

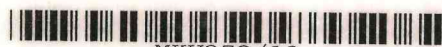
**PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES OF GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS OF  
HIV/AIDS ORPHANED GRANDCHILDREN IN MURANG'A SOUTH  
DISTRICT, MURANG'A COUNTY - KENYA**

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## Abstract

While the HIV/ AIDS pandemic has affected the lives of millions worldwide and has a particular devastating impact in Sub- Saharan Africa, Whiteside and Sunter, (2000) Van Dyk, (2001), much is known about its consequences for children and young adults but very little attention has been devoted to the plight of grandparents who invariably become the caregivers of HIV/AIDS-bereaved orphans. Most of the HIV/AIDS orphans are placed under the care of grandparents who are not physically, financially and emotionally able to take care of them. According to Erikson's psychosocial development theory, the process of growing old brings with it the feeling of approaching the final days on earth. Their success stories add meaning to their lives while failure brings desolation and misery. The main objectives of this research were; to establish the extent of stigmatization and discrimination on grandparents taking care of their HIV/AIDS orphaned grandchildren, to determine the psychological stress grandparents caring for their HIV/AIDS orphaned grandchildren go through, to identify specific social needs of grandparents caring for their HIV/AIDS orphaned grandchildren and to determine the interventions and support systems available for grandparents caring for their HIV/AIDS orphaned grandchildren. The research was conducted in Murang'a South District, Murang'a County using random sampling technique in sample selection. Data was collected from ninety six (96) grandparents taking care of their HIV/AIDS orphaned grandchildren using one on one interview schedule. Collected data was analyzed using descriptive method and SPSS computer program. The results of this study would help the Government and other stakeholders to understand what these grandparents go through as they bring up these orphans to see how they can be helped.