there different degrees of child neglect and child abuse.
- iii) To find out how these parents behave towards each other and towards their relatives and neighbours.

In order to answer research questions the following variables were investigated

- (i) Parental behaviour towards children
- (ii) Marital roles
- (iii) Family standards of behaviour.

The subjects consisted of cases filed with public child welfare agencies in Nakuru, Uasin Gishu and Kericho districts in Rift valley province. Out of 180 families with cases filed with Welfare agencies, 147 cases were utilized as subjects for this study.

5.2 Conclusions

The findings of this study have shown that the abused and neglected children came from families with frequent crises and problems. Quarrelling verbally was common with the parents of these children. The endless bickering and mutual hostility were an integral part of the climate of these homes. It is not surprising that there was little sharing between the parents. Families in this sample were not able to achieve stability through their relationships with people outside the nuclear family group. In some of the families, responsibilities of one or more of the children were defined by an older child and tended to endure only so long as the age of the child or the nature of circumstances promoted this parental connections with the outside community was absent among these families. The lack of participation by these families in organized groups emphasizes both their solitariness and their absence of any established place in the larger social structure.

The actions that were taken by these parents tended to be impulsive and in response to some pressure. They were not often initiated by the parents as something they wanted or planned to do. Further, they were not often part of any consistent plan. Actions tended to be isolated fragments, separated from any clear purpose or ongoing plan. The families lacked goals, continuity and ordered structure for daily life.

5.2 Recommendations

The findings of this study indicated that parents who abused and neglected their children tended to be indifferent to all the behaviour of their children. Their reactions arose not in relation to the behaviour but in response to community criticism and more specifically to community pressure. The magnitude of the problems, however, is such that investigation should receive high priority as the cost in resources and the cost of human

potential are extremely high. In order to effectively carry out future research and prevent child neglect and abuse, the following recommendations are proposed.

- (i) Present record-keeping systems need to be revived in order to provide a more adequate database than is currently available.
- (ii) Professionals working in the area of child abuse and neglect need to be given appropriate training to identify and record relevant data.
- (iii) Yearly data should be secured to provide an estimate of the financial costs associated with child abuse and neglect.
- (iv) The government should ensure special protection for children who have been abused.
- (v) The community should be involved in combating child abuse.
- (vi) Parents should be helped on how to deal more positively and effectively with their children.
- (vii) There is need to establish community support network for families under stress through community programmes.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE CUM INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Please respond to all the questions and the information you give will be treated with absolute confidentiality. Read the statements below carefully and decide on how it describes the extent to which you interact or relate with your wife/husband, children, and neighbours. Tick ✓ the response that you feel shows exactly the extent to which you have behaved with the above indicated persons.

SECTION A (PARENTAL BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS CHILDREN)	True	False
1. Severe beating with other than hand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Physical torture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Consistent denial of normally accepted activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Inadequate feeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Negative verbal statements of feeling for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Lack of cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Inadequate clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Refusal to let child attach himself to anyone else	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Abusive language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Positive verbal statements of feeling for children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Refusal to cooperate with any one else in care of child	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Slapping and beating with hand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Failure to give needed medical care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Leaves children alone for hours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Hostile and refusing placement of children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 16. Refusal of help for child | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. Willingness for placement of children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. Nagging and scolding | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECTION B (MARITAL ROLES)

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. You have defined responsibilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. One parent imposes controls | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. One parent plans use of money | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Neither parent imposes controls | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Neither parent plans use of money | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. One parent makes all or most decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. One parent carries all or most responsibilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Neither parent takes responsibility for decisions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECTION C (FAMILY STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR)

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Family routine is present | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Hostility and attacks on other persons | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Failure to keep household clean | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Projects on other persons | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Does not spontaneously express remorse in words | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Runs away when there is a problem | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. No religious affiliation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. No change in behaviour toward children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

APPENDIX B

CHECKLIST

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Name _____

Sex: Male Tribe: _____

Female Tribe: _____

Sub-Location _____ Location: _____ Division _____

District _____

Address: _____

Income: _____

Injury Data:

Bruises Date _____ Location _____

Scars Date _____ Location _____

Burns Date _____ Location _____

Visceral abdominal Date _____ Location _____

Neglected injuries Date _____ Location _____

Multiple injuries Date _____ Location _____

Others Specify _____

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