

**CAUSES LEADING TO INSTITUTIONALISATION OF LARGE NUMBER
OF CHILDREN IN HOME CARE CENTRES
CASE STUDY KAMPALA DISTRICT**

BY

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DEDICATION

This proposal is dedicated to my son Kim Kimutai, whom for many years of study missed my love and care.

APPROVAL

I certify that the work submitted by this candidate was under my supervision. His work is Original and worth for the award of a Bachelor of Social Works and Social Administration at Kampala International University.

Supervisor... Otanga Rusoke Date... 18/09/2007

Dr. Otanga Rusoke.

DECLARATION:

I declare that this research proposal is my original work and has never been submitted to any university for any award. Where the works of others have been cited acknowledgment has been made.

Signature...:  Date... 18/09/2007

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ABBREVIATIONS

US	United States.
KNH	Kenyatta National Hospital.
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Disease.
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
KSPCA	Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals.
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund.

ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in Kampala district, the study aimed at analyzing the causes leading to institutionalization of large number of children in home care centres .The study focused on the reasons why parents abandon their children, under which circumstances are the children institutionalized, which procedures are undertaken before being institutionalized, and found out the number rise per year and how the community, the government, private organization and NGOs are trying to help.

The dissertation comprises of five (5) chapters. It started with the background of the study which defines a vulnerable child and where they are deserted. This chapter also gave the direction of the study, set the objectives, purpose of the study, scope and significance. Chapter two (2) of the dissertation sort in depth the review of the related literature on the topic at hand. Chapter three (3) focused on the research methodology that the researcher adopted. It contains research design, area of the study, data collection instruments data analysis and sampling that I employed in the course of the study. Also it assessed the limitations and delimitations encountered during the data collection process. Chapter four (4) of this dissertation dealt with the presentation of the data from the field and its interpretation. Finally chapter five (5) the researcher will give the summary, conclusion and recommendation to the research.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0. Introduction

Institutionalization is keeping and caring for children in special created homes for children who need care and protection.

A child in need of care and protections is a child who:

- Has no parents or guardian.
- Has a parent(s) or guardian who is unfit to provide proper care and guardianship.
- Is exposed to moral and physical danger.

Thus a vulnerable child is a child whose life is in danger due to lack of proper care and protection.

Presently there are many agencies trying as much as possible to answer the needs of children, but most of their efforts are curative rather than preventive hence the problem has constantly being shelved and unless the communities are sensitized to accept and undertake responsibilities for children in their own localities, not much may be achieved by the few primary social work agencies. Thousands of vulnerable children all over the country, abandoned and deserted by their parents or guardians ,born out of wedlock ,or otherwise affected are being cared for in institutions which even when functioning under the most scientific conditions can provide but a poor substitute for family life which is vital for healthy psychological growth and development of a child. but this children find themselves with no alternatives but to reside in this institution, as also those who bring them in as good Samaritans have no choice, social work agencies try and provide for them a home where by their needs and rights as children will be met as they try and find some alternatives like foster homes and group homes.

It is in light of this that this research was under taken to assess the reasons as to why there is an increasing number of children being institutionalized in home care centres and the communities, government, private sector and NGOs involvement in addressing the

problems of vulnerable children who are on the increase, with a view of absorbing them into families rather than institutions specifically build for them.

1.1. Statement of the problem

Considering that many NGO's and private organizations have come forward to help the needy children, it is still estimated that the number of this children is on rise, so this still show the inadequate protection and sensitization, the researcher found out that the number of children being institutionalized every year as risen and majority being infants and children less than five years are the victims and how the community, the government, private organization and NGOs is trying to help.

1.2. The Research Questions

The research study attempted to answer the following questions;

- i. What are the reasons that have lead to increasing number of children being institutionalization every year?
- ii. Are their some circumstances that forces parents to abandon or neglect their children
- iii. How can the procedures of their institutionalization be improved
- iv. What is the community, the government, private sector and NGOs doing to curb this problem?

1.2. Purpose of study

The purpose of the study was to:

Assist probation, welfare and other related child care agencies in establishing data base to support and maintain their policy of encouraging and supporting children in difficulties in communities.

Identify the problem as to why there is increasing number of children being institutionalized and under which circumstances are this parents forced to abandon or

leave their children to become vulnerable and thus leading to institutionalization and the information to be used as a warning alarm to ameliorate further occurrences.

Determine whether there are some grassroots problems facing this parents which need to be solved first before addressing the key issue of them abandoning their children.

Influence policies and legislation concerning the care, education and treatment of children in deprived situation.

1.3. Objectives (goals)

The study was guided by the following objectives:

The main objective of the study was to analyzing causes leading to institutionalization of large number of children in home care centres.with a view to identify the key factors of abandonment.

Specific objectives of the study were to:

- i. Find out the number of children being institutionalized every year.
- ii. Determine the factors that lead to the abandonment of these children.
- iii. Assess the relevance of current policies, on how to take care of these children.
- iv. Suggest policy strategies based on research findings that will lead to sustainable solutions of helping parents who have problems in bring up their children in their homes.

1.4. Scope of the study

The study was carried out in Kampala district. It was conducted in two children home care centres and from individuals with relative information on the reasons why this children are institutionalized, the correspondents were minimize because of the limitation of time, the care givers, the officials of the organization and individuals were limited in number.

1.5. Significance of the study

The research aimed to benefit various people directly for example policy makers, planners, curriculum developers, material designers, program implementers, and evaluators. The study was significant and relevant in that it serves as academic contribution for the future researchers as a source of information .The study also aimed at benefiting the community by knowing the problem that have been shelved for along time and raise awareness when they read and hear about it so that they can help the vulnerable children within their localities or help their parents to bring up their children in their homes.

1.6. Concepts used in the research

In this study, it was important to define the following terms that is; Institutionalisation, is keeping and caring for children in special created homes for children who need care and protection.

