

## **GOVERNMENT POLICY ON REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN STREET CRIME IN NAKURU COUNTY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The menace of street children involved in crime is still prevalent in major urban centres in Kenya despite government intervention measures put in place to address the problem. This research examined the government policy on rehabilitation of children involved in street crime in Nakuru County. The study used structural empowerment theory as its foundation. Target population was 595 respondents from children department, prison staff, court staff, street children, the National Youth Service staff and National Government Administrative officers. Stratified random sampling and purposive sampling techniques were utilized to identify 128 respondents from the study population. Data collection instruments included questionnaire for government employees and interview guide for street children. The study questionnaire was checked for validity using expert review and for reliability using the test-retest technique. Quantitative data was analyzed by use of statistical package for social science (SPSS). Both descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized in the process of data analysis. Study findings revealed a statistically significant and positive relationship between government policy interventions and rehabilitation of street children involved in crime. Further still, inadequate funding, inadequate personnel, poor entry behaviour and inadequate tools and equipment in institutions that provide rehabilitation for street children involved in crime were the challenges faced in the implementation of government measures aimed at addressing criminality among street children in Nakuru County. Based on the study findings and conclusions, the study recommended that the government should establish policies and guidelines that are grounded in statute to offer practical solutions to the crime committed by street children. This would mainly be in terms of preventive and supportive programmes for the rehabilitation and reformation of street children, not only those involved in crime but also those who are yet to engage in crime.*

*Key Words: Street Children, Rehabilitation, Government Policy*

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## INTRODUCTION

Street children are pushed by circumstances to engage in crime. Crimes committed by street children are not necessarily a means of economic survival, but rather crimes that are poverty related for human survival in order to meet their immediate basic needs, these offences are theft, burglary, drugs peddling and robberies (Wernham, 2004). Street children are driven into street criminality due to poverty that is brought about by lack of equity in our society, thereby committing crime for a living.

In Kenya boys make up the biggest number of street children who normally engage mainly in drug and substance abuse, drug peddling, pick pocketing, begging and garbage collection while female children survive on activities such as begging, drug abuse and prostitution. (Dzikus et al., 2010). Majority of street children in Kenya are boys with few girls they all indulge in criminal behaviour where girls are mainly involved in prostitution and drug abuse while boys earn their living mainly through pick pocketing, drug abuse, peddling vandalism of vehicles parts with cases of sexual crime in coastal town of Mombasa, Malindi and Lamu.

The Kenyan Constitution of 2010's Article 53 identifies the importance of safeguarding all children from maltreatment, neglect, detrimental cultural customs, and every kind of violence, brutal treatment, and retribution. Children have fundamental rights, for example, the right to an education, a place to live, and parental care. These rights are guaranteed by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children, to which Kenya is a member, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Towards this end, the Kenyan government has initiated actions to deal with street children where remands and rehabilitation schools have been set up across the country to address street children criminality where those convicted children are sent, to school and rehabilitation centres.

Kenya government has put up 11 approved school some of the schools are Kirigiti, Dagoreti, Likoni, Kericho, Kisumu, Gitathuru, Kabete with a capacity of 2500 children who have committed crimes and those in need of protection and care (Odera, 2013). These approved schools serve as remand and residences, with 1,490, 3,224, and 3,340 inmates in 2005, 2006, and 2007, respectively. Only 3,500 of the 5,113 minors implicated in crime in 2005 had their cases addressed by the authorities (Odera, 2013). However, much need to be done to handle the number of children becoming imprisoned because the institution in place is few and cannot handle the increasing number of juvenile due to their increase in criminal activities and convictions however effectiveness of this strategy has not been tested.

The Nairobi Task Force for children from disadvantaged backgrounds has been actively supporting the network of informal schools. Amongst the four informal schools managed by the City Education Department of Nairobi is Kangemi Informal School. It began as a Youth Center in a community hall in 1977 (Munyakho, 1992). These informal schools are meant for those street children who are old and not likely to be admitted in formal school due to rigorous procedure they act as a drop net for formal schools but they have not managed to arrest the situation these children are not attracted into these institutions.

According to LOK (2009) the Kenya parliament enacted Borstal institutional Act Chapter 92 for detention for children offenders, this gave rise to Shikusa in Kakamega, Shimom la Tewa and Kamae in Kamiti. These institutions serve as prison correctional and educational centres for juvenile offenders who are 15-18yrs where they pursue education. The institution admits students every year who contravene the law. The street children who do contrary to the law are sent to these remand institutions for rehabilitation and learning they are given opportunity to explore their potential through formal education. The government have put up these three institutions taking into account the situation in our towns where great number of street children are out there engaging themselves in crime such as mugging, drug abuse, drug peddling.

