

**AN INVESTIGATIVE STUDY OF CAUSES OF VIOLENT CRIMES CAUSED BY  
STREET CHILDRENS IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**

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## ABSTRACT

Crime is a disorder that destroys our basic production and social life. Crime in urban areas are due to some factors such as economic factors, environmental factors, political factors and even sociological factors that accelerate the rate of crime in urban areas. Crime in itself is an unlawful act that is punishable by law. The situation of street children in Nairobi in particular is of great concern to the government of Kenya mainly due to the socio-economic impact it has on the residents, businesses, property owners and individuals in the town and the government in terms of investments by local and foreign investors. The main study objectives were to determine the criminal activities that street children commit and their effects on the economy, to establish the socio-economic factors that contribute to the criminal behavior among street children and also to assess how street children relate to the law enforcement agencies, the public and the business community. The study examines the most common types of crimes committed by street children, the relationship between street children and security agencies, and how their criminal behavior affect the country's economic growth. It also examines contributing factors that influence children to run from their homes to the streets. The research project recommends the government stake holders to up their game in the fight against crime in slums. The security organs in the country should try to be pro active so that these conditions are addressed to prevent reactivity; this is to say the security personnel should emulate community policing strategies to ensure that they can easily access and infiltrate into the inner core of the slums, the relationship between citizens and police officers to be more friendly so that the residents can feel free to report incidences and suspected individuals to police offices for actions to be taken against such people. Community policing and the responsible stakeholders should also ensure that the community or residents are sensitized on the hot spots and other risky areas to prevent casualties and crimes from occurring. The government is the duty bearer to the people and it should ensure that the people live in a safe environment, especially in the slums the security and construction of more police stations should be done to address these crimes.