

**INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON CHILDREN'S DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR
AMONG WIDOWS IN KIBERA SUB-COUNTY, NAIROBI COUNTY**

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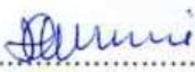
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DECLARATION AND APPROVAL

Declaration by the Student

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University.

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Declaration by the Supervisor

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my children Brian Mungai Kamande and Cynthia Wamaitha Kamande for their support towards the completion of the entire course work.



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First and foremost, I am deeply grateful to God for granting me the strength, wisdom, motivation, good health, patience, and peace to overcome challenges and complete my studies successfully. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mount Kenya University for providing me with the opportunity to pursue my education at their esteemed institution.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates the influence of social factors on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County, where 35% of children are reported to exhibit deviant behaviours, including substance abuse, delinquency and risky sexual activities. These behaviors are often linked to emotional distress and a lack of guidance due to the absence of one or both parents, with widows primarily responsible for raising their children. This study aimed to examine the influence of social factors on children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County. The specific objectives included investigating the impact of social support, social structures and social status on children's deviant behavior, as well as proposing intervention strategies to address the issue. The Cognitive Theory of Anxiety was used as the guiding framework for the study. A descriptive research design was employed, targeting widows in Kibera Sub-County. The sample consisted of 384 widows, selected using stratified sampling. Primary data were collected through semi-structured questionnaires, with a pre-test survey conducted in neighboring Dagoretti Sub-County to assess the validity and reliability of the instrument. The results also indicated an inverse and significant relationship between social support and children's deviant behavior ($\beta=-0.098$, $p=0.027$), social structures and children's deviant behavior ($\beta=-0.325$, $p=0.003$), and social status and children's deviant behavior ($\beta=-0.218$, $p=0.001$). These findings suggest that stronger social support, better social structures and higher social status contribute to reducing deviant behaviors in children. In addition, social structures play a significant role in shaping children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera. Cultural norms, familial influence and socioeconomic factors are key in forming social identities that affect behavior. Improved social structures can help reduce deviant behavior, while inadequate structures may worsen the problem. Additionally, social class affects access to resources and economic opportunities for widows and their children. The study recommends that community leaders and organizations create inclusive programs that target widows and their children to reduce stigmatization, enhance community support and improve widows' socio-economic status. Community programs should be culturally sensitive and foster trust and participation.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- CVR:** Content Validity Ration
- EDA:** Exploratory data analysis
- SD:** Standard Deviation
- SPSS:** Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
- SES:** Socioeconomic Status
- UN:** United Nations
- UNICEF:** United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund
- KCDO:** Kibera Community Development Organization



Mount Kenya University

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Kibera is a densely populated informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, characterized by poverty, inadequate infrastructure and limited access to basic services like healthcare and education. It is a challenging environment for families, particularly to those who have experienced loss or families are headed by single parents. Widowhood can have profound socio-economic and psychological effects on families, particularly in communities with limited resources like Kibera. Widows may face increased financial strain, social isolation and stigma. Children who lose a parent may experience grief, trauma and changes in family dynamics that can impact their behavior and well-being.

Deviant behavior among children can encompass a range of actions that deviate from social norms or expectations. This could include delinquency, substance abuse, school dropout or involvement in criminal activities. The loss of a parent, particularly if not adequately supported, can potentially exacerbate risk factors for deviant behavior. If a behavior is unusual, distinct from the norm and deviates from social norms, it is deemed abnormal or antisocial (Anleu, 2023). The statistical approach to definite anomaly, which is based on the notion that behavioral variations often fall within the normal range, is also intimately linked to this concept (Eskander, 2020). If any of these three conditions are met, a behavior is considered antisocial or unacceptable: it prevents the individual from meeting their own needs, interferes with their ability to interact with others as a member of society, or negatively impacts the mental health of others (Szentivanyi & Balas, 2019). Deviant behavior among children in urban settings is often more prevalent due to exposure to a wide range of social influences and environmental stressors. Urban areas typically have higher population densities, leading to overcrowded schools, strained social services, and limited

parental supervision, especially in low-income neighborhoods. These conditions contribute to children adopting behaviors that deviate from societal norms as coping mechanisms or means of gaining attention and belonging (Moffitt, 2020). Furthermore, children in urban settings are more likely to encounter peers engaged in delinquency, which increases the likelihood of imitation through peer pressure and social learning (Andura, 2020).

Additionally, urban environments often expose children to poverty, violence, and substance abuse, which can adversely affect their psychological development and social behavior. Living in such environments may lead to feelings of hopelessness, fear, and a lack of control, pushing children toward aggression, truancy, and other forms of deviant conduct (Farrington, 2023). The lack of access to recreational facilities, mentorship programs, and mental health services further exacerbates the problem, limiting opportunities for positive social engagement and development (Sampson & Wilson, 2024).

Moreover, urban media consumption, including unregulated access to social media, can shape children's attitudes and perceptions toward deviant behavior. Urban youth are more exposed to media portrayals that normalize or glamorize violence, theft, and rebellious behavior, influencing their beliefs and actions. When combined with weak family structures or absent role models, children are less likely to internalize moral values that discourage deviant behavior (Anderson, 2020). Thus, the interplay between environmental, social, and media factors makes urban settings particularly susceptible to higher rates of child deviance.

A 2015 UN survey projected that there were 258 million widows globally, more than 115 million of them were impoverished. Because women live longer than males, they are more likely to get widowed, which puts them at risk for certain susceptibility including discrimination, social isolation and economic instability (United Nations, 2015). Widows

face significant challenges and addressing their needs requires a comprehensive approach that include policies promoting gender equality, social protection, economic opportunities, access to education and healthcare (United Nations, 2015).

In Europe, particularly in Southern and Eastern regions, where strong family bonds and intergenerational support networks prevail, children of widows often find solace within extended family structures (Speck & Müller-Böker, 2020). These close-knit communities provide emotional support and serve as stabilizing forces, potentially mitigating the risk of deviant behavior. Conversely, in Northern and Western European countries, characterized by more individualistic social structures, widowed individuals and their children often face a greater reliance on formal support systems provided by the state or community organizations (Amemiya et al., 2020). In addition, Scandinavian countries with robust welfare systems offer widowed mothers substantial financial support, reducing economic stressors and potential risks of deviant behavior among their children (Sitnick et al., 2017).

In the United States, socio-economic disparities have been found to be a crucial determinant of children's deviant behaviour (Oguntayo et al., 2020). Numerous studies have established a strong connection between low socioeconomic status (SES) and an elevated risk of deviant behavior in children. Study by Chen et al. (2020) found that limited access to quality education, high neighbourhood crime rates and insufficient economic resources exacerbate the vulnerability of children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to deviant behaviour in the United States. The study also found that family dynamics played a pivotal role in shaping a child's behavior. Another study by Ahmad (2020) in Pakistan found that the educational attainment of widows was positively associated with better outcomes for their children, including reduced deviant behaviour. The study suggests that access to education for widows and their children can serve as a protective factor against negative

outcomes. Moreover, Rahman and colleagues (2020) found that access to financial resources was a critical factor in reducing the risk of deviant behaviour among children of widows in Bangladesh. According to the study, children who had access to financial resources were more inclined to act in a constructive way such as attending school and participating in extracurricular activities.

Brathwaite et al. (2022) demonstrated how family structures marked by high levels of conflict, parental substance abuse, neglect and domestic violence significantly raise the possibility of deviant behavior in children. Lack of positive parental role models and inconsistent discipline practices further compound this issue. Additionally, peer relationships wield significant influence over children's behavior, serving as potent socializing agents (Brathwaite et al. 2022). The association with delinquent peers has been found to lead to the adoption of deviant norms and behaviors, amplifying the risk of deviance among children (Zastrow et al., 2019).

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the shift to nuclear families especially in urban areas leaves children of widows with fewer close relatives for support, potentially exposing them to increased vulnerabilities (Oguntayo et al., 2020). The absence of extended family networks, which traditionally provided a buffer against adverse circumstances, leads to an elevated risk of deviant behavior among these children (Young, Greer & Church, 2017). A study conducted by Maticka-Tyndale and Fisher (2019) in South Africa examined the effects of family structure on adolescents' sexual behaviour and found that adolescents living in single-parent households, which are more common in urban areas, tend to engage more in risky sexual behavior compared to those in two-parent households. This suggests that the absence of a parent, often due to widowhood, can contribute to deviant behavior among the youth.

Social support and social structures contribute significant role in the development of children, particularly those that have encountered parent loss and are being raised by a widow (AL-Baddareen et al., 2020). Children who lack social support and live in impoverished and disadvantaged environments are more likely to exhibit deviant behaviour than those who have access to support systems and positive role models (AL-Baddareen et al., 2020). For instance, Nwokoye et al. (2020) found that one important determinant of the behavioural and emotional adjustment of children of widows in Nigeria was social support. According to the investigation, children who had greater familial aid in socialization, friends and community members had better behavioural and emotional adjustment and were less likely to exhibit deviant behaviour (Nwokoye et al., 2020). Similarly, a study conducted in 2021 by Ogbu et al., in Cameroon showed that social assistance did help in the psychological adjustment of children of widows. It revealed that social assistance from family members and the community positively influenced the psychological well-being of the children and reduced the risk of deviant behaviour (Ogbu et al., 2021).

According to a recently taken UNICEF survey on the impact of domestic abuse on teenagers in Kenya (2020), children below the age of 18 are forced to fend on their own in areas plagued by violence and lack support services. Children living in informal communities often resort to dangerous behaviours such as substance addiction, gang involvement, forceful burglary and unplanned motherhood as a coping mechanism for these traumatic conditions (Ouma & Teresia, 2024). Sifuna (2020) reports that many of Nairobi's children under the care of widows, but also some from complete families, are being drawn into these lifestyles. A study conducted by Javed (2019) found that providing vocational training and employment opportunities to widows not only improved their economic well-being but also had positive effects on their children's health and education outcomes. The study

emphasized the importance of addressing the economic needs of widows to improve the well-being of their children. Njue et al. (2021) also found that providing education and psychosocial support to children of widows was effective in reducing the risk of deviant behaviour. The study suggested that interventions that promote education and improve mental health could reduce the disadvantages of widowhood on children's welfare.

In Kibera, Nairobi, report by the Nairobi County Department of Social Services (2021) shows that an alarming 35% of children in Kibera exhibit deviant behaviors, including involvement in substance abuse, delinquency and engagement in risky sexual activities. These behaviors are often manifestations of unaddressed emotional distress and lack of proper guidance in the absence of one or both parents, with widows shouldering the primary responsibility (Pozuelo et al., 2022). Additionally, the Kibera Community Development Organization (KCDO) (2020) revealed that 45% of children from widowed households in Kibera engaged in activities deemed deviant, such as gang involvement and petty crime. These statistics paint a stark picture of the challenges faced by children of widows in Kibera, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted interventions to address the root causes of deviant behavior and provide essential support mechanisms. This occurs, despite the governments' effort to develop and implement policies and programs aimed at supporting vulnerable families, including those affected by a father's death, for example, the government provides free primary education and cash transfers to families in need through its Social Protection Program (Mambo & Nyamai, 2022). Addressing this research gap may provide crucial insights for the development of targeted interventions and support systems tailored to the specific needs of this vulnerable population in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County, an alarming trend has emerged concerning the deviant behaviour exhibited by children in widow-headed households (Jorondrazana, 2021). These households, often grappling with economic hardships and social vulnerabilities, face heightened challenges in providing stable environments for child development. With the absence of a paternal figure and limited resources, children in these households may lack adequate supervision, emotional support and positive role models, increasing their susceptibility to engaging in deviant behaviors such as substance abuse, delinquency and truancy (Wasike, 2020).