Grace Children's Home, Deborah Children's Home, and the House of Plenty Children's Home are just a few of the Nakuru orphanages that have shut down (Nakuru Municipal Social Services Department, 2012).

Therefore, it is crucial to determine how much the government's rules, policies, management skills, and financial resources may have contributed to the situation in Nakuru, generating a knowledge gap that must be filled.

When Kenya NARC government assumed power in 2003 it conscripted 3000 street children in the National Youth Service this was meant to shape their character and also equip them with technical skills that could enhance their life economically (Standard Newspaper, 2010). However these street children went through their training and acquired the essential skills but they were not given tools and financial support to start life, they were left on their own as a result some went back into the street having been given the military like training thus posing a great danger to the national security. The Kenyan Government through the *Kazi Kwa Vijana* (KKV) initiative and the newly launched Uwezo Fund (a women youth enterprise fund) should endeavor to provide funds and create more employment opportunities for the youth so as to reduce their involvement in crime, particularly robbery (Musau, 2014). This initiative can target street children and for a great extent it can engage some of the older ones who cannot go to school to support their life and liberate them from crime mind set and street life.

In view of the above it is evident there are gaps in addressing the issue of street children and urban crime. This study therefore endeavors to address these gaps with a view to realizing positive outcome in putting an end to the phenomenon. The issue of street children criminality is far ahead of government measures made to address it hence the pursuit of the study.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The Kenya government has put up measures through policies, programmes, institutions like approved schools, borstal facilities and laws like the children Acts 2012, Borstal Acts 2012, Constitution of Kenya 2010, and Basic education Act No. 14, 2013 on access to basic education to address the street children in crime. The main objective of these programmes is to make our cities and town free from crime committed by street children who pose a big security threat to the business communities, passersby, inhabitants and tourists. Due to ever increasing street children in crime there exist gaps between the government measures designed to tackle the problem of street children who commit crimes. Street children in crime is increasing in urban centres thereby putting pressures on existing measures meant to address the problem thus resulting to unsatisfactory solutions.

The government has created quite a number of rehabilitation centers like the approved schools, borstal institutions which are fully operational in rehabilitating street children convicts. However, street children in crime are still evident in our urban centres and cities where they grow up and convert streets into their homes. They start their criminal life with petty offences and later become serious crime offenders involved in organized crimes on the streets.

There are government policies, national laws, regional and international conventions and protocol which have been ratified by the Kenya government to addresses the plight of children. However, street children criminality has persisted and shown an upward trajectory year after year despite the willingness by the government to address their plight. These street children continue to be a threat to national security in our major towns and cities hence an impediment to urban socio-economic development of the nation.

Therefore, this study endeavored to examine the government policy on rehabilitation of children involved in street crime in Nakuru County.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to examine the government policy on rehabilitation of children involved in street crime in Nakuru County.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **Structural Empowerment Theory**

Kanter's structural empowerment theory served as the study's foundation. According to empowerment theory, empowerment is encouraged in a variety of settings that give individuals access to information, resources, assistance, and growth possibilities. The theory goes on to say that empowerment occurs when a company really involves its workforce, and then gradually reacts to that participation by encouraging growth factors corresponding with the anticipated success of rehabilitation programs. Kanter (1993), who is advancing the theory, posit that people gradually become more empowered as they take charge of their life and make decisions that may impact them. Skelton (2016) asserts that a factor that is important in centers for the rehabilitation of children living on the streets, they ought to be able to take part in issues that affect their lives. Equity, partnership, and responsibility are among the empowerment theory's guiding principles that are appropriate to this study. Equity is defined in a rehabilitation facility where children must collaborate and contribute to one another's wellbeing as a result of the application of principles to accomplish common goals and the willingness of each child to work together toward a common goal. Partnership is referred to as the development of a relationship that promotes mutual respect, increased communication, and cooperation in order to accomplish corporate goals. This principle is essential to the study since it emphasizes the requirement for cooperation between the parents and themselves and the caretakers of the children (Dybicz 2017). Beginning together, continuing together, and succeeding together are all stages of a process. For the programs to be successful, both the children and the rehabilitation personnel should work together. Accountability is characterized as the readiness to participate in decision-making and a sense of shared accountability for both individual and group outcomes. This concept, which contends that children who are subjected to authority figures and denied the chance to set up rules through relationships that are mutually respectful are unable to mature into responsible adults and societal contributors, is pertinent to the study because it is essential for the realization of successful rehabilitation programs. The programs become effective and the intended objectives are met when this theory's concepts are applied to individuals (children undergoing therapy) and organizations (rehabilitation institutions).

