

EFFECTS OF GENDER ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO STREET LIFE BY STREET CHILDREN IN KENYA: CASE OF ELDORET TOWN IN UASIN GISHU COUNTY.

by

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14-1495

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APPROVAL

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In accordance with Daystar University policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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DECLARATION

EFFECTS OF GENDER ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO
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UASIN GISHU COUNTY

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other
college or University for academic credit.

Signed _____
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I can't forget my data analyst, Mr. Gabriel Odera for data analysis of this study and Ms. Dorothy for editing and proof reading my thesis. Thank you all.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ANOVA	Analysis of variance
BCAS	Brazilian Child and Adolescent Statute
BD	Business Dictionary
CBD	Central Business District
CIPEV	Commission of Inquiry into the Post-Election Violence
CPWG	Child Protection Working Group
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CWR	Child Welfare Reform
DCS	Department of Children Services
ECCO	Ex-street Children Community Organization
FPR	Free Primary Education
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KNCHR	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
MANOVA	Multivariate Analysis of Variance
MOEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MOH	Ministry of Health
NCBDA	Nairobi Central Business District Association
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PEV	Post Election Violence
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STRTF	Street Children Rehabilitation Trust Fund
UN	United Nations
UNHCS	Centre for Human Settlement
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

DEDICATION

This proposal is first dedicated to God almighty for all the wisdom and his sufficient grace that carried me throughout this work. Next to my late mother, Jane Wanjiku who cultivated and imparted in me the wisdom that there is no long night that doesn't dawn into morning. She also inculcated into me the supremacy of edification. Then, to all street children in Kenya who try daily to eke a living albeit in a hostile environment. The work is finally dedicated to my wife, Sylvia Khasoa Maina & my two daughters; Stephanie and Stacie, and the other family members gave me their unwavering support in this process.

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ABSTRACT

The rising number of street children population has been an existing and growing phenomenon in Kenyan towns and is expected to grow given the harsh economic situations and poverty levels. The resultant impacts continue to destabilize social structures and the very survival of street children socially and economically. The study aimed to determine the effects of gender on the socio-economic adaptation of street children to street life in Kenya. The study objectives were; to determine the influence of gender on social adaptation strategies of street children to street life, to investigate the gender aspects enhancing economic adaptation strategies of street children to street life and to evaluate measures adopted by various players to alleviate gender-inclined adaptation strategies of street children to street life in Eldoret town in Kenya. The study adopted a descriptive research design. The target population were the street children within Eldoret town (n=100), NGOs (n=3), DCSs (n=1), Psychologists (n=1) and Sociologists (n=1). The study adopted snowballing sampling for street children and purposive sampling for the KIIs. Structured questionnaires and KIIs checklists were used for the data collected. Data were analyzed using SPSS v26. The research established that females had stayed for a shorter period in the streets compared to their male counterparts. As for the gender-specific economic survival strategies, the study found out that the male street children engaged in more economic activities than their female counterparts hence making life more bearable. The different NGOs, County Governments and the Department of Children Services engaged in Counselling, offering financial support to start businesses, rehabilitation for those children under the influence of drugs, offering support to the street children's kids, offering vocational and basic education training, hosting some of the street children in children's homes to mitigate the street children problem. The study recommended that the various stakeholders such as NGOs and other organizations including churches among others should join forces to reduce the number of street children within urban centers streets through creating a one-stop shop for all the services at the rehabilitation centers and offering all the services through co-creation, co-planning and co-implementation.

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