

Strategies Used in Nurturing Children's Socio-Emotional Development among Kipsigis
Fathers: A Case of Litein Ward, Bureti Sub-County

by

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STRATEGIES USED IN NURTURING CHILDREN’S SOCIO-EMOTIONAL
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I declare that this is my original work and that it has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

MDCH – Michigan Department of Community Health

NACOSTI – National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation

P.T.A. – Parents-Teachers Association

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ABSTRACT

Fathers are key influencers of their children's overall development. Children's socio-emotional development is dependent on their fathers' nurturance. Parenting styles applied by fathers influence their children's perceptions of them. Focusing on the Kipsigis community in Litein ward, Bureti sub-county, this research sought to identify the strategies used by Kipsigis fathers in nurturing their children's socio-emotional development. Research objectives included: to determine the concept of fatherhood among Kipsigis men and children; to identify the strategies used by Kipsigis fathers in nurturing their children's socio-emotional development, and to establish the perceptions Kipsigis children have towards their fathers' role in their socio-emotional development. A sample of 15 Kipsigis fathers and 45 Kipsigis children was drawn using multi-stage sampling technique. Applying survey research design, interview schedules and questionnaires were used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. Study findings revealed the concept of fatherhood among Kipsigis as who a father is (roles) and what he does (performance of roles). Strategies used by Kipsigis fathers in nurturance include being physically present at home, providing basic needs, respecting mothers, rewarding children's achievements, knowing children's friends, and modelling good behaviour. Kipsigis children have high regard for their fathers and strive for their approval. They also consider them important since they mainly provide their basic needs. A recommendation from the study among others is for fathers and parents in general to go a step further in meeting their children's holistic needs which cannot be equated to being physically present in the home or providing the basic needs.

DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to all Kipsigis fathers and to all Kipsigis children who desire to be better parents.

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