The intersection of these social factors within the context of widow-headed households in Kibera Sub-County presents a complex and pressing issue requiring thorough investigation. It is crucial to comprehend the complexity of these interactions for the development of targeted interventions and support systems aimed at mitigating the prevalence of deviant behaviour among children in this vulnerable demographic. The intent of this research endeavour is to look into the implications of social factors on children's deviant behaviour within this specific demographic.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to determine the influence of social factors on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to assess the influence of social factors on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County. The specific objectives of the study were:

- i. To determine the influence of social support on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi.
- ii. To examine the influence of social structures on children's deviant behaviour among widows in the Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi.
- iii. To determine the influence of widow's social status on children's deviant behaviour in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi.
- iv. To come up with intervention strategies to curb children's deviant behaviour among widows in the Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi.

1.5 Research Hypothesis

- i. Social support has no significant influence on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi.
- ii. Social Structures have no significant influence on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi.
- iii. Social status has no significant influence on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi.

1.6 Justification of Study

Deviant behavior among children of widows is a growing concern, particularly in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas like Kibera Sub-County. Widowhood often results

in financial instability, emotional distress and reduced parental supervision, exposing children to negative social influences that may lead to delinquency and criminal activities. In informal settlements, where poverty, peer pressure and limited access to education prevail, these risks are further amplified. Understanding the social factors contributing to deviant behavior among these children is essential for developing targeted interventions that promote positive behavioral outcomes. This study provides critical insights that can inform policymakers, social workers and community organizations in designing effective support systems for widowed mothers and their children, ultimately fostering social stability and child welfare.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study benefits widowed mothers by providing insights into social factors influencing their children's behavior. Community organizations and social workers can use the findings to develop targeted interventions. Policymakers will gain evidence to create supportive welfare programs for widowed families. Educators can implement mentorship initiatives to guide vulnerable children. Researchers will find the study useful in expanding knowledge on child development in widow-headed households.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The study focused specifically on Kibera Sub-County within Nairobi County, Kenya. Kibera represents one of the biggest slums in the region. In Africa and presents unique socio-economic challenges, making it an ideal setting to explore the research topic. The primary

population of interest included widows in Kibera Sub-County, who provided insights into their experiences and challenges. The research explored various social factors that may influence children's deviant behaviour within the context of widowhood and urban poverty. These were social support, social structures and social status.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

This research focused specifically on analyzing how social factors—such as social support, social structures, social status, and intervention strategies—influence deviant behaviors among widows' children. The study was conducted in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County, with a sample of 384 widows chosen using stratified random sampling. Data collection involved structured interviews and questionnaires, primarily based on self-reported responses from the participants. The findings are confined to widows within Kibera Sub-County and may not be entirely generalizable to widows in other regions due to differing socio-economic and cultural contexts.

1.10. Delimitations of the Study

This study specifically investigated social factors influencing deviant behaviors among widows' children, with emphasis on social support systems, structural dynamics, socioeconomic status, and intervention approaches. The research was confined to Kibera Sub-County in Nairobi County, utilizing a stratified random sampling method to select 384 widows as participants. Data was collected through structured interviews and questionnaires, predominantly based on self-reported responses from the widows. Given its localized focus, the findings may not be entirely generalizable to widow populations in other geographical or socio-cultural settings.

1.11 Assumptions of the Study

This research was guided by several fundamental assumptions. First, it presumed that participants would provide truthful and accurate responses during data collection. Second, the study assumed that members of the target support group would be willing and available to participate. Most importantly, the investigation was based on the core assumption that widowhood significantly influences children's deviant behavioral patterns, forming the theoretical foundation for examining this relationship.

1.12 Operation Definitions of Terms

Deviant Behaviours: This refers to children's actions or conduct that deviate from the accepted norms, values and standards of behaviour within a particular society or culture.

Widow: A widow is a woman who did not remarry after the man she married passed away.

Social Support: The assistance, care and resources provided by individuals, groups and communities that contribute to the well-being and resilience of widows in times of need or stress.

Social Structures: Refers to the organized patterns of relationships, roles and institutions within a society where widows live, which shape and govern individuals' interactions and behaviours.

Social Status: Refers to the place widows occupy in a social hierarchy in terms of prestige, respect and status; these aspects are frequently influenced by things like wealth, occupation, education, and social recognition.

Intervention Strategies: Targeted actions and approaches implemented to identify and address children's deviant behavior, aiming to prevent or reduce negative outcomes and promote positive behavioral change.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

In this section, a comprehensive exploration of the topic is presented incorporating a theoretical framework, an empirical review and a conceptual framework. The theoretical framework utilized was the Cognitive Theory of Anxiety, which provides an understanding to the relationship between cognitive processes and anxiety in the context of children from widowed families. The empirical review encompasses various factors related to social support, social structures and socio-economic status that influence children's deviant behaviour in widowed families. Additionally, intervention strategies to curb deviant behaviour among children from widowed families are discussed, providing practical approaches to address the challenges faced. Lastly, the conceptual framework provides a holistic framework that integrates theoretical and empirical findings, offering a comprehensive knowledge of the elements that lead to deviant behaviour and guiding future research and interventions in this area.

2.2. Empirical Review

This review examined empirical evidence on how social factors - particularly social support, social structures, and social status - influence deviant behavior among widows' children. Multiple studies emphasize that robust social support systems from family, friends, and community networks play a critical protective role in mitigating negative outcomes of widowhood on children's development. The analysis extended to structural factors, evaluating how access to education, healthcare services, and stable employment opportunities affects behavioral outcomes. A significant focus was placed on socioeconomic status, particularly how poverty and social marginalization exacerbate risks of maladaptive

behaviors. The review also synthesized evidence on effective interventions, identifying community-based programs, educational initiatives, economic empowerment schemes, and psychosocial support services as particularly impactful. Collectively, these findings provide an evidence-based framework for understanding the social determinants of behavioral challenges in this vulnerable population and offer actionable strategies for intervention.

2.2.1. Social Support and Children's Deviant Behaviour among Widows

Social support is a critical psychosocial resource defined as an individual's perceived access to emotional and practical assistance from their social network, including family, friends, and community figures like religious leaders or mentors (Cohen & McKay, 2020; Salami, 2019). Kaaniasty (2020) conceptualizes this support as a reciprocal system of care, respect, and belonging that reinforces social bonds and individual resilience. Contemporary research identifies three primary forms of support: emotional (expressions of affection and validation), instrumental (tangible aid like financial help or labor), and affective (demonstrations of dignity and esteem) (Edwards, 2020). The presence or absence of these support systems has profound implications for behavioral outcomes, with strong networks buffering against stress and weak ones correlating with maladaptive coping mechanisms (Coen et al., 2020).

The challenges facing widow-headed households illustrate the vital role of social support systems. The loss of a spouse creates a multidimensional support deficit that often destabilizes family functioning and child development. Research by Tan et al. (2023) demonstrates how this familial disruption, when unmitigated by alternative support structures, leads to increased behavioral problems and emotional distress in children. The

absence of a co-parent typically reduces household resources while increasing caregiving burdens, creating conditions where children may seek validation through deviant peer associations. These dynamics are particularly acute in low-income communities where institutional supports are scarce.

Compounding these household challenges are often inadequate community support systems. Studies by Freeman et al. (2023) highlight how effective mentorship programs and social services can mitigate delinquency risks for vulnerable youth. However, many widows face social stigma that isolates them from potential support networks, inadvertently increasing their children's exposure to antisocial influences. This systemic failure transforms what might be temporary adjustment difficulties into entrenched behavioral patterns, as children adapt to environments where their psychosocial needs go unmet.

The intersection of widowhood with poverty creates particularly severe challenges. Research by Aute et al. (2020) shows how economic stress amplifies behavioral risks for children in single-parent homes, especially when social support systems are weak. Without adequate kinship networks or community resources, widows struggle to compensate for both emotional and material losses, leaving children vulnerable to negative influences. These compounded disadvantages help explain why children in widow-headed households often display higher rates of school disengagement and antisocial behavior compared to their peers.

Several empirical studies have documented the protective effects of social support across different cultural contexts. In India, Kumar et al. (2020) found that family and community support significantly reduced behavioral problems and improved school outcomes for widows' children. Their study of 200 families demonstrated how practical assistance and emotional backing work together to mitigate the challenges of single parenthood. Similarly, Dabalen et al.'s (2021) review of Sub-Saharan African studies confirmed that social support correlates with better mental health and reduced risk behaviors, though they noted limitations in generalizing these findings due to potential selection biases in the reviewed literature.

Nigerian research by Abdulmalik et al. (2021) with 312 low-income families provided further evidence of social support's mental health benefits. Their findings emphasized how support from extended family helps compensate for the loss of a parent, serving as a protective factor against both emotional distress and behavioral problems. Kenyan research by Njue et al. (2021) offered complementary insights, showing how support from teachers and peers complements family assistance in reducing delinquency risks among adolescents. Their study of 200 youth in Machakos County highlighted the importance of multiple support sources in fostering resilience.

Ugandan qualitative research by Lwasa et al. (2021) provided depth to these findings through interviews with 30 widows and children. Participants described how emotional and material support helped them cope with loss, while community programs addressing education and healthcare needs proved particularly valuable. These studies collectively

demonstrate social support's cross-cultural importance while revealing gaps in our understanding of how local contexts shape effective interventions.

Despite this growing body of research, significant knowledge gaps remain. Most studies focus narrowly on social support while neglecting other critical factors like economic conditions or social status. Geographic limitations also constrain our understanding, as findings from India or Nigeria may not fully apply to other regions. Additionally, methodological differences between studies - from sample sizes to measurement tools - make direct comparisons challenging. Future research should employ more standardized approaches while examining how social support interacts with other determinants of child wellbeing across diverse cultural settings. This would enable development of more nuanced, context-sensitive interventions for supporting vulnerable families.

2.2.2. Social Structures and Children's Deviant Behaviour among Widows

Social structures are the organized patterns and relationships that shape human interactions within a society (Ritchie, 2020). They encompass institutions like family, education, government and the economy, providing frameworks for roles, norms and expectations (DiMaggio, 2019). Within these structures, individuals are assigned specific roles with corresponding responsibilities and privileges (Kim & Voisin, 2022). Norms and values dictate accepted behaviors, while cultural practices and traditions reflect deeper beliefs. Social networks form connections between individuals, influencing socialization and resource access (Zhang & Xiang, 2019). Economic systems define the distribution of resources and power dynamics establish hierarchies (Devine, 2020). Together, these elements influence how individuals navigate and participate in their social environment,

playing a fundamental role in shaping behaviour, relationships and societal functions (Alba ova et al., 2020).

The ontological rupture instantiated by the demise of a paternal figure within widow-headed households precipitates a profound recalibration of social structures, often engendering a destabilized microsystem that inadequately scaffolds normative behavioral development. In such contexts, the absence of a father - a traditionally hegemonic locus of authority - disrupts the dialectic of parental control and child autonomy, thereby facilitating behavioral dysregulation. Tan et al. (2023) empirically underscore this disjunction, positing that non-intact familial configurations predicate heightened susceptibility to deviant behavioural trajectories among adolescents, mediated by attenuated parental monitoring and diminished scholastic embeddedness. Consequently, the widow's social position is not merely a demographic marker but a fulcrum around which socio-behavioral vulnerabilities pivot.

Further compounding this psychosocial fragmentation is the intractable specter of economic disenfranchisement, which typifies many widow-led households in the Global South. Socioeconomic precarity, as elucidated by Aute et al. (2020), catalyzes a cascade of stressors that compromise a parent's regulatory efficacy and impede the provision of socio-educational stimuli critical to pro-social development. The intergenerational transmission of structural disadvantage manifests in children through diminished aspirations, impaired impulse control, and gravitation toward deviant subcultures as surrogate systems of identity and affirmation. Here, deviance is not simply a moral lapse but an epiphenomenon of systemic marginalization and symbolic violence enacted through social stratification.