#### **Review of Related Literature**

Street gang violence and criminal exploitation have become more prevalent in Britain in recent years. To combat this, the government has launched a number of initiatives, including the Youth Endowment Fund, which will invest £200 million over ten years and is managed by the Home Office, and the Supporting Families Against Youth Crime fund, which will invest \$5 million and is managed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Longfield, 2019). Although many programs have good intentions, it is unclear how this funding results in lasting change. The levels of bureaucracy connected to accessing funding at time delay or make it hard to put these fund into proper use though at time government is committed to address the street children criminality but it does not fully achieve its intention since the problem is never solved to conclusion crime continue to rise on the street.

Street children are not engaged in the different programs they go through and they receive rejection and abuse by those who are supposed to help them, as a result, they might avoid interacting with other social workers (Ali, 2014). This result in some of these programmes failing however good they may be because they don't factor the desire and flexibility these children deserve or aspire at time they are even subjected to torture or abuse. Such programmes like rehabilitation and collection centres have often been associated with physical abuse of the street children. Street children prefer the freedom of the streets over the mistreatment and rigid rules present in certain child care institutions (Conticini et al., 2007). It is evident that the facilities may be in place but the condition in them are not friendly to these children at time they are not adequately accommodated thus they are scared off. In Brazil, where crime in the street are largely committed by

organized street children they have been targeted by the government special squad where they are killed (Butler, 2009). These indicate that at time government falls short of prerequisite lawful measure and adopt ruthless inhumane way to deal with street children criminality due to prevalence and overwhelming, though it is not lawful and it is against human rights.

In the developing world, the phenomenon of street children and its scope have turned into a social problem. When 115 cases of street children were registered in 1975, the Kenyan government first became aware of this situation (Sorre, 2009). Since then, the country has recorded an upsurge in the number of street children as the population expands. A study from the Government of South Africa reported that, it wasn't until 1979, following the international year of the child, that the problem of children living and working on the streets in the majority of African nations became a top priority for aid organizations and governments (2010).

District Children Advisory Committees (DCACs) were created by Kenya's government in the early 1990s via presidential order to improve district-level coordination of child care initiatives (Mbugua, 2012). The goal of the mandate was to increase the community's, Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) and Private Sector's (PSCs), Line Ministries' (LMs), Faith-Based Organizations' (FBOs'), and Community-Based Organizations' (CBOs') involvement in the management of Child-Related Issues (CROs') (Onwong'a, 2013). The present Area Advisory Councils (AACs), which are governed by the Children Act, have taken the place of the DCACs (Mbugua, 2012). These initiatives were all part of the Department of Children's Services, which was a division of the previous Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage (MOHA and NH).

Their primary responsibility was to provide these street kids with preventative and supporting programs. Even though the majority of the programs were managed by the local governments of the time, they received approval under the Children and Young Persons CAP 141, which was created to oversee both kinds of programs. None, nevertheless, put together a helpful program (Onwong'a, 2013). The CAP 141 Act was effectively repealed in 2001. The Kenya National Assembly made an attempt to deal with this problem of streetism in October 1995. The opposition chief whip, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, and then-member of parliament Kimilili admitted that " for the first time ever, a parliamentary session was debating the subject of street children" in a recorded parliamentary session published by the Standard Newspaper.

The African Network for the Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect held a "hearing on street children in Kenya" in 1994, which served as the inspiration for the national assembly discussion (ANPPCAN). The key advice was to implement intervention programs to address the issue of street children. In order to both avoid the influx of new street children and to rehabilitate those who are already there, such programs were developed (Africa Medical Research Foundation) (AMREF, 1995). Since then, numerous initiatives have been made to rehabilitate these defenseless youngsters, including street kids, orphans, and HIV/AIDS victims' children. These actions are intended to protect children from sociocultural shocks such as diseases, to shield them from all types of abuse and violence, and to reintegrate them into society as productive members of society. However, developing nations, including the government of Kenya, have not yet formally acknowledged the focus on street children as a component of the expanding number of children living in challenging conditions. The Kenyan government has signed and approved numerous legislation on a national, international, and local level in an effort to combat this situation. They range from organizations whose goals are to protect children from harm and exploitation, improve education, and combat poverty, which are seen as the main issues facing street children. Nevertheless, as required by the constitution and the Children's Act, the government is also obligated to ensure that the latter are given to all children without distinction. In accordance with the CRC's requirements, the Children Act ensures that children who are unable to be with their birth parents be cared for and protected. This covers the state's obligation to make it easier for separated children and their parents to reunite (section 6(3)), as well as provisions for foster care (Part X1 and schedule 4), guardianship (Part V111), adoption (Part X1 Section 154-183), and the placement of children in charitable institutions for children (Part V, Section 58-72). (NCCS, 2010). Human, child, and family rights and