A child in need of care and protection is a child who:

- Has no parents or guardians
- Has a parent(s) or guardian who is unfit to provide proper care and guardianship.
- Is exposed to moral and physical danger.

A vulnerable child is a child whose life is in danger due to lack of proper care and protection.

A child is any person below the age of 18years.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. Introduction

In this part, efforts were made to carry out survey on what different researchers have done in connection with the topic at hand. This was done basing on the research objective formulated in the study.

2.1 Young mothers

According to V.I.Brutman. (1994) Physiological and psychological unreadiness of many young girls-(teenagers) bearing a child is accompanied by a high rate of complications of pregnancy and delivery, prematurely born children, ill and injured Childs. Besides physical burden immature person of young pregnant woman suffers as a rool severe emotional injuries. For almost a third of young mothers their motherhood is so undesirable that during pregnancy they make criminal tries to interrupt their pregnancy.

Pregnancy of under-age woman is usually a reason of serious conflicts in her family. Family usually is not ready, neither morally, or financially, to preserve it. According to V.K Yuryev positive response to a birth of a child of their young daughter was observed only among 60% of parents, 15.6% of them considered it in a extremely negative way and more than 14% of parents insisted on interrupting of pregnancy even at later periods, when there was a real danger for health and life of their own child.

But the most serious consequences of under-age woman's pregnancy threaten a child being born. One of the most dramatic facts is that majority of under-age mothers leave their children to the mercy of fate. Up to 15% of new-born children abandoned in maternity homes are children of under- age mothers. About the same amount of newborns, born by teenagers, "temporarily" are kept in children's homes owing to inability of a mother to fulfill her maternal obligations.

So why young mothers so frequently and with such persistence abandon their children? From our point of view the most significant is the fact that young pregnant women and girl-mothers in our country, in spite of seeming indifference of society towards them, they are under very strong "moral" pressure. Almost 40% of girls in fear of an adverse response of their parents keep in secret their pregnancy and thus preserving it doesn't go to a gynaecologist. A traditional tenor of life of many Russian families, a peculiar "totalitarian mentality" formed not only among elder, but middle generation as well, are characterized by hostile attitude towards alien morality, morality of youth. As a result pregnancy of a young woman becomes sometimes a reason of severe conflicts in families. Very often these conflicts turn out to be fatal and compel young girls to leave their families, to join asocial companies, make them tramp, whore, etc.

Those moral standards and behaviour patterns which then transform in a dramatic experience of a woman, who abandon her child, take shape in family. Such families are characterized by a low level of socialization of some of its members, a high level of personal and behaviour disorders, mental diseases, alcoholism of parents, a low educational and cultural level, tolerance towards aggressive forms of behaviour, residential and financial problems for lack of place to live in and enough money to live on. Women "abandonists" are being brought up in incomplete family much more frequently in comparison with an average rate among population as a whole.

A question arises: Are there some specific character logical peculiarities of a person which might break up a natural process of formation of preparedness for motherhood? Our investigations have shown that women with distinct emotional impetuosity, low stress tolerance, egocentrism and dependence, are much more common (more than 75%) among those abandoning their children. That is why opinion of parents comprises a considerable part (42%) among motives of abandoning a child, sometimes for even adult and independent women: "I can't come at my parents' place with a child not having a father." As usual such dependant women feel in complicated situations emptiness around themselves, feel their loneliness. They are unable to control their inclinations and impulses. It makes them too dependent upon surroundings, provokes an acute need of

attachment, "admission", positive attitude towards her. Naturally therefore a considerable part of those polled consistently declares values adopted by society.

Social and psychological surveys of women abandoning their children show that an abandonment motivation formation process goes differently due to value orientations of a woman, her personal characteristics, a condition of her mental health, social situation realities of her shaping as a person and actual situation of conception and bearing pregnancy. From this point of view abandonment of a child is a result of the crisis of motives. A character and content of this crisis are variable. Following crises might be distinguished:

a) By initial absence of such a motivation,

b) By initial of substitution of motives,

c) By initial motivated ness for motherhood.

a) In those cases when pregnancy is uninspected and undesirable it is negative for women from the very beginning, because her system of values is dominated by quite different needs (i.e. education to be continued, career, business, entertainments etc.). In more favorable cases, with enough social support available, a liberal family situation, developing pregnancy gives rise to motherhood instinct and gradually shifts value reference-points towards preserving pregnancy. In other, unfortunately much more numerous cases situation is fraught with conflicts because undesirable pregnancy psychologically is experienced as alien and even as hostile up to delivery of a child. Initial absence of motherhood motives can be observed also in cases of an unplanned pregnancy of young, under-age girls as well as in cases of pregnancies caused by rape.

b) Pregnancy might be preserved on the basis of false motivations. Normally motivation of pregnancy for most women is ambiguous. A motive in having a child includes simultaneously psychological, social and even economic senses.

From the moment of birth of a child a woman is swayed by contradictory feelings. The French psychologist K. Rekanje claims that ambivalence of feelings of a young mother with love and aggressiveness interlaced together on the neurotic level is expressed by anxiety concerning viability of her infant or explicit fears that somebody would take her child and leave her another one, as well as by other associated phobias. An alternative is aggressiveness and animosity towards a newborn child.

A profound want of a young mother of gratitude does not find satisfaction in growth and good behaviour of her child, in appropriate behaviour of her husband. A child itself becomes a symbol of woman's defeat in private life and thus is a form of violence towards a woman who is not prepared for motherhood. All this results in a profound anxiety of her. Women try to manage with it by means of dogged persistency, rudiness and as an extreme measure, by means of voluntary abandoning a child.

c) And at last the third variant. It joins the cases when pregnancy arises in conditions of well developed motivation to preserve a child. In these cases abandoning of a child used to be practically forced and under pressure of the second persons, usually parents or a husband of "abandonist" woman. Such cases are relatively rare, but they are always accompanied by serious psychological injuries of women.

