

**PSYCHOLOGICAL INFLUENCES OF PARENTAL CONFLICTS ON THE BOY
CHILD BEHAVIOR IN SELECTED SCHOOLS IN KABETE SUB-COUNTY,
KIAMBU COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Parental conflict is a problem in society that affects those abused and especially the children who live with such parents. Children who experience parental conflicts are adversely affected biologically, psychologically and develop social problems that destroy their self-worth affecting their learning capability among other aspects. The purpose of this study was to investigate the psychological influences of parental conflicts on the boy child behaviors in selected schools in Kabete sub-county, Kiambu County, Kenya. The specific objectives of the study were to investigate the causes of parental conflicts, extent of parental conflicts, influences of parental conflicts and intervention measures put in place to minimize parental conflicts in Kabete Sub-County, Kiambu County. Parental conflicts were the independent variables while behavioral manifestation was the dependent variables. Cognitive-contextual framework theory was applied to this study. The researcher used Ex-post-facto research design and had a total target population of the study was 666 participants. The study used stratified random sampling technique in coming up with a sample size of 134 participants out of 666 total population. A pilot study was conducted in two schools to establish the reliability of the instruments and these schools were not included in the actual study. Data was analyzed using frequency tables, descriptive statistics such as percentages and means. The study established that children who experience parental conflict lived under fear and were emotionally disturbed. On extent of parental conflict, the study established that most of the perpetrators of the parental conflicts were male. To the influence of the study established that that destructive conflict styles among parents lead to destructive problem-solving approaches resulting to negative social behavior of the children. On intervention measures, the study established that there were strategies adopted by county government and lobby groups to counsel couples at an early stage which lead to greater success in changing destructive conflict behaviour and promoting conflict resolution approaches. The study recommends that parents should be empowered through psycho-education on parenting styles and legal literacy on children's rights. Counseling should be offered in schools to boys who are victims of parental conflicts. The government through the ministry of education should develop educational programmes to equip boys with self-esteem, negotiation skills and enhance participation of boys in leadership roles.