

**DETERMINANTS OF HIGH PREVALENCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN
PUBLIC BOARDING SECONDARY SCHOOLS. A Case of Githunguri District,
Kiambu County, Kenya.**

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ABSTRACT

Despite homosexuality being condemned in the social level, it is increasingly being experienced in schools especially boarding schools in Kenya. The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors contributing to the prevalence of homosexuality in public secondary boarding schools in Githunguri District, Kiambu County, Kenya. Specifically, the study sought to examine the determinants of homosexuality in schools. The study adopted descriptive research design. The target population of the study was 10 principals, 10 teacher counselors and 2035 students. The researcher used simple random sampling where every member of the population was given equal opportunity to be included without prejudice or bias. From the 2035 of the target population, 120 was the estimated proportionate sample used by the researcher. 1 school counselor from each of the ten schools, 1 principal picked from each of the 10 schools, and twelve students from each of the ten schools was used. Questionnaires and oral interviews were used as the research instruments. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, percentage and means were used for the quantitative data. Majority of the students stated that they are aware of students who practices homosexuality in their schools implying that homosexuality is widespread among the students in the locale of study. Students cited heredity, peer pressure, media influence and exposure from home as the factors causing homosexuality among the students. Majority of the students were of the opinion that homosexuals should be punished after being apprehended indicating that the students consider the practice of homosexuality as an offense that should be punished. Also majority of the student felt that homosexuality will never be accepted by the society implying that the students felt that homosexuality is against the norms of the society and will never gain approval of the society. On the school and Government policies on homosexuality, the study found that the government and the schools in Kenya lack an explicit policy to handle not only sex education and much more it lacks any guidelines into how to tackle controversial subjects such as homosexuality. However, most school attempt to curb homosexuality in their school by use of guidance and counseling strategy. This strategy succeeds at times but at times it faces its own share of hindrances which include availability of material and financial resources, attitude towards guidance and counseling, availability of time and lack of adequate professional preparedness as the main hindrance in the success of guidance and counseling in curbing homosexuality. On the possible interventions to enhance guidance and counseling strategy, majority of the respondents were of the opinion that in servicing teachers in guidance and counseling is the measure that would enhance

fight against homosexuality most followed by availing more resources, allocation of more and lastly sensitizing the administration on importance of guidance and counseling. It is hoped that this study will provide valuable insights to the school counselors, psychologists, head teachers, religious organizations and peer educators and the communities on the factors that contribute to prevalence of homosexuality in public secondary schools in Kiambu County. The findings of this study will provide the school counselors with data that may guide them in their counseling sessions while dealing with the victims.