In the structure of reproductive motivation a psychological motive of child-bearing defines a desire to get from a child emotional satisfaction, to understand a purport of life more deeply, to determine development of a new human being. From the social positions a desire to be a mother is determined by the urge to prolong one's own stock, a sequence of generations, to live one's own family, to enhance one's own authority. From the economic point of view as a result of a child-birth one expects to improve one's own well-being, to solve some of one's own life problems, to improve living conditions. This structure has its own hierarchy. It is dynamic and variable, but at the same time most women show a domination of altruistic motives, aimed at creation an optimal social and psychological environment for bringing up a child.

Summarizing all the abovementioned one can consider that on the psychological level a complex of reasons as a result of which a woman abandons her child may be represented in the following constituents:

1. A lack of own volitional, intellectual resources for solving a complicated life situation arose which is perceived as "a situation of inability". For example, parents of an under-age mother blame her for giving birth to a child out of wedlock and "they'll never let him or her set foot on our threshold", or "you are living off our bread".

2. Individual resources are enough, but a child does not meet mother's plans in life. At the same time a value of motherhood in general and her own desire to have children in future in particularly are declared. The vector of feelings is oriented towards a situation in future and that in present is perceived as a disappointing obstacle.

3. A sensation of a lack of social support. Not so much availability or absence of real support as subjective sensation of such a support plays in this case an important role.

4. Strong emotional charge of a situation of pregnancy and delivery. In this situation an adverse response to the beloved man who has left her or an acute stress response to the rape is transferred upon a child, as a result indifference or disgust towards him or her arise. In these cases a probable dynamics of the emotional constituent during pregnancy and especially after delivery is as following: from disgust to sympathy and pity. In this case she-"abandonist" feels an agonizing inner conflict between two opposite tendencies: between one's own firm decision to abandon her child in revenge upon an offender or under pressure of the surroundings and emotions towards this child which have awoke inside her. A short-term stay in a maternity home do not give to a woman a real opportunity to arrive at a considered and adequate decision.

2.2 In Nigeria

According to Rev.Mrs dele George. (2006) she argues that the issues that make people abandon children is of course the issue of poverty. "I would say that the national income per head in this Nigeria is still very low compared to Europe or US in spite of the fact

that Nigeria is very blessed with material and mineral resources and even manpower. We have not been able to put to good use the blessings of God and that is what is affecting the Nigerian children because they are the weakest link in this chain of poverty. The average family still does not have enough money to provide the basic necessities for their children. So my cry is let us give them the best foundation. Let us give them good education. If we give them good education, then they will grow up to be productive individuals in the society.

With young girls who abandon their children, the reason is still the same. These are women on the street who didn't get parental support. They are on their own, destitute without a means of livelihood or even accommodation. They live on the street and most of them are rape victims because they are out there in the open. They are vulnerable and men take advantage of them. So, they manage to carry the child for nine months and then abandon the child because in the first place, there's still a lot of bitterness and anger in the inside of them because of the circumstances in which they came about the child. So they are victims of their circumstances.

2.3 In Sub-Saharan Africa

According to UNICEF (2003) Humanity has never experienced an orphan-crisis as severe as the one currently unfolding in Sub-Saharan Africa, as a result of HIV/AIDS. By 2002, according to recent estimates, some 30 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were living with HIV/AIDS, with the incidence of HIV increasing in many countries. In 2002, some two million adults died of HIV/AIDS in the region. Left behind were their children. In eastern and southern African states—the areas hardest hit by HIV/AIDS—it is estimated that in the coming years between 15 to 25 percent of children will have lost one or both parents due to the pandemic.

The orphan crisis in sub-Saharan Africa is just beginning. According to UNICEF, As today's young adults die in growing numbers, they will leave growing numbers of orphaned children; by 2010, HIV/AIDS will have robbed an estimated 20 million children under the age of 15 of one or both parents, nearly twice the number orphaned in this age group in 2001.

The largest increases will be in countries with high or growing HIV prevalence rates, but even where HIV is brought under control, the number of orphans will continue to grow or remain on a high plateau for several years, due to the long time between HIV infection and death. For example, HIV prevalence in Uganda peaked in the late 1980s, but the percentage of children orphaned by the disease has recently peaked and begun to decline.

Africa's households have responded to the orphan crisis with great stoicism. UNICEF has found that in "nearly every sub-Saharan country, extended families have assumed responsibility for more than 90 per cent of orphaned children," despite the great economic strain this has caused most households. Although extended families are caring for AIDS orphans, these children remain highly vulnerable in African societies. Empirical studies suggest that orphans are less likely to receive schooling; suffer from greater malnutrition; are more frequently forced into dangerous child labour; and, in the case of girls especially, are at greater risk of sexual abuse, than children with parents. Given that in many African countries, due to the lack of availability of the standard antiretroviral therapies to prevent prenatal (mother to child) transmission, prenatal infection, with 25 to 45 percent of babies born to HIV-positive mothers becoming infected. Thus, a significant number of children orphaned by AIDS will themselves die from the disease.

This paper examines a particular manifestation of the vulnerability of African children orphaned due to AIDS: "property grabbing" as it is referred to in Africa. Property grabbing is the dispossession of orphans and widowed parents (predominantly mothers) by relatives and others. The underlying premise of this paper is that orphans should not be left destitute and so should continue to have access, through inheritance or from surviving parents, to the household property on which their livelihoods depend.

In the academic literature, AIDS orphans are defined as those under the age of 18 that have lost one or both parents to the disease. Maternal orphans have lost their mother, paternal orphans, their father, and double orphans have lost both mother and father.¹ Having one surviving parent seems like a far less vulnerable scenario than having lost

both. Unfortunately, existing research on orphans tends not to distinguish between these different categories and so often this paper will refer to orphans generally. Where possible, nuances in the treatment of different types of orphans, including boys vs. girls, were captured. Sadly, all orphans are vulnerable to property grabbing. Double orphans have no parents to defend their inheritance rights; paternal orphans do not fare much better if the father has died, because dispossession of widows and their children is widespread, due to patrilineal inheritance customs in much of sub-Saharan Africa. Although widowers are less likely to be victims of property grabbing, they frequently abandon their children, rendering many maternal orphans de facto 'double orphans'.