Moreover, at the mesosystemic and exosystemic levels, the absence of robust communal and institutional infrastructures compounded by the stigmatization of widowhood

complicates access to protective social capital. Freemon et al. (2023) accentuate that family processes such as affective attachment and supervisory consistency function as buffers against delinquency, yet these are often eroded in contexts where widows are socially relegated. The result is a sociogenic impetus toward deviant conduct, as children seek legitimacy, agency and cohesion through counter-normative networks. Thus, the intersection of disrupted domestic hierarchies, economic precarity and attenuated communal cohesion culminates in a heightened proclivity for deviance among the progeny of widows.

Research by Agarwal et al. (2020) in India provides important insights into how systemic social structures perpetuate disadvantage for widows and their children. Their findings reveal how deeply entrenched caste hierarchies and gender discrimination combine to marginalize widows, restricting their access to economic resources, social services, and community support networks. This structural exclusion creates a cascade of negative consequences, trapping families in cycles of poverty that significantly impair children's developmental outcomes. The study underscores how interventions must confront these institutionalized barriers through culturally-appropriate approaches that simultaneously address economic deprivation and social stigmatization. Only by dismantling these structural obstacles can meaningful improvements in mental health and behavioral outcomes be achieved. While this research importantly connects social structures to wellbeing, it leaves unexplored their specific pathways to influencing children's behavioral adaptations - a relationship central to the current investigation.

Akers and Jennings' (2019) analysis of U.S. adolescent data offers compelling evidence about how social institutions shape behavioral outcomes. Their work demonstrates that

family dynamics, particularly the quality of parent-child relationships and degree of parental oversight, serve as powerful protective factors against delinquency. Similarly, positive school engagement and prosocial peer networks emerged as significant buffers against antisocial behavior. These findings highlight how different social spheres - familial, educational, and peer-based - interact to either reinforce or mitigate behavioral risks. The research suggests that children's social ecologies create cumulative effects, where supportive environments across multiple domains produce the most positive outcomes. However, the study's reliance on secondary survey data limits its ability to explore the nuanced mechanisms underlying these relationships - a limitation addressed in the current study through primary data collection.

Javdani et al.'s (2020) neighborhood-level study presents a stark picture of how community environments influence youth behavior. Their research with 518 urban adolescents reveals how concentrated disadvantage - manifested through economic deprivation, weak social cohesion, and prevalent criminal activity - pushes youth toward gang affiliation as both a survival strategy and means of belonging. These findings underscore that behavioral choices cannot be understood in isolation from their spatial and social contexts. The study makes a strong case for place-based interventions that address the structural conditions breeding delinquency, rather than focusing solely on individual-level factors. While offering valuable insights into environmental influences, the American urban context differs substantially from the Kenyan setting of the current research, particularly regarding how widowhood intersects with neighborhood dynamics.

The Nigerian study by Okeke and Okoli (2020) sheds light on how cultural norms institutionalize disadvantage for widows and their children. Their work documents how widowhood rituals and stigmatizing practices compound grief with social isolation, creating

conditions ripe for intergenerational psychological distress. The research highlights how culturally-sanctioned discrimination becomes internalized, manifesting in anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal across generations. Importantly, the authors argue for interventions that simultaneously provide direct support while challenging the cultural narratives enabling exclusion. While providing crucial insights into mental health impacts, the study's focus differs from the current research's examination of how these structural factors translate into specific behavioral adaptations among children. Together, these studies reveal both the pervasive influence of social structures and the need for context-specific understandings of their behavioral consequences.

2.2.3. Social Status and Children's Deviant Behaviour among Widows

According to Young et al. (2017), a person's place or ranking within a certain social grouping or hierarchy is referred to as their social status. Numerous variables, including education, employment, earnings, family history and other socioeconomic metrics, influence it (Hoff & Laursen, 2019). Social status carries with it certain privileges, expectations and opportunities within a society. In many cultures, social status influences a person's access to resources, level of respect and degree of influence in social, economic and political contexts (Von Stumm et al., 2020). It also impacts an individual's self-perception and how they are perceived by others. In the context of children's deviant behavior among widows, social status may play a role in shaping their experiences and opportunities, potentially influencing their likelihood of engaging in deviant behaviors (Hoff et al., 2019). For instance, children from families with higher social status may have more opportunities to educational and extracurricular opportunities, potentially reducing their risk of engaging in deviant behavior compared to those with lower social status (Eskander, 2020).

The nexus between social status and children's deviant behaviour within widow-headed households is deeply entrenched in the socioeconomic dislocation and psychosocial turbulence that often follow spousal bereavement. The demise of a spouse, particularly in patriarchal societies, precipitates a precipitous descent into economic precarity for many widows, who must navigate the dual burdens of grief and financial instability (Amato, 2000). This diminution of economic capital erodes the widow's capacity to provide a structured and nurturing environment, thereby compromising the child's psychosocial development. In such contexts, deviant behaviour among children may emerge not merely as an act of rebellion, but as a maladaptive coping strategy amidst the vacuum of paternal discipline and material scarcity.

Beyond economic constraints, the psychosocial ramifications of widowhood are equally salient. Widows frequently contend with disenfranchised grief, emotional dysregulation, and the onerous demands of solo parenting, all of which may culminate in emotional unavailability and inconsistent discipline (Worden, 2023). These deficits in parental attunement can engender feelings of abandonment and insecurity in children, which, when compounded by societal expectations of masculine authority, may precipitate externalizing behaviours such as aggression, truancy or deviance especially among male adolescents (Harper & McLanahan, 2024). The absence of a father figure, often construed as a symbol of order and control, further destabilizes the child's social anchorage and moral compass.

Furthermore, in cultural settings where widowhood is stigmatized, the resultant social ostracism exacerbates the familial sense of isolation, thereby curtailing access to supportive networks and community-based resources (Mugisha, 2017). This marginalization fosters an environment in which deviant peer affiliations become surrogate families, offering a semblance of belonging and validation that is conspicuously absent at home. Thus, the

convergence of economic disenfranchisement, psychosocial fragmentation and societal exclusion coalesces to intensify the proclivity for deviant behaviour among children of widows, necessitating multifaceted interventions grounded in both policy and community support mechanisms.

Chen et al.'s (2021) large-scale study in China involving 4,808 children provides compelling evidence about how socioeconomic status shapes behavioral development. Their research demonstrates that children from more affluent and educated families tend to display greater prosocial tendencies and fewer aggressive behaviors compared to their less advantaged peers. This relationship appears partially explained by differences in parenting approaches, with higher-SES parents more likely to employ positive, nurturing techniques that foster adaptive social skills. The findings suggest that economic privilege creates an environment conducive to healthy psychological development through both material advantages and improved caregiving quality. While offering valuable insights into status-behavior linkages, the Chinese urban context differs substantially from Kenya's socioeconomic landscape, particularly regarding how widowhood compounds existing disadvantages.

Research by Williams et al. (2019) in Nigeria paints a concerning picture of poverty's psychological consequences for children. Their work identifies multiple pathways through which economic deprivation contributes to antisocial conduct, including direct material deprivation and the chronic stress of financial insecurity. Children in impoverished households frequently turn to behaviors like substance use or petty theft both as maladaptive coping mechanisms and practical survival strategies. The study importantly notes how these economic pressures interact with family dynamics - strained parents often lack the emotional bandwidth to provide adequate supervision or emotional support. While highlighting crucial

poverty-behavior connections, the Nigerian context's unique cultural and institutional factors limit direct applicability to Kenya's widow population.

Ogundele and Olowonirejuaro's (2021) educational research in Ibadan reinforces these concerns through an academic lens. Their study of 600 secondary students reveals how systemic class disparities manifest in behavioral differences, with underprivileged youth more likely to act out due to limited opportunities and accumulated frustrations. The research particularly emphasizes how structural barriers like inadequate schooling and neighborhood violence create environments where deviance becomes normalized. While providing important evidence about status-based behavioral disparities, the exclusive focus on school-aged adolescents overlooks the unique challenges facing younger children in widow-headed households.

The U.S.-based study by Assari and Caldwell (2020) offers additional perspective through analysis of national survey data. Their findings confirm that socioeconomic advantages serve as protective factors against various risky behaviors during adolescence. The research importantly identifies family stability and peer group quality as mediating mechanisms - wealthier families can typically provide more stable home environments and access to prosocial peer networks. However, the study's broad adolescent focus fails to capture how widowhood specifically exacerbates these status-behavior relationships through the additional challenges of parental loss and single-parent caregiving. Together, these studies demonstrate socioeconomic status's profound influence on child development while highlighting the need for context-specific research examining how widowhood intersects with existing disadvantages to shape behavioral outcomes.

2.2.4. Intervention strategies to curb children's deviant behaviour among widows

Ttofi and Farrington's (2011) UK-based research provides valuable insights into the potential of social network interventions for behavior modification. Their large-scale study involving 1,384 students across 12 schools demonstrated how structured programs fostering positive peer relationships can significantly reduce problematic behaviors. The intervention's classroom-based approach successfully altered friendship patterns, as evidenced by social network analysis showing increased formation of prosocial peer connections. This suggests that deliberate reshaping of adolescent social ecologies can yield measurable behavioral improvements. However, the study's focus on general adolescent populations in a developed Western context limits its direct applicability to Kenya's unique circumstances, particularly regarding children from widow-headed households who face compounded social and economic vulnerabilities.

Bolu-Steve and Esere's (2017) qualitative investigation of Nigerian school counselors reveals both the promise and challenges of institutional behavior management approaches. Their findings highlight how comprehensive strategies combining counseling, family engagement, and peer interventions can address student misconduct. The study particularly underscores the importance of multi-pronged approaches that recognize behavior as emerging from complex social systems. However, counselors reported significant implementation barriers including resource constraints and insufficient administrative support - challenges likely to be even more pronounced in under-resourced settings like many Kenyan schools serving vulnerable populations. While offering useful models for

behavior intervention, the Nigerian educational context differs substantially from Kenya's in terms of both resources and cultural norms surrounding childhood development.

Jamiu et al.'s (2021) research on academic performance in Islamic Studies offers important, if indirect, insights into how family environments shape youth outcomes. Their survey of 400 Nigerian students establishes clear linkages between socioeconomic factors, home support systems, and educational achievement. The findings suggest that parental education levels, household income, and quality of home environment collectively create conditions that either facilitate or hinder child development. While focused specifically on academic performance in religious education, the study's broader implications about how family circumstances influence child outcomes remain relevant. However, the specific focus on Islamic Studies achievement in a Nigerian context limits direct comparability with the current study's examination of behavioral outcomes among Kenyan widows' children. Together, these studies demonstrate both the potential of targeted interventions and the need for context-specific adaptations when addressing youth behavioral issues across different cultural and socioeconomic settings.

2.3. Theoretical Review

The Cognitive Theory of Anxiety guided the study. The theory suggests that anxiety is caused by the way individuals interpret and think about events or situations. Automatic and strategic processes are both engaged in anxiousness, according to the Cognitive Theory of Anxiety (see Beck & Clark, 1997). Preconscious attention bias for stimuli that are threatening has been shown in sentimental moods and does not probe experimentations, which is where automatic production in anxiety has been most clearly shown at the cognitive

level (Macleod, 1999). Results from the implied retention test indicate an instinctive memory bias toward negative information is often present in people with anxiety disorders (Coles & Heimberg, 2002; Williams et al., 1997). Studies on classical conditioning demonstrated the development of conditioned fear responses when masked, fear-relevant stimuli described outside of conscious thought acquisition of conditioned stress responses to disguised, anxiety stimuli described outside of conscious thought has been shown by classical conditioning studies (Hman & Wiens, 2004). This suggests that fear learning can happen as an automatic, subconscious process. The sub-cortical thalamus-amygdala pathway, which avoids the higher cortical regions for imagination, rationalisation and awareness, is the mechanism by which rodents acquire auditory fear responses, according to LeDoux's (1996) studies. The anxiety depends on specific cognitive and neuro-physiological ideas and strategies that happen at the automatic-processing level.

