

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY VIOLENCE AND DEVIANT  
BEHAVIOR AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN CORRECTIONAL CENTRES  
IN KIAMBU COUNTY-KENYA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Family violence has been a long standing problem in Kenya. Cases of violence continue to be reported in both the print and electronic media, ranging from physical and sexual abuse to emotional and psychological abuse. The purpose of this study was to establish the relationship between family violence and deviant behavior among adolescents in correctional centers in Kiambu-County. The objectives of the study were to identify the forms of family violence that adolescents in correctional centers in Kiambu had been exposed to as well as to identify the perpetrators of the violence. Further the study sought to identify the various deviant behaviors that adolescents had engaged in and the support systems that were available for the victims of family violence. The study was guided by Psychoanalytic theory. The sample comprised one hundred adolescents from two juvenile institutions in Kiambu County namely, Youth Corrective and Training Centre (YCTC) Kamiti which caters for males and Kirigiti Remand Home which caters for females. The instruments of the study were questionnaires and Focused Group Discussions. A pilot survey was carried out involving ten participants from each of the institutions to test the reliability of the research instruments. Data from the questionnaires and from the FGDs was coded, entered into Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages and frequency tables. The findings of this study indicated that all the participants had suffered at least one form of abuse within the family. The various forms of abuse included, physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse as well as psychological abuse. The perpetrators were parents, siblings and close family members. Only a very small fraction had been abused by strangers. In conclusion the study revealed that, there is a high correlation between family violence and deviance among adolescents in the two correctional centres. The study recommends that families explore alternative means of resolving domestic issues instead of resorting to violence as this has negative psychological effects on the children.