The objectives of this paper are threefold. The first objective is to describe the extent of property grabbing, in particular where the phenomenon appears to be exacerbated by the AIDS pandemic. Four illustrative case studies (Uganda, Kenya, Zambia and Malawi) are presented, explaining the factors underlying property grabbing and the legal frameworks that allow such practices to take place. These countries were selected in part by virtue of the availability of field research, but also because they demonstrate interesting variation in terms of their relevant legislation, population densities, and reactions to the AIDS pandemic. The second objective is to argue that a policy imperative exists for governments and donors to mitigate the destitution of widows and orphans created by property. Not only is this necessary to preserve equity, but to help slow the spread of AIDS and keep the peace in states prone to violent confrontation

Chisinau/Geneva, July 18, (2005) At least one child under seven is abandoned each day in Moldova, often in the earliest days of life, according to UNICEF. This is the alarming finding of a UNICEF-supported study on child abandonment carried out by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Ministry of Education, under the coordination of the National Council for the Protection of the Rights of the Child.

The study, launched in Chisinau, finds that one third of those abandoned by their parents are less than four days old.

One in five of the women who abandon their babies have never been pregnant before, and 60% are single mothers, according to the study – the first of its kind in Moldova.

According to Dorothy L.Sayers (2007) poverty is believed to be the underlying cause of child abandonment, compounded by the conservative attitudes that still persist in society, lack of support to single mothers, lack of knowledge among adolescents, and a weak social protection system that lacks specialized services for vulnerable families and children.

One of the most disturbing patterns is that nine out of ten children under seven-years old that were abandoned in health care facilities and residential institutions are not orphans at all – they have living parents. At the same time, very few of them are “rescued” by adoptive or foster families. Most of them never find a family.

Separation from parents, especially in the first few days of life, undermines the overall development and well-being of the young child, with serious consequences for their physical and emotional development.

“The findings of the study are cause for grave concern”, stated Giovanna Barberis, UNICEF Representative in Moldova. “We call on the Government to take immediate action. First, to put effective measures in place to prevent unwanted pregnancies and child abandonment. But we also need action to stop abandoned children going into institutions, where their development is severely jeopardized. The development of foster care networks and the promotion of national adoption need to be top priorities for the Government of Moldova”.

2.4 In china

In Haiti, a 12-year-old girl and her 10-year-old sister spend their days toiling in the fields with their mother. The tropical sun is hot, and the work is always hard and tiring. Both girls would rather be in school like their brothers but their father has told them that girls don't need an education. In China, a passerby spots a small, ragged bundle by the side of a country road. The bundle is crying. The passerby picks up the bundle and unwraps it. It

is a newborn baby girl. The passerby isn't surprised by his discovery. In his country, girl babies are often abandoned by their parents because of a culturally based preference for boy babies. Although they live on opposite sides of the world and their life circumstances are different, the young Haitian girls and the Chinese baby share the same problem. They are victims of gender-based discrimination.

Child abandonment is defined as the act of neglecting or leaving an infant alone without care and with the intent of permanently giving up custody. It is hard to determine the exact rate of child abandonment annually because many cases go unreported. Out of the known child abandonment cases only a lucky handful of children are placed into caring homes while the rest remain in orphanages unless they have died of injury, hunger, thirst, illness, heat or cold. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of abandonment cases since recorded dates between 1991 and 1998. According to studies conducted by the Administration for Children and Families, 21,600 babies were abandoned in hospitals in 1991 and 30,800 infants were abandoned in 1998. That is a 43% increase in the number of known hospital abandonment cases! Unfortunately, the number of babies abandoned in public places has made an even greater increase by 62%. In 1991, 65 babies were found publicly abandoned while 105 cases were found in 1998 alone. This epidemic is steadily increasing, which means that the government needs to take further action.

2.5 There is an orphan crisis in Uganda.

Currently the country is home to nearly 2.4 million children under the age of 15 who have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. Children of Uganda were established in 1995 to care for orphans and other disadvantaged children in Uganda with the goal of helping them become healthy and productive members of society.

The organization supports two orphanages in Uganda, as well as children living with HIV-positive widowed mothers, and has over 700 children under its care. Children of Uganda also produces an award-winning dance troupe featuring children enrolled in its programs who tour internationally to raise funds and increase awareness of AIDS and its impact on children.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the region of the world that has been worst affected by the global AIDS epidemic, HIV and AIDS have caused vast amounts of human suffering. Nearly two-thirds of all HIV positive people live in this area, although it contains little more than 10% of the world's population.¹ The most obvious effect of this crisis has been illness and death, but the impact of the epidemic has certainly not been confined to the health sector; households, education, workplaces and economies have been significantly affected, along with other sections of society.

During 2005 alone, an estimated 2 million adults and children died as a result of AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since the beginning of the epidemic more than 15 million Africans have died from AIDS.

The toll of HIV and AIDS on households can be very severe. Although no part of the population is unaffected by HIV, it is often the poorest sectors of society that are most vulnerable to the epidemic and for whom the consequences are most severe. In many cases, the presence of AIDS means that the household will dissolve, as parents die and children are sent to relatives for care and upbringing. A study of rural South Africa suggested that households where an adult had died from AIDS were four times more likely to dissolve than those where no deaths had occurred.⁸ Much happens before this dissolution takes place; AIDS strips families of their assets and income-earners, further impoverishing the poor.

It is hard to over emphasise the trauma and hardship that children affected by HIV and AIDS are forced to bear worldwide. The epidemic not only causes children to lose their parents or guardians, but sometimes their childhood as well.