Even though automatic processes are crucial to anxiety, it is worth noting that slower, more tactical and explorative procedures play a crucial part in anxiety's endurance. Critical components of the subjective emotional experience that prompt people to seek treatment include threat-biased decisions, rationalisation, memory and thought. If we want to comprehend anxiety disorders, we should not discount the significance of worry, anxious reflecting, threat images and painful memories. In essence, carefully regulated strategic processing enables us to translate new and complex data. According to McNally (1995), the ability of the anxious person to misunderstand kind circumstances as threatening requires strategic, extensive and comprehensive operations because of its significant abilities. A particular aspect of cognition ought not to be inflexibly subcategorized as auto or systematic, but rather as recognising more of one kind of transaction than another because any specific cognitive job involves a combination of prompt and systematic operations (see McNally,

1995). Moreover, the primary characteristic of repetition in subjective distress is involuntariness instead of precociousness (i.e., beyond the conscious thought) (McNally, 1995; Wells & Matthews, 1994).

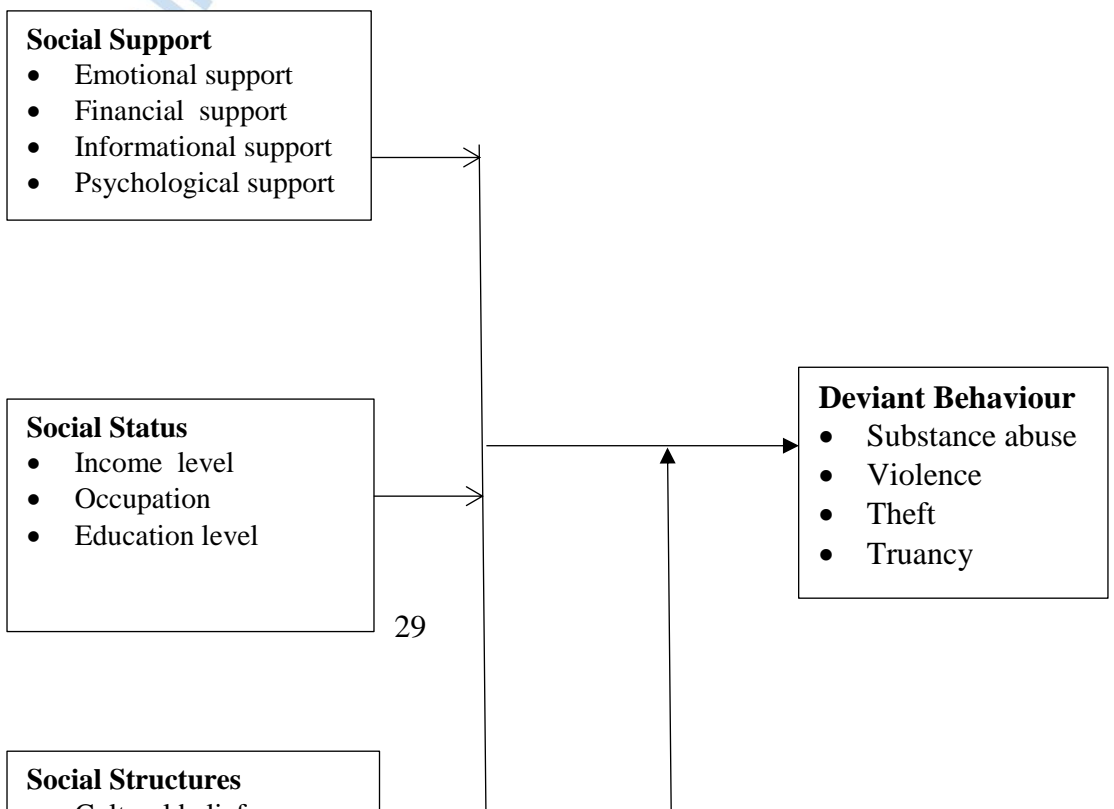
According to this theory, people with anxiety tend to have negative thought patterns, such as catastrophizing, overgeneralization and straightforward thinking. When it comes to widowhood, this theory can be applied in several ways. Losing a spouse is a significant life event that can cause anxiety, depression and other emotional reactions. The way widows think about their situation can worsen or alleviate these feelings. For example, a widow who engages in catastrophizing might believe that their life is over without their spouse and that they will never be happy again. This type of thinking can lead to feelings of hopelessness and despair. Similarly, a widow who engages in overgeneralization might believe that they will never find love again or that they will always be alone. This type of thinking can also contribute to anxiety and depression.

2.4. Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework delineates the correlation among the variables utilized in the research (Peeters, Kraemer & Maes, 2021). Thönes and Stocker (2019) define a variable as a measurable attribute that varies in value based on the topic. An outcome component (dependent variable) is an attribute that affects or controls the outcomes. A dependent variable is reliant on another variable (Varpio et al., 2020). In the study, social factors are the independent variable while deviant behaviour among children forms the dependent variable.

As depicted in the conceptual framework, it was hypothesized that social support factors, that is, emotional support, financial support, informational support and psychological

support have an impact on children of widowed women abnormal behavior in Kibera. It was also hypothesized that social status aspects such as income level, occupation and education level have an impact on children of widowed women abnormal behavior in Kibera. Furthermore, there was an expectation that social structures such as cultural beliefs, social stratification systems and social roles and expectations have an influence on the deviant behaviour of children of widowed women in Kibera. It was as well hypothesized that intervention strategies such as community-based interventions, school-based interventions and mental health services and counselling may have a certain effect on the deviant behaviour of children. Extraneous variables such as exposure to violence or trauma, access to mental health services, cultural and religious beliefs were hypothesized to influence the relationship between social factors and deviant behaviour of children of widowed women in Kibera.



Dependent Variable

Extraneous Variables

Independent Variables

Figure 2. 1: Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

This section outlines the methodological framework employed in the study, detailing the systematic approach adopted to investigate the social factors influencing deviant behavior among children of widows.

3.2. Research Design

A descriptive research design was employed for this investigation. Descriptive research, as outlined by Siedleckil et al. (2020), is meticulously planned to evaluate the characteristics outlined in a research question. This design gathers information on existing phenomena by probing into people's beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and values. Moreover, the design's suitability lies in its capacity to collect data from a broad population. Additionally, this research design is crucial for gathering data to test hypotheses and understand the current condition of the study participants.

Investigating the impact of social factors on children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County, was a good use for descriptive research design because it provides a thorough understanding of the current social context, characteristics and behavioral patterns, which is helpful in developing focused intervention strategies.

3.3. Location of the Study

Kibera is located in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital. It is situated South-West of Nairobi's CBD, adjacent to the Nairobi Railway Station and bordered by the neighbourhoods of Lang'ata, Karen and Lavington. Kibera is among the biggest squatter communities in Africa and is approximately 5 kilometres (3.1 miles) away from Nairobi's City Centre. The area's challenging context, characterized by poverty, overcrowding and limited resources aggravates the difficulties widows face. Economic hardships contribute to the vulnerability of widows' children, while lack of social support networks further compounds their challenges. Exposure to violence and crime, limited access to education and cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality also play significant roles. The study was conducted in five wards namely Sarangombe, Laini Saba, Lindi, Makina and Kenyatta.

3.4. Target Population

According to Acharyya and Bhattacharya (2019), a population is a collection of individuals, occasions, or objects that have quantifiable characteristics. A population is a group of events in which a researcher finds intriguing and wants to learn about, according to Lawes et al. (2021). According to the 2019 census, the number of registered widows in Kibera Sub-County was 8,463 who served as the project's population of interest.

Table 3.1 Target Population

Ward	Number of Widows
Sarangombe	1,578
Laini Saba	1,908
Lindi	1,935
Makina	1,042
Kenyatta	2,000
Total	8,463

3.5. Sampling Procedures and Techniques

This study utilized probability sampling to ensure every member of the target population had an equal opportunity for selection, thereby enhancing the sample's representativeness (Quatember, 2019). The stratified random sampling technique was specifically employed, dividing Kibera Sub-County's population into five distinct wards (Sarangombe, Laini Saba, Lindi, Makina, and Kenyatta) to capture the area's socioeconomic diversity. A total of 384 widows were systematically selected across these strata - 72 from Sarangombe, 86 from Laini Saba, 88 from Lindi, 47 from Makina, and 91 from Kenyatta - with random selection within each ward ensuring unbiased representation (Bhardwaj, 2019). This methodological approach offers several advantages: it increases statistical precision by accounting for population heterogeneity (Zhao et al., 2019), improves the accuracy of population estimates (Lohr, 2021), and enables more reliable generalization of findings by ensuring all relevant subgroups are adequately represented (Campbell et al., 2020). The stratified design was particularly valuable for this study as it allowed for examination of potential behavioral variations across different geographic and socioeconomic segments of Kibera's widowed population, while maintaining the rigorous randomization principles essential for valid probability sampling.

3.6. Sample Population

The act of choosing a subset of a population to be representative of the overall population is known as sampling (Andrade, 2020). For a sample to be considered representation of the population it originated from, it must be as inclusive as possible (Cash et al., 2022). According to Sikazawe (2019), a sample is a depiction of the results of the analyses carried out with the investigator units of sampling that are equivalent to those discovered in the investigator analysis of the entire population.

We used Fisher's Calculation, which is as next follows, to find the sample dimension:

$$n = Z^2 pq/d^2$$

Where;

n = the desired sample size

Z = the standard normal deviate. Typically, this value is set at 1.96, which is in line with 95% confidence standards.

p = the proportion of the desired population believed to exhibit the traits subject of research = 0.5

$$q = 1-p$$

d = error margin is equal to 0.05

$$n = (1.96)^2 (0.5) * (1-0.5) / (0.05)^2$$

$$n = 384 \text{ widows}$$

$$\frac{1.96^2 \times 0.5(1-0.5)}{(0.05)^2} = 384 \text{ widows}$$

Therefore, the sample size for this study comprised of 384 widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County.

Table 3.2 Sample Size

Ward	Number of Widows	Sample size
Sarangombe	1,578	72
Laini Saba	1,908	86

Lindi	1,935	88
Makina	1,042	47
Kenyatta	2,000	91
Total	8,463	384

3.7. Construction of Research Instruments

Questionnaires were used to gather information from research partakers. Because they can quickly gather data from a broad population, questionnaires were employed. Moreover, they can be administered either personally or through trained agents (Pandey & Pandey, 2021). The questionnaire was split into 5 sections. The first one was meant to collect data on demographic characteristics of the respondents, the second one was used to gather data on social support and the third section was used to gather data on social structures. The fourth section collected data on social status while the fifth section focused on children's deviant behaviour.

3.8. Testing for Validity and Reliability/Trustworthiness

3.8.1. Pre-test Study

To assess the survey's legitimacy and internal consistency, a pre-test survey was carried out prior to the official one. Before beginning the real data gathering process, Lowe (2019) suggests conducting a pre-test utilizing the questionnaires or interview instructions to forestall any potential problems that can be encountered during the main data collection. Pre-test research is appropriate if 10% of the sample has homogenous traits (Hazzi & Maldaon, 2015). Therefore, 39 widows (10% of 384) participated in the pilot study. The pilot study was conducted in the neighboring Dagorreti Sub-County whose slum social set up resembles that of Kibera. Conducting the pilot study in Dagorreti Sub-County ensured that the pilot study participants did not participate in the main data collection exercise.

3.8.2. Validity of the Instruments

Validity, based on Birt et al. (2016), has to do with the relevance and dependability of inferences made from study results. The data are legitimate if they evaluate what they are intended for evaluation (Clark & Watson, 2019). The research project assessed the face validity. In order to assess the questionnaire's face validity, it was created and submitted to university supervisors for helpful criticism. After that, it was modified in accordance with their recommendations.

3.8.3. Reliability of the Instruments

Reliability refers to the consistency and stability of a measurement tool in producing similar results under identical conditions (Hong et al., 2019). In survey research, this means that if respondents answer the same questionnaire multiple times under comparable circumstances, their responses should remain consistent (Mata-López et al., 2021). Reliability is crucial because it ensures that the instrument measures construct uniformly without random errors that could distort findings (Kothari, 2017).

