

**THE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE OF CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 5-16 YEARS IN
KENYA: A SURVEY OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN TRANS-NZOIA COUNTY**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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ABSTRACT

Interaction with some teachers in schools in Kitale reveals a growing trend towards violence and brutality towards pupils from their parents and homes. Often this violence plays out in other forms towards fellow pupils. In 2004, for instance a fifteen year old Wanyama Sam student was arrested for raping another classmate. Further investigation revealed that the perpetrator of this crime had suffered domestic violence. From preliminary discussion with some teachers within selected schools within Kitale, it was voted by these researchers that some pupils had the tendency of acting out violently, showing disrespect to teachers and often using abusive words. While many of the schools apparently had systems in place to respond to these behaviours, aspect of these behaviours of pupils seems to have been condoned in some surveys by the same parents.

The question to ponder is what are the effects of domestic violence among primary-school children in Kenya? It is against this backdrop that the purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of domestic violence among primary school children in Kenya. The study was guided by the Substance Abuse & the Conflict Theory developed by Flamand, (2009) which states that domestic violence is primarily a problem of structural inequality and class conflict. The objectives of this study were: find out the types of domestic violence and violence being abused by primary school children, and to find out factors causing domestic violence among primary school children.

The researcher employed the Survey study design. Survey study is an intensive, descriptive and holistic analysis of a single entity or a bounded Survey It was carried out in Trans-Nzoia County, Rift Valley Province in Kenya. The study targeted all the primary school children from Trans-Nzoia County. There are 185 primary schools in the town. The researcher selected 20 schools with a population of 1200 participants in total. The sample population consisted of 40 standard five and six pupils, and 80 standard seven and eight of the primary schools for the 10 sampled schools. This consisted of 240 sampled population. The sampling technique was a stratified random. The data collection instruments are tools used to collect information from the target population. The study used the following research instruments in data collection; questionnaire, participatory observation, and interview schedule. The data collected was organized, presented, analyzed and interpreted using descriptive methods of data analysis. It used frequency tables, charts, percentages, and chi square was also to be used in analysis the Likert scaled data.

It was found out that early support and intervention efforts provide important avenues through which young children exposed to domestic violence may be able to access the services needed to bolster their developmental trajectories and minimize the risks to which they are exposed.

It was concluded that there are program that evaluate and improve the ability to support children exposed to domestic violence, a key location of these change efforts must be in programs aimed at young children. The study recommended that common theme across these programs is that they provide children and their families with resources to support the tasks of development.