As parents and family members become ill, children take on more responsibility to earn an income, produce food and care for family members. It is harder for these children to access adequate nutrition, basic health care, housing and clothing. Fewer families have the money to send their children to school.

Often both of the parents are HIV-positive in Africa. Consequently, more children have been orphaned by AIDS in Africa than anywhere else. Many children are now raised by their grandparents or left on their own in child-headed households.

As projections of the number of AIDS orphans rise, some have called for an increase in institutional care for children. However this solution is not only expensive but also detrimental to the children. Institutionalisation stores up problems for society, which is ill equipped to cope with an influx of young adults who have not been socialized in the community in which they have to live. There are other alternatives available. One example is the approach developed by church groups in Zimbabwe, where they recruit community members to visit orphans in their homes, where they live either with foster parents, grandparents or other relatives, or in child-headed households.

The way forward is prevention. Firstly, it is crucial to prevent children from becoming infected with HIV at birth as well as later in life. Secondly, if efforts are made to prevent adults becoming infected with HIV, and to care for those already infected, then fewer children will be orphaned by AIDS in the future.

2.6 In Kenya

Kenyans have been moved by the story of Angel, an abandoned baby girl reportedly rescued by a dog from the forest, but many say her case is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of Kenya's abandoned babies.

James Muthoka of Kenyatta National Hospital's (KNH) department of abandoned children says there are some 15 babies under its care.

Medical professionals say this situation is repeated in hospitals across Kenya and too little is being done to help them.

"Let be known that there are many more cases of abandoned children apart from baby Angel," he said.

Angel's story has attracted worldwide publicity, and offers to adopt her have come from across the world. "I appeal to Kenyans, non-governmental organizations and those who

are eager in adopting baby Angel to consider the plight of others with similar circumstances," Mr. Muthoka said after babies are out of danger, the Department of Children's Services looks after them and handles applications from prospective adoptive parents. Many end up in overcrowded and underfunded orphanages. Charities estimate there could be 150,000 orphans in Kenya. Scenes of abandoned babies and infant-dumping are common in Kenya, with poverty frequently to blame.

"Because of the many problems we have in Kenya, women give birth and throw the babies away... they have no money for their upkeep," says businessman Patrick Njoroge. University student Mary Anyango argues that poverty is forcing young mothers to abandon their newly born children: "These are single mothers who feel they cannot bring up their children."

At the house where baby Angel was rescued it has been very busy, with curious people flocking to the home of Mary Adhiambo, the owner of the dog which saved the child. Officials from the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (KSPCA) have also been there to give special treatment to the dog. Chief Inspector Javan Aketsa said they had named the dog "mkombozi", a Kiswahili word for saviour. "We are vaccinating and de-worming her for we strongly believe she saved a life and we have every reason to care for her also." This case is also reigniting a national debate on whether or not to legalise abortion. That debate became very heated last year, when 15 fetuses were found dumped in the Nairobi River.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

This chapter gives a detailed description of the methodology that was used in the study in order to accomplish the objectives of the study specifically. It gave a plan, structure and strategy of the investigation conceived so as to obtain answers to the research questions. This chapter also gave light on the study area, pointed out the subjects used and reasons for reference of the subjects. Also the instruments described were used and procedures were followed during data collection. This chapter therefore comprises the following;

3.1. Research design

The research design was a case study comprising of one case that is: Kampala District. The study tried to analyze the causes leading to institutionalization of large number of children in home care centres. This was an important consideration in determining the choice of this study. A meaningful picture of this study emerged by employing both qualitative and quantitative approaches of research. However this was mainly a quantitative study.

According to Marshal and Rossman (1995), qualitative approaches are appropriate for research that delves in-depth into the complexities and processes. The study of the psychological problems caused by the institutional care to these children involves issues such as: respondent's experiences, practices, attitudes and benefits that are normative and sensitive in nature which demands the use of qualitative methods.

Quantitative methods on the other hand were used to quantify responses to make numerical comparisons between the responses. The study used a descriptive design. The study was chosen because accuracy was central to it and it minimized biases and reliability of the results. The study was gender focused and respondents were selected irrespective of religion, ethnic grouping, economical status and educational levels.

3.2. Study Area

The study was carried out in Kampala district, central region of Uganda, which has the largest population of 1.2 million, according to the population census housing report (2000) estimated 1.8 million out of 13.7million were orphaned, Because of inability moving all over the place two homes were visited and a limited number of individuals were interviewed pertaining the topic at hand.

3.3. Target population

Population in research refers to people from whom information can be obtained. According to the kind of information the researcher wants from the target population, the researcher wanted to obtain information from:

The community workers, institutional care givers, probation officers and individuals with relevant information on the study.

3.4. Sampling

Most of the time it's not possible to study the whole population due to many constraints such as; time, limited resources and manpower. So the researcher selected few subjects for the study but the result was generalized to the whole population.

The small population of people to participate was selected as a sample. These samples are representatives of the population .they contain most of the characteristics presented in the population. The researcher used purposive and random sampling technique/method when selecting samples.

Purposive sampling refers to a research technique that helps in getting information from a source, which is rich enough for any piece of study.

Kein (1996), referred to purposive sampling as gathering information with rich materials from chosen or special people. The sample or subject considered has the right information since the are in direct contact with the targeted communities and work within that area of study.

McCall (1995) supports this by stating, “Researcher needs to get the appropriate sample size in terms of accuracy and the cost and also put into consideration the subject matter of investigations”.

3.4. Methods used in the study

The researcher used both qualitative and quantitative research methods, which was basically on analyzing causes leading to institutionalization of large number of children in home care centres, by asking questions and interviewing people.

3.5. Study instrument for data collection

The researcher used questionnaires guide; documents and interview guide was used to collect data.

According to Nsubuga (2000), questionnaires are the mostly widely used technique by the researchers when carrying out the survey study and where quantitative analysis is involved. It involves the use of written items to which the respondents individually responds in writing. Nsubuga asserts that presenting respondents views with carefully selected and orderly questions is the only practical way to get information or data required to confirm or disconfirm hypothesis.

