

**A STUDY TO ASSESS THE CAUSES OF PETTY CRIMES AMONG THE YOUTHS IN
WEST POKOT COUNTY: A CASE OF KAPENGURIA/MAKUTANO TOWN**

OGACHI EAMONN Z. CYPRIAN

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ABSTRACT

Petty crimes are considered as lesser crimes and often attract lesser punishment compared to other crimes. This study was about identifying the major causes of petty crimes among the youth in Kapenguria/Makutano Township. More specifically, the study sought to: establish whether there are cases of petty crimes in Kapenguria/Makutano Township, to establish the main causes of petty crimes in Kapenguria/Makutano Township, and to establish most common forms of petty crimes in Kapenguria/makutano Township. This study was justified on grounds that issues pertaining petty crimes among the youths has not been focused so much in spite of them forming part of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is of benefit to the local people and the government at large as it sheds light on the importance of eradicating cases of petty crimes among the youths in the area. Based on the objectives of the study, a descriptive research design was adopted. Under it, survey method was used to solicit information from the residents of Kapenguria/Makutano Township. Main data collection tool was research questionnaire which was administered to the selected residents in the sub county. The questionnaire contained both Structured and Unstructured questions. Simple random sampling technique (with the help of the random table) was applied in picking the youths in each household. The sample size will comprise of 321 youths. Other data gathering methods that were adopted by the study are key informant interviews and informal discussions with residents who were not be picked for administration of questionnaire as well as structured observation. The collected data were analyzed via the help of the Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) and be presented in tables and charts for ease of understanding. The study established that there were rampant cases of Petty Crime with 68% of the respondents acknowledging its existence and the main cause was found to be issues to do with high rate of unemployment and thus the study recommends that the government should avail more security personnel in the area to aid in provision of security in the area.