

**AN INVESTIGATION ON FACTORS LEADING TO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY,
A CASE STUDY OF KISUMU WEST SUB COUNTY**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND SECURITY
MANAGEMENT.**

MOUNT KENYA UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2016

ABSTRACT

Security and crime are intertwined as a matter of concern. Juvenile delinquency is part of the crime distinct by the factor of age of the characters. Majority of people believe that poverty is to blame for the occurrences which to some extent can be betted on but it isn't solely the reason. In developed countries like the US and UK it might not be the economics yet crime rate (delinquency) mirrors recessions and booms. In Kenya, with our struggling economics, the situation is even worse and various complementing interventions has to be sort and put in place as an effort to check the persistent growth of delinquency. The study was meant to assess the effect of Juvenile delinquency on youth criminal behavior in Kisumu west sub county. The aims were to determine how poverty has affected the rate of youth offending within Kisumu West Sub County, to establish the relationship between broken families and delinquency in juveniles and to develop an explanatory association of peer influence against delinquency. The target population covered the entire Kisumu west sub county, made up of Nyahera Division and Otonglo Division , each Subdivided into smaller administrative units (Locations and sub locations) and all security agencies. The study used simple random sampling to draw a sample size of 40 respondents fro, a target population of 100 and after the application of Mugenda & Mugenda (2012) 30% sampling criteria, the findings of the study indicate direct influence of poverty, peer influence and broken families to Juvenile delinquency. The " don't care" attitude of parents towards criminal behavior of their minors is pronounced every then thus magnifying the extent to delinquency. The study concluded that economic hardships especially poverty plays a pivotal role in encouraging juvenile delinquency, family problems especially disintegration and conflicts denies children the joy that comes with peaceful coexistence and that further the youths are very vulnerable to criminality.