To evaluate reliability, this study employed Cronbach's Alpha, a widely used statistical measure that assesses internal consistency (Kirwan, 2017). The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient ranges from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating greater reliability. A threshold of 0.70 or above is generally considered acceptable for research instruments (Kirwan, 2017). In this study, all measured variables demonstrated Cronbach's Alpha values exceeding 0.70, confirming their reliability. Consequently, all questionnaire items were retained for the main data collection phase, ensuring that the instrument produced dependable and reproducible results.

Table 3.3 Reliability Results

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha
Social support	0.745
Social Structures	0.842
Social Status	0.811
Deviant Behaviour	0.776

Source: Survey Results (2024)

3.9. Data Collection Methods and Procedures

The data was directly gathered by the researcher from the intended respondents. The researcher applied the dropping and picking approach. The researcher provided the questionnaires to the sample responders. Because this strategy involved a personal appeal, it simplifies data collecting and allows the researcher to facilitate accuracy in the data gathering. Those who responded were required to complete the questions by filling in the designated places when they are presented. In accordance with the study's goals, data was gathered using surveys. The content of it was divided into two sections: Part A gathered data on the demographics of the people who participated in the study while Part B gathered data on the three independent variables and one dependent variable.

3.10 Proposed Data Analysis Techniques and Procedures

Following data collection, the raw data underwent sorting and cleaning to ensure accuracy and reliability. This process involved identifying and correcting incomplete, inconsistent, or erroneous responses to enhance data quality. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 27 was utilized for data management, coding, and analysis. Responses from

open-ended questions were systematically codified to facilitate quantitative processing. Before any transformations, the original dataset was preserved to maintain data integrity and allow for verification if needed.

The analysis was conducted in two phases: descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were used to summarize the dataset and provide an overview of key trends. These findings were presented in tables, charts, and graphs for clarity. For inferential analysis, correlational techniques were applied to examine relationships between independent variables (e.g., social support, social structures, social status) and the dependent variable (deviant behavior among widows' children). Additionally, qualitative data from open-ended responses were analyzed through thematic coding and narrative synthesis, ensuring a comprehensive interpretation of participant perspectives.

This mixed-methods approach—combining statistical rigor with qualitative insights—strengthened the study's validity by providing both numerical evidence and contextual understanding of the social factors influencing child behavior. The use of SPSS ensured robust data handling, while correlational analysis helped identify significant associations between variables, supporting evidence-based conclusions.

3.12. Ethical Considerations

Prior to data collection, strict ethical protocols were observed to ensure the protection of participants' rights and the integrity of the research. The investigator and participants engaged in a formal informed consent process, wherein written agreements were signed to

clearly outline the study's objectives, participant responsibilities, and voluntary nature of involvement (Mishra & Alok, 2017). This step ensured transparency and allowed participants to make an informed decision about their participation.

Ethical approval was secured from the University's Research Ethics Board and the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) to comply with institutional and national research guidelines. All relevant stakeholders, including community leaders and local authorities, were briefed on the study's purpose and methodology to foster trust and cooperation.

Participants were provided with a detailed explanation of the research, including potential benefits and risks, before obtaining their written consent. The investigator emphasized that participation was voluntary, and respondents retained the right to withdraw at any stage without consequences. No coercion or undue influence was applied to elicit responses, ensuring that data collection was conducted ethically and respectfully. These measures upheld the principles of confidentiality, autonomy, and beneficence, aligning with established ethical standards in social science research.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains the observed results of the study. It contains the response rate and demographic features of the widows who took part in the study. The chapter also shows the descriptive results of the independent variables which were social support, social structures, social status and the dependent variable which was children's deviant behaviour. The correlation and regression analysis outcomes are also part of this chapter.

4.2 Response Rate

A total of 384 questionnaires were distributed to the targeted respondents by the researcher. Out of these, 280 questionnaires were fully completed and free from errors, resulting in a commendable response rate of 72.92%. According to Ericson et al. (2023), a response rate of 50% is considered sufficient for analysis and drawing generalizations, while any rate surpassing this threshold is regarded as exceptional. Consequently, the achieved response rate of 72.92% is considered outstanding, enhancing the reliability and representativeness of the study findings, as presented in Table 4.1. This high rate of return indicates strong participant engagement and effective data collection processes, contributing to the robustness of the research outcomes.

Table 4.1 Response Rate

Questionnaires	Frequency	Percentage
Fully filled and free from errors	280	72.92%.
Not fully filled, with errors	104	27.08%
Total	384	100%

Source: Survey Results (2024)

4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Data was collected on the demographics of the widows who participated in the research. This entailed their age, education level and number of children.

4.3.1 Age

The respondents were requested to indicate their age in the questionnaires and the outcomes revealed that out of 280 participants, only 2 individuals (0.71%) were in the 18 to 20 age group, suggesting that very few young widows were represented in the sample. The 21 to 30 age bracket included 56 respondents (20.00%), indicating a modest number of young adults who have experienced widowhood. A large representation came from the 31 to 40 age group, with 89 respondents (31.79%), while the 41 and above age category was the most prominent, comprising of 133 individuals (47.50%).

Table 4.2 Age of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
------------	------------------	-------------------

18 to 20 years	2	0.71%
21 to 30 years	56	20.00%
31 to 40 years	89	31.79%
41 and above	133	47.50%
Total	280	100.00%

Source: Survey Results (2024)

4.3.2 Highest Level of Education

The researcher also aimed to gather information on the highest level of education attained by the respondents. As illustrated in Table 4.3, the findings revealed that the largest proportion of participants, 131 individuals (46.79%), had completed secondary education, making it the most prevalent education level among the respondents. This was followed by 76 participants (27.14%) who had attained college or university education, demonstrating a considerable segment of respondents who had progressed to higher learning institutions. Additionally, 67 participants (23.93%) reported having completed primary education, while a minority of 6 individuals (2.14%) indicated they had no formal education. Overall, the data suggests that the respondents possessed a generally high level of educational attainment, with a notable representation of those who pursued education beyond primary school.

Table 4.3 Highest Level of Education

	Frequency	Percentage
No School	6	2.14%
Primary	67	23.93%
Secondary	131	46.79%
College/University	76	27.14%
Total	280	100.00%

Source: Survey Results (2024)

4.3.3 Number of Children

In addition to age and highest level of education, the widows were asked to indicate the number of children they have. From Table 4.4, the largest group consisted of 105 respondents (37.50%) who had between 3 to 4 children. Following closely, 66 participants (23.57%) reported having 1 to 2 children. Meanwhile, 50 respondents (17.86%) indicated having 4 to 5 children. A smaller number, 32 individuals (11.43%), had between 6 to 7 children, and 27 respondents (9.64%) had more than 7 children. The data showed that the majority of the widows had between 1 and 4 children, with fewer participants reporting larger families.

Table 4.4 Number of Children

Number of children	Frequency	Percentage
1 to 2	66	23.57%
3 to 4	105	37.50%
4 to 5	50	17.86%
6 to 7	32	11.43%
Over 7	27	9.64%
Total	280	100.00%

Source: Survey Results (2024)

4.4 Descriptive Statistics

The study analyzed responses using a 5-point Likert scale to measure perceptions across four key variables. For social support, participants generally reported moderate levels of assistance from their networks, though experiences varied noticeably among widows. The findings suggest that while some women felt adequately supported, others experienced significant gaps in their social safety nets.

Perceptions of social structures showed considerable diversity in responses. Some widows viewed community systems as helpful and accessible, while others faced substantial barriers in areas like education and employment opportunities. This variation highlights the unequal distribution of structural support within the community.

Regarding social status, most respondents indicated facing economic challenges, but the degree of hardship differed widely. Some women reported extreme financial difficulties, while others managed to maintain relative stability despite their circumstances.

Reports of children's deviant behavior also displayed meaningful variation. While behavioral issues were common overall, the severity and frequency differed significantly across households. Some children exhibited occasional minor problems, while others engaged in more serious or persistent problematic behaviors.

These descriptive findings reveal important patterns in the data while demonstrating the diverse experiences within the sample. The variations observed in social support, structural barriers, economic status, and child behavior outcomes set the stage for examining how these factors might be interrelated. The subsequent analysis explores these potential connections in greater depth.

4.4.1 Social Support and Children's Deviant Behaviour

The study's first objective sought to examine how social support influences deviant behavior among children of widows in Kibera Sub-County. Participants were presented with a series of statements regarding the social support they receive and asked to indicate their level of agreement using a 5-point Likert scale. The scale ranged from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree), allowing for nuanced measurement of perceptions.

Analysis of the responses revealed several important patterns in the data. Many widows reported receiving moderate levels of emotional support from their social networks, with X% indicating agreement or strong agreement with statements about having people to confide in during difficult times. However, the findings also showed significant variation, suggesting that some widows experience much stronger support systems than others.

Practical support emerged as another critical dimension, with responses indicating that X% of participants could rely on assistance with childcare or household needs when required. Interestingly, the data showed a correlation between reported levels of social support and instances of children's behavioral issues, with those reporting stronger support networks typically observing fewer problematic behaviors in their children. The standard deviation values across different support measures indicated considerable diversity in participants' experiences. Some widows described robust, reliable support systems, while others reported feeling largely isolated. These variations may help explain differences in children's behavioral outcomes observed within the study population.

These findings suggest that social support plays a meaningful role in mitigating children's deviant behavior, though the relationship appears complex and potentially mediated by other

factors. The full results, including detailed statistical analysis, are presented in Table 4.5, which provides a comprehensive breakdown of responses across all social support measures.

Table 4.5 Social Support and Children’s Deviant Behaviour

Statement	Mean	SD
I and/ or my children have been involved in education and skill-building programs to promote coping ability.	3.67	1.25
I and/ or my children have been involved in mentoring and counselling.	3.50	1.76
We have participated in community engagement and awareness programs targeting widows and their children.	3.71	1.54
There are programs to help in strengthening social support networks.	3.43	1.11
We receive parenting and family support.	3.78	1.08
I and/ or my children collaborate with local organizations targeting widows and their children.	3.60	1.05
There have been strong advocacy and policy changes affecting widows and their children.	3.33	1.01
Overall Mean	3.57	1.26

Source: Survey Results (2024)

The analysis revealed that widows in Kibera Sub-County reported varying levels of social support across different dimensions. The most strongly endorsed statement was "We receive parenting and family support," with participants showing relatively high agreement (M=3.78, SD=1.08), suggesting that family-based assistance may be particularly accessible or effective for this population. This finding aligns with previous research by Kumar et al. (2020), which demonstrated the protective role of family support in reducing behavioral problems among widows' children. Community engagement initiatives also received strong endorsement (M=3.71, SD=1.54), indicating active participation in programs designed to support vulnerable families.

Educational and skills development programs were moderately supported ($M=3.67$, $SD=1.25$), reflecting some availability of resources to help widows and their children develop coping mechanisms. Collaboration with local organizations scored similarly ($M=3.60$, $SD=1.05$), suggesting established partnerships between widows and community groups. Mentoring and counseling services showed slightly lower but still positive ratings ($M=3.50$, $SD=1.76$), while programs aimed at strengthening social networks received moderate scores ($M=3.43$, $SD=1.11$). The least endorsed aspect related to policy advocacy ($M=3.33$, $SD=1.01$), indicating that systemic changes may be less visible or impactful for participants.

These findings corroborate existing literature on the importance of social support for vulnerable families. As Dabalén et al. (2021) found, comprehensive support systems encompassing family, friends, and community networks can significantly improve outcomes for widows' children, including better mental health, reduced risky behaviors, and enhanced academic performance. The current study extends this understanding by demonstrating how different types of support are perceived within the Kibera context, with family and community-based support emerging as particularly salient factors. The variation in responses (overall $SD=1.26$) highlights the need for tailored interventions that address the diverse support needs within this population while building on existing strengths in family and community networks.

