

**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF STIGMATIZATION ON CEREBRAL PALSIED  
FAMILIES IN EMBAKASI WEST CONSTITUENCY, NAIROBI COUNTY**

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## ABSTRACT

Cerebral palsy encompasses a set of neurological conditions that cause physical disability in human development, affect the brain and nervous system. The psychological stigma associated with cerebral palsy is known to be one of the most depressing conditions of families in African families. The purpose of the study was to establish the impact of stigmatization on cerebral palsied families in Donholm Embakasi West Constituency in Nairobi County. The research design adopted was a descriptive survey. The sampling frame comprised cerebral palsied families registered with Cerebral Palsy Society of Kenya. The primary data was collected using a questionnaire that was administered on a drop and pick later method to the participants. The data was then analyzed using qualitative and quantitative techniques. Qualitative method involved content analysis and evaluation of text material. Quantitative method involved the use of statistical tools of descriptive analysis like SPSS version 20 and Microsoft excel. Descriptive statistics such as mean scores, standard deviation, frequency and percentages were used to analyze the data. The results were presented in tables and charts. The study concluded that stigmatization affected cerebral palsied family and that the starting point of stigma reduction is closing the knowledge gap via education. The study recommended that government should come up with programs which will provide economic assistance to families with cerebral palsy patient. The study also concludes that affirmations of equal rights and non-discrimination in law and policy need to be complemented by efforts to enhance awareness of disability among the general public, starting with those who provide essential services for children in such fields as health, education and protection. Government and community partners should help overcome prejudice by providing the public with a deeper understanding of the rights, capacities and challenges of children with disabilities. Sensitization campaigns, marathons, walks among others should be held countrywide and this should be in collaboration with the mainstream media houses.