

THE ROLE OF FAMILY STRUCTURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS
DISCIPLINE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KAMUKUNJI SUB-COUNTY NAIROBI
COUNTY

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of the study was to investigate the role of family structure in the development of discipline in secondary school students in Kamukunji sub-county, Nairobi County. The study adopted descriptive research designs which were comparative in nature. The target population included 120 secondary school students, parents and teachers from Kamukunji sub county Nairobi County, Kenya. The population was divided according to the administrative unit (strata) then the researcher selected 2 secondary school in the three zones. Then simple random sample of 2 schools was selected from each stratum. From each school the researcher selected 5 teachers, 5 students and 5 parents. Thus the sample size was 360 respondents. The study employed questionnaires to collect data. The researcher used both quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques for this study. Quantitative data was analyzed with the help of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), 20. To start with, the data collected by use of the questionnaires was coded, assigned labels to variables' categories and fed into the computer. Frequency tables, percentages and pie charts were employed to present the information. The study concluded that students living in two parent households have fewer aggressive indiscipline incidents compared to other students living in other family structure households; conversely, those living in single parent households were expected to have more aggressive and indiscipline incidents than students living in other types of family structures. The study further concluded that nuclear families provide financial support, opportunities and social support to their students. This satisfies the physical and psychological needs of family members. From the above findings and conclusions; it's crystal clear that those parents that express a lot of love, the lack of boundaries leave their students with a high level of indiscipline. The students feel loved, but they are never sure of their limits. Their parents are generally fearful, afraid of messing up or damaging their students' psyche, so they never set firm boundaries. The students feel much loved by parents but unsure of themselves. It's therefore very important for all parents to set boundaries on what is right and wrong to their students. The families' institution has responsibilities to come with norms, rules, limitations and boundaries to guide the development of their discipline of the students. This study recommends that the school should encourage peer counseling and mentorship to help every student mentor one another and through which the discipline standard is maintained.

Education and counseling should be provided to all parents about family processes that are most important for their students discipline development. The family processes that are most important for a student probably depends on what family structure the student lives in. the ministry of education should also through workshops and seminars enlighten parents on the overall effects of poor parenting of their student at secondary school level. This is one of the very fundamental stages in their lives where they can make or break their future.