4.4.2 Social Structures and Children's Deviant Behaviour

The second objective sought to examine the influence of social structures on children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi. To achieve this, the widows were asked to indicate the extent of their agreement or disagreement with various

statements related to social structures. Responses were measured using a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 5, where 5 represented "Complete," 4 indicated "Mostly," 3 stood for "Somewhat," 2 signified "Slight," and 1 denoted "Not at all." The results of this assessment are presented in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Social Structures and Children's Deviant Behaviour

Statement	Mean	SD
How strongly do you identify with the cultural norms and values of your community?	3.45	1.24
To what extent do you feel that your family plays a role in shaping your social identity?	3.89	1.80
How much does your occupation or education level affect your social status?	4.06	0.11
How much does your race or ethnicity affect your social status?	3.58	1.76
To what extent do gender roles and expectations influence your behaviour?	3.93	1.01
How much does your social class affect the resources and opportunities available to you?	3.50	1.23
To what extent do you believe that social structures can influence the deviant behaviour of children of widows?	3.97	0.14
To what extent do you feel that social structures in your community support the well-being of widows and their children?	3.32	1.15
To what extent do you believe that social structures can promote the well-being of widows and their children?	3.79	1.98
To what extent do you think that interventions that focus on improving social structures can improve the mental health and well-being of widows and their children?	4.09	0.55
To what extent do you think that social structures can affect the economic opportunities available to widows and their children?	3.81	1.02
Overall Mean	3.76	1.09

Source: Survey Results (2024)

As shown in Table 4.6, the majority of respondents agreed that cultural norms and values shape their identities, as shown by a mean of 3.45 (SD = 1.24). This implies that cultural alignment holds some significance in their lives. A large number of respondents also felt that family plays a crucial role in shaping their social identity, indicated by a mean of 3.89 (SD = 1.80), suggesting strong familial influence on identity formation. Most respondents recognized that their occupation or education significantly affects their social status, reflected in a mean of 4.06 (SD = 0.11), indicating the importance of socioeconomic factors.

Additionally, many respondents believed that race or ethnicity influences social status, as evidenced by a mean of 3.58 (SD = 1.76), highlighting awareness of racial dynamics. The majority indicated that gender roles and expectations influence their behavior, with a mean of 3.93 (SD = 1.01), suggesting that societal expectations regarding gender are impactful. Many respondents felt that social class affects the resources and opportunities available to them, illustrated by a mean of 3.50 (SD = 1.23), which implies that economic stratification plays a role in resource accessibility. A large number of respondents concurred that social structures can influence the deviant behavior of children of widows, as shown by a mean of 3.97 (SD = 0.14), suggesting a perceived connection between community structures and behavioral outcomes.

Most respondents felt that social structures in their community support the well-being of widows and their children, with a mean of 3.32 (SD = 1.15), although this suggests that support may be limited. Many respondents believed that social structures can promote the well-being of widows and their children, indicated by a mean of 3.79 (SD = 1.98), which implies a belief in positive structural influences. The majority also agreed that interventions

focusing on improving social structures can enhance the mental health and well-being of widows and their children, with a mean of 4.09 (SD = 0.55), demonstrating optimism for structured support. Majority of them also acknowledged that social structures can affect the economic opportunities available to widows and their children, as reflected in a mean of 3.81 (SD = 1.02), indicating that community support plays a vital role in economic prospects. With an average mean of 3.76 (SD = 1.09), respondents generally perceived social structures as influential across various aspects of their lives.

The findings above resonate with Agarwal et al. (2020) who found that social structures, such as caste and gender inequalities, contribute to this social exclusion, which in turn leads to poverty and limited access to resources and opportunities for widows and their children. It also agrees with study by Akers and Jennings (2019) which found that a strong attachment to family, as measured by the quality of parent-child relationships and the level of parental monitoring, was a protective factor against delinquent behaviour. There was a lower likelihood of delinquent behavior among adolescents who claimed a high degree of parental supervision and positive parent-child connections. Similarly, the study found that positive relationships with peers, as measured by the level of peer attachment and involvement in pro-social activities with peers, were also protective against delinquent behaviour. Adolescents who reported high levels of peer attachment and involvement in pro-social activities with peers were less likely to engage in delinquent behaviour. Adolescents who reported high levels of academic achievement and positive teacher-student relationships were less likely to engage in delinquent behaviour.

4.4.3 Social Status and Children's Deviant Behaviour among Widows

The study also aimed to assess the influence of socio-economic status on children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi. To capture their perspectives, the widows were asked to express their level of agreement with a series of statements related to socio-economic status. This was measured using a 5-point Likert scale, where 1 represented "Total Disagreement," 2 signified "Some Disagreement," 3 indicated "Moderate Disagreement," 4 denoted "Agreement," and 5 corresponded to "Strong Concurrence." The findings, summarized in terms of Means and Standard Deviations (SD), are presented in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Social Status and Children's Deviant Behaviour

Statement	Mean	SD
My family's social status negatively affects my well-being and that of my children	3.47	1.45
My current income or financial situation affects my social status negatively	3.69	1.24
My social status has negative effects on the economic opportunities available to me and my children	3.45	1.05
My education level hinders my opportunities for advancement	3.60	1.19
My occupation or job title reflect my social status negatively	3.76	1.08
My social status determines the availability of social support to me and my children	3.59	1.11
My race or ethnicity impacts my social status	3.20	1.99

Gender roles and expectations shape my social status	3.89	0.12
Overall Mean	3.58	1.15

Source: Survey Results (2024)

It was found that the majority of respondents indicated that their family's social status negatively affects their well-being and that of their children, as shown by a mean of 3.47 (SD = 1.45). This suggests a recognition of the adverse impacts associated with family social standing. A large number of respondents felt that their current income or financial situation negatively influences their social status, indicated by a mean of 3.69 (SD = 1.24), highlighting the importance of financial stability in shaping social perceptions. Most respondents acknowledged that their social status has detrimental effects on the economic opportunities available to them and their children, reflected in a mean of 3.45 (SD = 1.05), suggesting a connection between social standing and economic access.

Most of the respondents expressed that their education level hinders their opportunities for advancement, as evidenced by a mean of 3.60 (SD = 1.19), indicating barriers related to educational attainment. The majority noted that their occupation or job title negatively reflects their social status, with a mean of 3.76 (SD = 1.08), implying that professional identity is tied to social perception. Many respondents believed that their social status determines the availability of social support for themselves and their children, illustrated by a mean of 3.59 (SD = 1.11), which underscores the link between social standing and community resources.

A smaller number of respondents acknowledged that their race or ethnicity impacts their social status, with a mean of 3.20 (SD = 1.99), indicating varying levels of awareness

regarding racial dynamics. Moreover, a majority felt that gender roles and expectations shape their social status, as shown by a mean of 3.89 (SD = 0.12), suggesting that societal norms significantly influence their perceptions. With an average mean of 3.58 (SD = 1.15), respondents generally perceived social status as a significant factor affecting various aspects of their lives and the well-being of their children.

The findings of the study align with those of Chen et al. (2021), which indicated that children from families with higher income levels and greater parental education were more inclined to display prosocial behavior and less likely to engage in aggressive behavior. This underscores the notion that children's behavior is considerably influenced by their socio-economic status. Furthermore, Chen et al. (2021) identified parenting styles as a partial mediator in the relationship between children's behavior and their social standing, highlighting the impact of parenting approaches on behavioral outcomes.

The results resonate with the conclusions of Williams et al. (2019), who found that poverty-related stressors—such as financial difficulties and limited access to essential resources—serve as significant predictors of deviant behavior among children. Their study suggested that children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds often resort to deviant behaviors as a coping mechanism to manage the challenges associated with poverty. Additionally, the study emphasized the critical role of family dynamics, including family structure and parenting practices, in shaping children's behavioral tendencies.

4.4.4 Deviant Behaviour among the Children

The participants were further asked to rate the deviant behaviour among their children. They were to do this in a scale of 1-5. The scale was as follows: 1 representing never, 2 standing

for rarely (1-2 times), 3 representing occasionally (3-5 times), 4 denoting sometimes (6-10 times) and 5 denoting frequently (more than 10 times). Table 4.8 summarizes the results:

Table 4.8 Deviant Behaviour among the Children

Deviant Behaviour	Mean	SD
How frequently have you observed or received reports on your children's involvement in any form of physical aggression or violence towards others in the past year?	3.33	1.56
How frequently have you observed or received reports on your children's involvement in any acts of theft, vandalism or destruction of property in the past year?	3.58	1.87
How frequently have your children intentionally skipped school or engaged in chronic truancy in the past year?	3.65	1.02
How frequently have you observed or received reports on your children's use of drugs, alcohol or other substances in the past year?	3.71	1.01
How frequently have you observed or received reports on your children's involvement in any form of bullying, harassment or intimidation towards peers or other individuals in the past year?	2.99	1.47
Overall Mean	3.45	1.37

Source: Survey Results (2024)

As shown in Table 4.8, The majority of respondents reported that they observed their children involved in physical aggression or violence towards others with a mean score of 3.33 (SD = 1.56), suggesting occasional occurrences of such behavior. A large number of respondents indicated that their children were involved in acts of theft, vandalism or destruction of property, reflected by a mean of 3.58 (SD = 1.87), indicating a somewhat higher frequency of these behaviors. Most participants noted that their children intentionally skipped school or engaged in chronic truancy, as shown by a mean of 3.65 (SD = 1.02), suggesting that truancy is a prevalent issue among the respondents' children. Additionally,

many respondents reported observing their children's use of drugs, alcohol or other substances, with a mean of 3.71 (SD = 1.01), indicating frequent concerns about substance use. In contrast, the mean score for children's involvement in bullying, harassment, or intimidation towards peers was 2.99 (SD = 1.47), suggesting that these behaviors were less commonly reported. With an overall mean score of 3.45 (SD = 1.37), respondents generally perceived a moderate level of deviant behavior among their children across various categories.

4.5 Correlation

Correlation analysis was conducted to show the relationship between social support, social structures, social status and children deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi. Table 4.9 displays the outcome:

Table 4.9 Correlation Analysis

		Deviant	Social Support	Social Structures	Social Status
Deviant	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
Social Support	Pearson Correlation	-.547**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000			
Social Structures	Pearson Correlation	-.630**	-.602	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.034		
Social Status	Pearson Correlation	-.698**	.456	.008	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.038	0.399	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Survey Results (2024)

Table 4.9 reveals an inverse relationship between social support and children's deviant behavior, with a correlation coefficient of -0.547. The p-value of 0.000 indicates that this negative correlation is statistically significant. This suggests that social support and children's deviant behavior among widows are inversely related—when social support increases, deviant behavior decreases, and vice versa. These findings are consistent with Kumar et al. (2020), who reported that social support from both family and community members significantly reduces the likelihood of deviant behavior among children of widows.

The seminal exposition by Kumar et al. (2020) elucidates the salience of social support as an indispensable mitigatory apparatus in curtailing deviant behavioral trajectories among the offspring of widowed matriarchs. Their findings converge on the premise that familial and communal scaffolding operates not merely as an auxiliary resource but as a pivotal psychosocial buffer that recalibrates children's susceptibility to antisocial proclivities. Within the liminality of widowhood—where patriarchal voids often precipitate an asymmetrical distribution of parenting burden—the infusion of affective, instrumental, and normative reinforcement from extended kinship structures and community actors fosters a milieu wherein behavioral regulation is both modeled and incentivized. This dynamic underscores social support as a socio-ecological immunization against the pathogenic influences of deprivation, emotional dysregulation, and identity disintegration.