3.6. Process and procedure of data collection

An introductory letter was obtained from the department of social sciences, Kampala International University as a way of seeking permission to a field study in the district and for security reasons. The letter will be presented to the local authority and to some respondents who will ask for it.

3.7. Data analysis

The content analysis of the data from the key informants was analyzed and reduced into meaningful information that was presented in tabular form accordingly.

3.8. Limitations of the study

The researcher expected to encounter some limitations in the course of the study

- Financial constrains to facilitate all the requirements of the study.
- Lack of capacity, this is because to conduct a successful research one needs skills and skills and expert knowledge. This will be the first time of the researcher to carryout the research.
- Side effects: in the course of the study, the researcher might come across many problems, which will interfere with the study. For instance, language barrier and means of transport when carrying out the study visits.
- Limited time schedule for data collection, data analysis and compilation of the report.
- The researcher might also experience difficulties in meeting the respondents in time and delays in getting back the responses.

3.9. Delimitations of the study

In the study the limitations were minimized by the co-operation from most of the correspondents in the study area. This was because the respondents who are the main beneficiaries in the research findings showed great interest. The researcher got some funding and assistance in terms of means of transport to the study area and also the guidance from the supervisor in processing the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Introduction:

In this chapter the data is presented and analyzed in line with the research questions which were to find out the causes leading to institutionalization of large number of children in home care centres, the findings presented were from 24 respondents who were sampled. Out of 24 respondents 10 were males and 14 females. In the same chapter the data is presented and analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively using descriptive methods with the help of tables.

Age of respondents

Table 1: Illustration of age:

Age categories	Percentage		Total	
	Males	Females	Freq	percentage
20-29	20.0%	35.7%	7	29.16
30-39	40.0	21.4%	7	29.16
40-49	40.0	42.9%	10	41.7
Total	100	100	24	100

Source: primary data

From the table above the findings shows that the respondents (41.7%) were in age group 40-49. most of the females were also in age groups 30-39 and 40-49 while males were in the age groups 30-39 and 40-49 the age considered important in enabling the research to understand the variety of information in analyzing the causes leading to institutionalization of large number of children in home care centre.

Educational level of respondents:

Table 2: Showing educational levels of respondents:

Education level	Percentage		Total	
	male	Female	freq	percentage
Primary	40%	31.6%	8	33%
Secondary	0%	31.6%	6	25%
Tertiary	60%	36.9%	10	41.7%
Total	100	100	24	100

Source: field data

From the above, the findings show that the majority (41.7%) of the respondents completed tertiary level and above. there are a small number of respondents (25%) who had attained secondary level of education and they are only females. The findings from the study show that males (60%) had attained higher education than females (36.9%).

Employment status of respondent

Table 3: showing employment status of respondents:

Nature of work	Males	females	freq	Percentage
administrators	24.5%	24.5%	2	8.3%
Social works	49.3%	31.9%	8	33.3%
Care givers	26.2%	33.6%	14	58.3%
Total	100	100	24	100

Source: field data.

From the table, above the study revealed that most of the respondents are employed within the home care centre. with the highest percentage(58.3)being care givers, followed by social workers(33.3%)and administrators being(8.3%)there for females care takers were more than males.

Reasons that have led to increasing number of children being institutionalized every year

Table 4, showing the reasons which have lead to large numbers of institutionalization

Research question	Responses	Freq	%
On 1 what are the reasons that have lead to increasing number of children being institutionalized every year	a) poverty	7	29.2
	b) pre-marital sex/ extra marital relationships	4	16.7
	c) unwanted pregnancies	3	12.5
	d) HIV/AIDS	5	20.8
	e) prostitution	3	12.5
	f) incest	2	8.3
Total		24	100

Source: primary data

According to the data collected, the information revealed the majority of respondents (29.2%) asserting that poverty is the main reason as to why many children are institutionalized every year. They supported this view by stating that some parents due to their economic positions find it extremely hard to take care of the additional child especially when the child was not planned for, hence the child it dumped and eventually finds its way to institutions. 20.8% of the respondents asserted that HIV/AIDS was also a major cause of rampant institutionalization where by majority are orphans.12.5% affirmed that prostitutes have no need for children as it will affect their work so when they give birth unplanned, they always dump these babies anyhow. The view that premarital sex and extra marital relationships contributes to increased institutionalization was given by a 16.7% of the respondents, while unwanted pregnancies were sited by 12.5% of the respondents. A further 8.3% had the view that incest also contributes to the problem.

Circumstances that force parents to abandon their children

Table 5: showing the circumstances that force parents to abandon children

Research question	Responses	Freq	%
On in your views what do you think are some of the circumstances that forces parents to abandon or neglect their children?	a) culture-every child must have a clan	7	29.2
	b) poverty	9	37.5
	c) when the pregnant girl is rejected by her parents	3	12.5
	d) the need to pursue education	5	20.8
Total		24	100

Source: primary data

Most of the respondents observed that parents do not deliberately abandon their young ones and that there are certain circumstances that put them in a fix and leaves them with abandonment as the only option. The highest number of respondents sited poverty as a situation that forces parents to abandon their children. They supported this view by the fact that most of the people who abandon their babies have no means of taking care of themselves leave alone their babies. 29.2% of the respondents said that culture is also very rigid in Uganda especially central in that it places more significance to the fact that every child born must have a clan to identify with. This becomes very hard for those women who give birth out of wedlock and those who are rejected by the men responsible hence they prefer to do a way with the child instead if raising him in a stigmatized environment where by it leads to the reason why boys are abandon more than girls. 20.8% gave the desire of the girl to pursue her educational needs as another circumstance. They insisted that some parents might not accept to return their daughters to school after they have given birth therefore these girls may prefer to hide the pregnancy and throw the baby away after giving birth without the knowledge of her parents so that parents can continue to cater for her educational needs. The fact that some pregnant girls are denounced by their parents was pointed out by 12.5% of the respondents.