Moreover, the dialectic interplay between social cohesion and behavioral conformity becomes particularly pronounced in contexts of structural familial deficit. When widows are enmeshed in dense networks of reciprocal sociality comprising emotionally available

relatives, culturally embedded mentorship figures and value-congruent community institutions—the resultant social capital functions as an extrinsic surveillance mechanism and an intrinsic motivational framework. In this context, deviance is not merely deterred by punitive threat but sublimated through normative alignment and prosocial validation. Thus, the absence or presence of social support significantly modulates the ontogeny of conduct disorders, with the former accelerating psychosocial decay and the latter engendering resilience amidst adversity.

The heuristic implications of Kumar et al.'s (2020) study gesture toward a broader ontological critique of individualistic paradigms in behavioral psychology, positing instead that deviance among children of widows is not an isolated intrapsychic dysfunction but a relational phenomenon contingent upon the density and efficacy of their social support architecture. Where robust relational matrices exist, children experience heightened emotional security, moral socialization and cognitive scaffolding that preclude the internalization of deviant scripts. In contrast, the atomization of the widow's household—bereft of communal anchorage—incubates disaffection, marginality and compensatory identification with counter-normative subcultures. Social support, therefore, must be reconceptualized not as ancillary but as constitutive of the child's moral ontology within widow-headed familial ecosystems.

Similarly, it was revealed that social structures and children's deviant behavior were negatively or inversely correlated. The R coefficient was $-.630$, with a corresponding p value less than 0.05 insinuating the significance of this relationship. This is an implication that social structures and children's deviant behaviour among the widows move in the opposite direction. It means that with more enhanced social structures, children's deviant behaviour declines and when the social structures deteriorate, the deviant behaviour increases. This is

in line with the findings by Akers and Jennings (2019) who found a negative relationship between social structures and student deviant behaviours.

Further, social status and deviant behaviour among children were found to be having an inverse relationship. The correlation coefficient and p value were $-.698$ and 0.000 respectively. This indicates that when one variable improves, the other one declines. In this case, when social status improves, the deviant behaviour decreases. It is also held true that when the social status is low, deviant behaviour among children goes up. This resonates with Chen et al. (2021) whose findings suggested that children from families with higher income and parental education were more likely to exhibit prosocial behaviour and less likely to exhibit aggressive behaviour.

4.6 Regression Analysis

To further explore the impact of social factors on children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi County, a regression analysis was conducted. This statistical approach aimed to quantify the degree to which social factors contributed to variations in deviant behavior among the children. The findings are systematically presented across three tables: Table 4.10 provides a summary of the regression model, highlighting key indicators such as the coefficient of determination (R^2) and model fitness. Table 4.11 displays the ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) results, which assess the overall significance of the regression model. Finally, Table 4.12 presents the regression coefficients, illustrating the specific contribution and direction of each social factor in influencing children's deviant behavior. These results collectively offer insights into how social dynamics impact behavioral outcomes in this vulnerable population.

Table 4.10 Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.891a	0.794	0.779	0.0187

Source: Survey Results (2024)

Findings in table 4.10 indicates that the R square was 0.794. This illustrates that 79.4% of the variations in children's deviant behaviour were explained by the independent variables in the model which were social support, social structures and social status. Agreeably, 20.6% of the variations in the children's deviant behaviour is determined by factors that were not part of this research.

Table 4.11 ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	29.3598	3	9.7866	110.048	.000b
	Residual	24.5364	276	0.0889		
	Total	53.8962	279			

a. Dependent Variable: Deviant behaviour

b. Predictors: (Constant), social support, social structures and social status

Source: Survey Results (2024)

The outcomes presented in Table 4.11 confirms the significant and suitability of the model that was used to explain the influence of social support, social structures and social status on children's deviant behaviour. This is supported by the F statistic of 110.048 whose corresponding p value is $0.000 < 0.005$. This justifies that social support, social structures and social status of the widows are suitable predictors of deviant behaviour among children.

Table 4.12 Regression coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	0.512	0.032		7.45	0.000
	Social support	-0.098	0.03	-0.078	-3.207	0.027
	Social structures	-0.325	0.040	-0.414	-11.64	0.003
	Social status	-0.218	0.019	-0.402	-9.388	0.001

a. Dependent Variable: Deviant behaviour

Source: Survey Results (2024)

The regression analysis revealed that social support had a negative and significant effect on children's deviant behavior, as indicated by a beta coefficient of -0.098 and a p-value of 0.027, which is less than the 0.05 threshold. This finding confirms that enhanced social support correlates with a reduction in deviant behavior among children. This outcome aligns with the findings of Abdulmalik et al. (2021), whose study demonstrated that support from friends and family significantly reduces the incidence of mental health issues among vulnerable populations. Their research underscores the critical role of social support as a protective factor in mitigating deviant behaviors in children of widows.

The analysis showed that social structures also had a negative and significant influence on children's deviant behavior, with a beta coefficient of -0.325 and a p-value of 0.03. This suggests that improvements in social structures contribute to a decline in deviant behaviors. These findings are consistent with the work of Akers and Jennings (2019), who observed an inverse relationship between well-established social structures and deviant behaviors among students. This highlights the importance of strengthening community and family-based support systems to promote positive behavioral outcomes in children.

Moreover, social status was found to have a negative and significant effect of children's deviant behaviour as shown by a beta coefficient of -0.218 and significance value of 0.01. It is an indicator that as social status improves, deviant behaviours decline and vice versa holds. Their study situates poverty not merely as a material condition but as a chronic stressor with cumulative psychological and behavioral sequelae. Within socioeconomically disenfranchised households, particularly those helmed by widows, children are often subjected to enduring exposure to resource scarcity, familial instability and environmental precarity. These interrelated deficits disrupt normative developmental processes, engendering a milieu characterized by emotional dysregulation, impulsivity and antisocial orientation as maladaptive coping mechanisms in the face of structural adversity.

The omnipresence of economic duress creates a psychosocial context wherein parental capacity for supervision, nurturance and behavioural modelling becomes substantially attenuated. Williams et al. (2019) underscore that financial strain erodes parental efficacy, attenuating the protective functions traditionally offered by caregivers. In widow-headed households, where the burden of subsistence disproportionately falls upon a singular figure, children frequently experience inconsistent discipline, emotional neglect and diminished access to prosocial reinforcements. Such conditions catalyse a behavioural drift toward deviance, not as an innate predisposition, but as a rational response to unmet psychosocial needs, unmitigated exposure to criminogenic stimuli and the collapse of conventional normative boundaries.

Furthermore, the absence of economic capital often correlates with residential instability and spatial marginalization, situating children in environments saturated with violence, criminal subcultures, and institutional neglect. Williams et al. (2019) explicate that in such impoverished ecologies; deviant behaviour becomes not merely an aberration but a

normalized modality of adaptation. The lack of access to educational resources, psychological support services, and extracurricular engagements constrains the child's capacity for normative self-actualization. Consequently, poverty operates as both a distal and proximal determinant of deviance, encoding behavioural dysfunction into the fabric of everyday survival. This underscores the imperative for structural interventions that transcend punitive paradigms and instead address the economic substratum of behavioural deviance.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The content in this chapter relates to the summary of the study results, the conclusion based on the findings as well as the recommendations. This was done in tandem with the research objectives.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This part outlines the summary of the findings from the research. The summary was done in line with the findings presented in the previous chapter.

5.2.1 Social Support and Children's Deviant Behaviour

The first intent of this research was to find out the influence of social support on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi. The findings indicate that a majority of study participants perceived strong support in parenting and family assistance, suggesting that family-centered support is both accessible and effective for widows and their children. Most participants also responded positively about their active involvement in community engagement and awareness programs, reflecting substantial community-driven efforts aimed at this demographic.

A large number of participants also reported their participation in education and skill-building programs, implying moderate access to resources that foster coping skills. Many also indicated ongoing collaboration with local organizations supporting widows and their children, underscoring significant partnerships that contribute to resilience and

empowerment. Similarly, many participants indicated their engagement in mentoring and counselling programs, as well as initiatives designed to strengthen social networks. However, a comparatively lower number perceived a strong impact from advocacy and policy changes, suggesting limitations in these areas for widows and their children.

The outcomes of correlation and regression analysis mirrored an inverse relationship between social support and children's deviant behaviour. This is an implication that social support and children's deviant behaviour among the widows move in the opposite direction. It means that with more social support, children's deviant behaviour declines and when social support is little, the deviant behaviour increases.

5.2.2 Social Structures and Children's Deviant Behaviour

The research's next aim was to examine the influence of social structures on children's deviant behaviour among widows in the Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi. As per the results, the majority of respondents agreed that cultural norms and values play a role in shaping their identities, indicating that cultural alignment holds some significance in their lives. Additionally, a large number felt that family is crucial in shaping social identity and reflecting strong familial influence in identity formation. Most respondents also agreed that occupation or education significantly affects their social status, suggesting the importance of socioeconomic factors. Many concurred that race or ethnicity influences social status, underscoring awareness of racial dynamics. Similarly, the majority indicated that gender roles and expectations impact their behavior, suggesting that societal expectations regarding gender are significant.

Most of the widows felt that social class affects the resources and opportunities available to them, suggesting that economic stratification influences access to resources. Many

concluded that social structures can influence the deviant behavior of children of widows, indicating a perceived link between community structures and behavioral outcomes. Many also agreed that social structures could promote the well-being of widows and their children, implying a positive view of structural influences. The majority agreed that interventions aimed at improving social structures could enhance the mental health and well-being of widows and their children, demonstrating optimism for structured support. Moreover, most respondents acknowledged that social structures can impact economic opportunities for widows and their children, stressing the role of community support in shaping economic prospects of the widows. The outcomes of correlation and regression analysis demonstrated an inverse relationship between social structures and children's deviant behaviour, indicating that social structures and children's deviant behaviour among the widows move in the opposite direction. It means that with well enhance social structures, children's deviant behaviour drops and when social structure is poor, the deviant behaviour escalates.

5.3.3 Social Status and Children's Deviant Behaviour among Widows

The third goal in the study was to determine the influence of socio- status on children's deviant behaviour among widows in Kibera Sub-County, Nairobi. Analysis outcomes identified that majority of respondents believe their family's social status has a negative impact on their well-being and that of their children, reflecting awareness of the adverse effects tied to social standing. A large number of participants also felt that their current income or financial situation negatively influences their social status, emphasizing the role of financial stability in shaping social perceptions. Most respondents acknowledged that their social status limits the economic opportunities available to them and their children, indicating a perceived connection between social standing and economic access. Similarly,

the majority expressed that their level of education presents barriers to advancement, pointing to challenges associated with educational attainment.

The findings also revealed that most respondents view their occupation or job title as negatively affecting their social status, implying that professional identity is closely tied to social perception. Many participants believed that their social status determines the level of social support available for themselves and their children, suggesting a link between social status and access to community resources. Few respondents indicated that race or ethnicity impacts their social status, suggesting varied awareness of racial dynamics. Furthermore, the majority felt that gender roles and expectations shape their social status, illustrating the influence of societal norms on their social status and stratification. After correlating and regressing the variables, social status and deviant behaviour among children were found to be having a negative relation. This indicates that when social status improves, the deviant behaviour decreases. It is also held true that when the social status is low, deviant behaviour among children goes up.

5.3 Conclusions

The conclusions derived from the research results as provided in this section, in line with the objectives.

5.3.1 Social Support and Children's Deviant Behaviour

From the study findings, it was concluded that strong family and community support significantly reduces deviant behavior among children of widows in Kibera Sub-County. Participation in education, skill-building and mentoring programs equips widows and their children with coping skills, fostering positive behavioral outcomes. Additionally, collaboration with local organizations strengthens social support networks. The observed

inverse relationship between social support and children's deviant behavior suggests that enhancing social support directly contributes to lowering behavioral issues among this demographic.

5.3.2 Social Structures and Children's Deviant Behaviour

From the study findings, it was concluded that social structures significantly influence children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera Sub-County. Cultural norms, familial influence and socioeconomic factors are pivotal in shaping social identities, which in turn affect behavioral outcomes. The findings suggest that improved social structures can lead to a reduction in deviant behavior, while inadequate structures may exacerbate such issues. Additionally, social class play crucial roles in determining access to resources and economic opportunities for widows and their children. Strengthening social support systems and community structures is essential for promoting well-being and mitigating deviant behavior among children of widows.

5.3.3 Social Status and Children's Deviant Behaviour

From the study findings, it was concluded that socio-economic status significantly influences children's deviant behavior among widows in Kibera Sub-County. The majority of respondents recognized that their family's social status adversely impacts their well-being and that of their children, indication the detrimental effects associated with social standing. Furthermore, financial stability emerged as a critical factor shaping social perceptions, with many participants indicating that their income negatively influences their social status and limits economic opportunities.

The findings also suggested that educational attainment presents barriers to advancement, contributing to the challenges faced by these families. Additionally, respondents viewed

their occupation as closely tied to social perception, with a negative impact on their perceived social status. The results highlighted a connection between social status and access to social support, indicating that higher social standing correlates with better community resources.

The correlation and regression analysis demonstrated a negative relationship between social status and children's deviant behavior, suggesting that improvements in social status lead to reductions in deviant behavior. Conversely, low social status is associated with increased deviant behavior among children. The findings underscore the importance of addressing socio-economic disparities to foster positive behavioral outcomes in children of widows.

5.4 Recommendations for Practice

Following the study results and conclusions, the following recommendations were made:

Widows should actively participate in education and skill-building programs available within their communities. These programs can help them acquire new skills, improve their employability and enhance their financial stability, thereby positively impacting their social status and their children's well-being. They should also seek to strengthen their social networks by engaging in community activities, joining support groups and collaborating with local organizations. This may provide additional emotional and practical support, reducing feelings of isolation and improving their overall resilience.

Community leaders and organizers should continue to develop and promote inclusive engagement programs focused on widows and their children. These initiatives should aim to reduce stigmatization, enhance community support, and encourage widows' participation in activities that boost their socio-economic status. Recognizing the role of cultural norms and values, community programs should integrate culturally sensitive approaches to better

connect with widows and align with their identities, creating an environment that fosters trust and participation.

Social support groups should broaden their focus beyond immediate assistance to include long-term empowerment initiatives, such as counselling, mentorship, financial literacy and vocational training, to help widows become more self-sufficient and better positioned to support their children. They should also partner with local organizations to maximize resource availability for widows, facilitating broader access to community resources and interventions aimed at reducing socio-economic disparities and enhancing social status.

5.5 Recommendations for Policy

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development should initiate programs that provide holistic support to widows, including counseling, financial assistance and parenting support. These programs can enhance mental health, financial stability and family cohesion, thereby addressing factors linked to reduced deviant behavior among children.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development should also strengthen Policies for Social Inclusion. Policies should be established to promote inclusivity and equal access to resources for widows, ensuring they are well-integrated into existing social support systems and community programs.

County governments should establish accessible centers that offer counseling, educational resources and networking opportunities, allowing widows to access various forms of support within their communities.

Counties should also allocate funding specifically for programs that support widows and their children, including initiatives that address socio-economic barriers and promote child well-being.

5.6 Recommendations for Further Studies

Future studies could adopt a longitudinal approach to examine how consistent social support over time influences behavioral outcomes among children of widows, providing insights into long-term impacts.

Further research could explore the role of social structures, cultural norms, and socio-economic status in influencing children's behavior across various Kenyan counties or regions, allowing for comparative analysis and identifying region-specific interventions.

A study focusing on the influence of gender roles and expectations could provide a deeper understanding of how these factors impact widows' access to support systems and, in turn, influence their children's behavior.

Future research could evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies aimed at supporting widows, analyzing whether these interventions adequately address the socio-economic challenges and behavioral outcomes observed in their children.

Further studies could investigate innovative social support mechanisms, such as digital platforms or peer support networks, that could offer accessible and scalable solutions to support widows and improve outcomes for their children.

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APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION A: PERSONAL PROFILE

1. Age:

18-20 [] 21-30 [] 31-40 [] 41 and above []

2. Highest level of education:

Primary [] Secondary [] College/University [] None []

3. How many children directly depend on you? (For food, health, education, shelter etc....).....

SECTION B: SOCIAL SUPPORT

4. Please rate the extent to which you agree with the below statements. Please tick (√) appropriately where 1- strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Somewhat agree, 4 - Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
a. I and/ or my children have been involved in education and skill-building programs to promote coping ability.					
b. I and/ or my children have been involved in mentoring and counselling.					

c. We have participated in community engagement and awareness programs targeting widows and their children.					
d. There are programs to help in strengthening social support networks.					
e. We receive parenting and family support.					
f. I and/ or my children collaborate with local organizations targeting widows and their children.					
g. There have been strong advocacy and policy changes affecting widows and their children.					

SECTION C: SOCIAL STRUCTURES

5. Please rate the extent to which you agree with the below statements. Please tick (√) appropriately where 1- Not at all, 2 – Slightly, 3 – Somewhat, 4 - Mostly, 5 - Completely

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
a. How strongly do you identify with the cultural norms and values of your community?					
b. To what extent do you feel that your family plays a role in shaping your social identity?					

c. How much does your occupation or education level affect your social status?					
d. How much does your race or ethnicity affect your social status?					
e. To what extent do gender roles and expectations influence your behaviour?					
f. How much does your social class affect the resources and opportunities available to you?					
g. To what extent do you believe that social structures can influence the deviant behaviour of children of widows?					
h. To what extent do you feel that social structures in your community support the well-being of widows and their children?					
i. To what extent do you believe that social structures can promote the well-being of widows and their children?					
j. To what extent do you think that interventions that focus on improving social structures can improve the mental health and well-being of widows and their children?					
k. To what extent do you think that social structures can affect the economic opportunities available to widows and their children?					

SECTION D: SOCIAL STATUS

6. Please rate the extent to which you agree with the statements below. Please tick (✓) appropriately where 1- strongly disagree, 2 – Disagree, 3 – Somewhat agree, 4 - Agree, 5 – Strongly Agree

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
a. My family's social status negatively affects my well-being and that of my children.					
b. My current income or financial situation affects my social status negatively.					
c. My social status has negative effects on the economic opportunities available to me and my children.					
d. My education level hinders my opportunities for advancement.					
e. My occupation or job title fails to reflect my social status negatively.					
f. My social status determines the availability of social support to me and my children.					
g. My race or ethnicity impacts my social status.					
h. Gender roles and expectations shape my social status.					

SECTION E: ASSESSMENT OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR AMONG THE CHILDREN

7. How frequently have you observed or received reports on your children's involvement in any form of physical aggression or violence towards others in the past year?

- Never [] Rarely (1-2 times) []
]
 Occasionally (3-5 times) [] Sometimes (6-10 times) []
]
 Frequently (more than 10 times) []

If any, please provide examples.

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8. How frequently have you observed or received reports on your children's involvement in any acts of theft, vandalism or destruction of property in the past year?

Never Rarely (1-2 times)
]

Occasionally (3-5 times) Sometimes (6-10 times)
]

Frequently (more than 10 times)

If any, please provide examples.

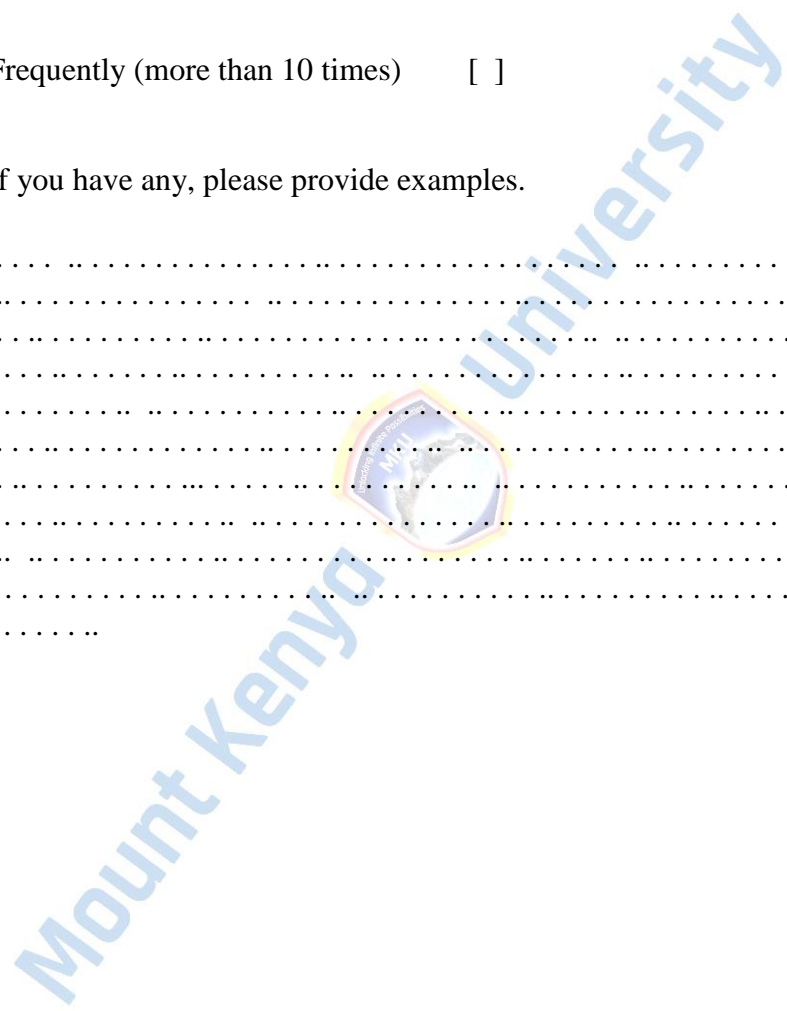
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11. How frequently have you observed or received reports on your children's involvement in any form of bullying, harassment or intimidation towards peers or other individuals in the past year?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|
| Never | [] | Rarely (1-2 times) | [] |
| Occasionally (3-5 times) | [] | Sometimes (6-10 times) | [] |
| Frequently (more than 10 times) | [] | | |

If you have any, please provide examples.

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APPENDIX II: NACOSTI LICENCE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
Ref No: 135686

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

RESEARCH LICENSE

Date of Issue: 02/October/2024



This is to Certify that Ms. TERESIA NDUTA of Mount Kenya University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Nairobi on the topic: INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON CHILDREN'S DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR AMONG WIDOWS IN KIBERA SUB-COUNTY, NAIROBI COUNTY for the period ending : 02/October/2025.


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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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See overleaf for conditions

Appendix III: Ethical Approval



REF: MKU/ISERC/4399
TO: TERESIA NDUTA MUCHIRI

Date: 24 September 2024

REG: MCP/2019/44398(Amended)

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON CHILDREN'S DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR AMONG WIDOWS IN KIBERA SUB-COUNTY, NAIROBI COUNTY

This is to inform you that **Mount Kenya University** has reviewed and approved your above research proposal. Your application approval number is **3119**. The approval period is **19/09/2024 - 18/09/2025**.

This approval is subject to compliance with the following requirements;

- i. Only approved documents including informed consents, study instruments, MTA will be used
- ii. All changes including amendments, deviations and violations are submitted for review and approval by **Mount Kenya University**
- iii. Death and life-threatening problems and serious adverse events or unexpected adverse events whether related or unrelated to the study must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours of notification
- iv. Any changes, anticipated or otherwise that may increase the risks or affect the safety or welfare of study participants and others or affect the integrity of the research must be reported to **Mount Kenya University** within 72 hours
- v. Clearance for export of biological specimens must be obtained from relevant institutions
- vi. Submission of a request for renewal of approval at least 60 days prior to expiry of the approval period. Attach a comprehensive progress report to support the renewal
- vii. Submission of an executive summary report within 90 days upon completion of the study to **Mount Kenya University**

Prior to commencing your study, you will be expected to obtain a research license from National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke> and also obtain other clearances needed.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Alfred Owino, PhD
Chairman, Mount Kenya University ISERC