Reasons for institutionalizing vulnerable children

Table 6: showing why vulnerable children need institution care

Research question	Responses	Freq	%
On. Why do vulnerable children need institution care?	a) it is the only way to take care of orphaned and destitute children	10	41.7
	b) it becomes the only option after abandonment	8	33.3
	c) most of them are rejected by extended family members	6	25
Total		24	100

Source: primary data

The research findings from the field indicated the majority of the respondents (41.7%) pointing that, institutions becomes the only way to take care of the children who have been orphaned and destitute. A further 33.3% of the respondents said that institutions are the only hope and option for abandoned children, while 25% asserted that most of the children in the institutions are rejected by their extended family members hence institutions care becomes their solace.

Improvement of institutionalization procedures

Table 7: showing the procedures followed to institutionalize these children

Research question	Responses	Freq	%
Qn.How can the procedures for their institutionalization be improved?	<p>a) The good Samaritans should not be harass ss they bring in the abandon children.</p> <p>b) The information about the baby must be made public to ensure that no claimant has come forward</p> <p>c) The baby is then taken in by the institution and after some duration, he/ she is put on the adoption list.</p>		
Total		24	100

Source: primary data

The above information was obtained from the two case studies nsambya and sanyu babies homes. They both listed the above procedures as mandatory for institutionalization. From the interviews conducted on them, they revealed that the authority is a requirement to deter those people who willingly would want to take advantage of institution care and place their babies in institutions when they can take care of them. For those children who fail to be adopted, they are placed in other institutions which take care of older children for instance, Watoto children home.

Relevant policies on how to care for institutionalized children

Table 8: showing relevant policies on how to care for these children

Research question	Responses	Freq	%
What are the relevant current policies on how to care of these children	<p>a) Institution should be registered by concerned authorities.</p> <p>b) Children should not be discriminated on the bases of culture, colour, race and religion.</p> <p>c) They should be protected and all their rights as children should be granted.</p> <p>d) These institutions should ensure that the children are fostered and integrated within the family system.</p>		
Total		24	100

Source; primary date

The above information was obtained from the administration of the two children homes. The information revealed that the government has at least tried to put some measures in form of policies in place to regulate the operation of these homes. These policies are mandatory to ensure that the children are treated fairly. Some of the policies in place as per the information received are: the institution must be registered in order to operate, this helps to reduce on the cases of fake centres, and the institutions are also required to be non-discriminatory while accepting children. This policy states that all children who are in need and qualify to be institutionalized must be accepted regardless of their race, color, religious affiliation or family background. The centres should also ensure that children rights are granted and protected and these children should feel as safe as possible, they should not be abused by the care givers or anyone. The institutions are also required to ensure a safe fostering process that will not torment the lives of these

children, the foster parents should be screened as a procedure to ensure that the fostered children are well taken care of.

Roles of the community, the government, private sectors and NGO's in curbing this problem

Table 9: showing the roles of the community, the government, private sector and NGO's in trying to curb this problem.

Research question	Responses	Freq	%
What is the community, the government, private sector and NGO's doing to curb this problem.	<p>a) The community identifies these abandon children, and take them to this homes.</p> <p>b) Most homes are under the NGO's which fund them and monitor there operations.</p> <p>c) The private sectors have contributed much in funding this institution and providing material assistance like food and clothing's.</p> <p>d) The government as also contributed much in funding, provision of construction places, and monitoring of this homes to ensure they are runned effectively.</p>		
Total		24	100

Source: primary data

The research finding from the field identified that the NGO's have played a big role in helping the vulnerable children in this institutions by funding the institutions, providing them with materials clothing's, food stuff, voluntary care and also supervision to ensure

this children are well taken care of. private sectors in trying to help these children provide food stuff, clothings and also fund them, this include companies or individual organization The government as also contributed much in funding the institutions, provisions of construction places where these homes are build, and monitoring of this homes to ensure they are runned effectively and the funds are use well to meet the needs of this children. Lastly the community members have played a big role in identifying the abandon children, for example those who have been abandon in the parks, road side, pit latrines, dustbins bushes and even forests, give them the first aid, take them to hospitals and to the police where by the are taken to this institution.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter specifically summarizes, concludes and gives recommendations on the findings. The major aim of the study was basically to assess the causes leading to institutionalization of large numbers of children in Kampala District. Basing on the data analysis and interpretation in chapter four, the researcher identified avenues for possible suggestions.

5.1 Summary

According to the data collected, the study revealed that the respondents had different socio-economic characteristics in terms of sex, age, and education qualification. What is significant in this section is that the majority of the people involved in child care have low levels of education and they are female. This could be attributed to the fact that women know how to take care of the babies as compared to men.

Findings on the causes leading to institutionalization indicated that out of 24 respondents 10 acknowledged that identifying the causes of institutionalization is so challenging. Their argument was based on the fact that children reach the homes through other individuals/ good Samaritans who pick them, so for them they remain ignorant of the reasons as to why the children were dropped or abandoned. However, some respondents who expressed their assertiveness in the identifying the causes leading to institutionalization attributed it to economic status of the country, fathers abandoning pregnant wives, incest, prostitution. It was also revealed that there are those circumstances that forces these mothers to abandon their children and these are like the cultures in the central Uganda where by children should be identified with their clans, poverty, rejection by parents and also young mothers who want to continue with their studies. Therefore these abandon children need institution care at the first place when

other alternatives are being sought, these alternatives may include fostering or placing them in group homes, thus, before institutionalising there are procedures that are followed to ensure they are legally institutionalized, with the current policies also aiding in ensuring that all children are institutionalized despite of their culture, colour, race or religion and that the organization is registered and known so that its operation are monitored to ensure this children needs and rights are well met and protected.

Hence there are some NGO's and private sectors that have come up to help this agencies to run there operations smoothly that is by funding this institutions and providing materials and other forms of donations, . In trying to find some preventive measures some NGO's have build girls centres whereby the take in girls who are pregnant and give them enough skills that will enable them take care of their children.

The government as also played a big role in providing building areas or land to those willing to expand the homes or build more to cater for these children whom seem to be increasing every day funding the homes and providing all kinds of donation not leaving behind the formulation of policies that govern these institutions.

The community members have also contributed more in identifying this children giving them first aid or taking them to hospitals for example those who are in a bad condition and eventually taking them to these homes.

5.2 Conclusion

In line with the findings and assuming that these findings apply to the rest of the population out side the sample the following conclusion can therefore be drawn;

Firstly there is an increasing number of children being institutionalized every year in home cares and majorly there are some circumstances that pushes their biological parents to abandon them and this may include poverty which causes economic hardship and thus an additional burden is done away with, also extend families do not want to add themselves the burden of taking care of orphans in their localities and therefore children orphaned by AIDS are forced to institutions.

Secondly institutions have played a very significant role in addressing the needs of vulnerable children, however the problem would not end until the root causes of the

problem is solved these still remain a challenge to most agencies trying to tackle with this problem these conclusion is based on the facts that most correspondents agreed that the fact of identifying causes leading to institutionalization is challenging and complicated.

Therefore child care is an integral and inherent concept that has been taken for granted. Today even if there are a number of institutions and homes taking care of the neglected and abandon babies there is still a great disparity between what we want to do to protect our children and what we actually do.

Uganda is still recovering from civil disorders and the economic are assuming a positive change. However our children are moving deeper into the sea of abuse and neglect press report on children who have been defiled, dumped in pit latrines, abducted ruthlessly beaten, burnt by step mothers have crowded our newspapers and have become permanent features of our mass media. This view is also traced back in 1970's through the 80's up to today Uganda has faced a number of problems, which have affected children care and protection. families have experience wars and civil strikes, economic strains, disease epidemics including AIDs, which have lead to family break down, extended family systems and weakening of the social fabric of society thus this as increased the number of children in difficult circumstances whereby many well wishers, Christians, government organization and other non governmental organizations have taken up the responsibility of providing charity services like adopting orphans, clothing them and meeting their school dues.

5.3 Recommendations

Vulnerable children have no alternative than to be placed in the institutions which even when functioning under the most scientific conditions can provide but a poor substitute for family life which is vital for healthy psychological growth and development of a child therefore alternatives should be provided to ensure that children are integrated in the families systems and communities.

The root causes of these problems should be dealt with first because institutions provide curative measures rather than preventive and this will not control the in fluke of children to these institutions therefore every body should be involved in trying to minimize behaviours that might lead to abandonment of the kids.

People should be sensitized on the need of family planning and the government should ensure that the services are provided in each district and villages so that people will use to plan their families whenever they don't want more children, or when they don't have enough resources to take care of more kids.

As it has been noted that poverty is the major contributor of the abandonment of these children then the government and other organizations should ensure that strategies of poverty reduction programs have been put in place as that is the reason why many ladies engage in prostitution so that they can get money for survival and in this case when they conceive this prevents them from continuing with their job and some times lack finances to terminate it thus they give birth and throw them away. Prostitution should be abolished and measures should be taken to ensure that those places are lit and protected to avoid such businesses.

Bravo to those institutions that have come up to help girls who have been chased from their homes because of early pregnancies or pregnancies out of wedlock's, but more of these institutions should be set up in that it can meet the number of teenage pregnancies that is increasing because they are the vulnerable group with no steady income and whenever they are thrown out by their parents and life proves hard for them this sometimes forces them to abandon their children, this institution should provide for them skills and capital to start their own businesses that will sustain them and their babies.

Orphaned relatives be helped so that they can take care of these children in their families this is by providing them with funds, or lenient loans, food stuff, school fees dues and other materials that will help them raise these children or incentives should be provided to these relatives so that it can promote the caring of children within their localities or communities.

Also some alternatives should be provided that are likely to help these children grow up in a family system this can be by fostering them or placing them in group homes, whereby it will look more of a home than an institution.

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Appendix 1. Questionnaire for the key informants.

QUESTIONNAIRE

KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Dear sir/madam;

You are kindly requested to participate in this study in analyzing the causes leading to large number of institutionalized children in home care centres in Kampala district. Your information shall be treated confidentially and it shall only be used for the purpose of the study.

Background of respondents

a) Location of the respondent

a. District.....

b. Age.....

c. Gender of the respondents; Male....Female....

d. Education status;

I. Primary (4-5)

II. Primary (5-7)

III. Secondary (1-4)

IV. "A" Level (5-6)

V. Institutions or colleges.....

Qn.1 what are the reasons that have lead to increasing number of children being institutionalized every year?

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.....
Qn.2 In your views what do you think are some of the circumstances that forces parents to abandon or neglect their children?

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.....

Qn.3 why do vulnerable children need institution care?

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Qn.4 what are the procedures followed in order to institutionalize them?

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.....
.....

Qn.5 Are there relevant current policies, on how to take care of these children?

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.....

Qn.6 what is the community, the government, private sector and NGOs doing to curb this problem?

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.....
.....
.....

Thank you very much

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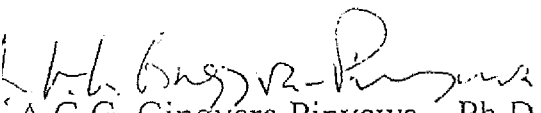
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is to introduce to you Mr/Miss

is a bonafide student of Kampala International University. He/She is
working on a research project for a dissertation, which is a partial requirement
for the award of a degree. I hereby request in the name of the University to
provide him/her all the necessary assistance required for this work.

With the pleasure of thanking you in advance for your cooperation!

Yours sincerely,


A.G.G. Gingyera Pinyewa – Ph.D. (Chicago)
Dean - Faculty of Social Sciences