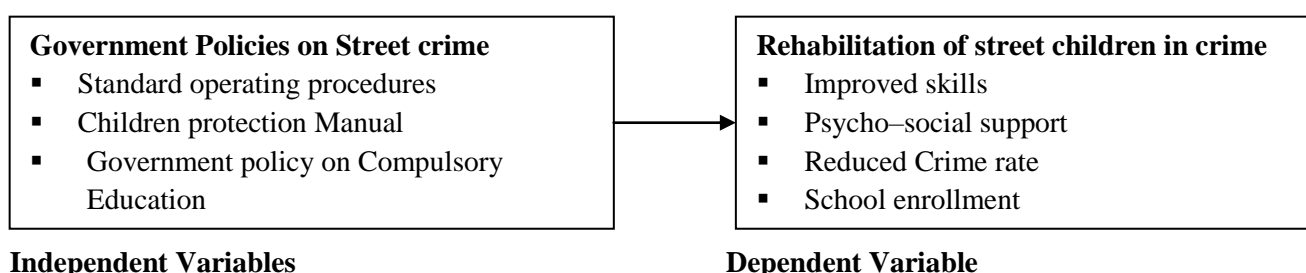
protection are outlined in the Kenyan constitution of 2010. Every child has the right, as stated in section 53 of part 3, to a free and compulsory basic education, to a minimum standard of nutrition, housing, and health care, in addition to parental guidance and protection, safeguards against maltreatment, neglect, damaging cultural norms, all types of aggression, harsh treatment and punishment, and risky or abusive work. The responsibility of ensuring that these rights are protected in accordance with the constitution rests with the Kenyan government.

Because of this, it is thought that the government has failed to uphold and protect the rights of the children who are present on the streets. Even so, there aren't many government initiatives focused on helping street kids and they tend to be short-lived and narrowly focused rather than taking a comprehensive approach. Although it has not yet developed a suitable policy or allocated funds to resolving the issue of street children, the government nonetheless appears committed to improve their position. This suggests that the vast majority of street children have received very little education. Their requirements for healthcare and behaviors for seeking it make them vulnerable as well. The existence of modest, disorganized projects by the two organizations—the government and other NGOs—aimed at street children, however, poses the biggest obstacle to accomplishing the goals of the government organization. Similar to child labor and child marriage, there is no specific statutory framework for street children in Kenya; rather, it is covered by a number of laws, including the Children Act and the Marriage Act. Understanding the scope of the issue, its dimensions, and the primary contributing elements is a necessary first step in developing policies aimed at the rehabilitation of street children. In addition, it's crucial to address the fundamental causes of the issue rather than just the symptoms (Aptekar, 1988).

Kenyan government has initiated some measures to address street children crime where it came up with programmes like *Kazi kwa Vijana*, free primary education, correctional facilities and enlistment of street children in NYS programmes (World Bank, 2010). These programmes are meant to address this phenomenon that why the government initiated free and compulsory education for all children but it is still worrying finding street children at school going age in our cities and towns engaging in crime and other vices despite basic primary education being free and compulsory. *Kazi kwa vijana* initiative was meant to engage the grown-up children who are through thorough primary and secondary education to earn a living but the program was not sustainable (Isahakia, 2010). *Kazi Kwa Vijana* initiatives are pertinent to the young people's lives due to the fact that they allow them to perform tasks for extended periods of time and are crucial to their wellbeing, skill development, and growth in self-esteem.

### Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework shows the relationship between the dependent variable and the independent variable. The independent variables include policies for rehabilitation of street children. The dependent variable for the study was the rehabilitation of street children involved in crime and was operationalized using constructs such as improved learner skills, better psycho-social support, reduced crime rate and increased school enrolment.



**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework**

**Source: Author, 2020**

## **METHODOLOGY**

A mixed research design was used for the study where the design combined explorative and descriptive analysis approaches (Mills et al., 2009). Government policies on street crime was the independent variable while rehabilitation of street children in crime was the dependent variable. The site of the study was Nakuru county Kenya. The area is located in Rift Valley region which over the years has experienced ethnic conflicts largely contributed to families migrating to Nakuru as a safer place thus triggering the demographic equation of the street children who later indulged in crime for their daily survival and at time to support their siblings. National Police Service crime report (2020) indicated that Nakuru County had the second highest number of street children in Kenya and with a street children annual population growth of 8.09% compared to Nairobi's 9.44%. In addition, Nakuru County was found to have high rates of crime involving street children as evidenced in a report by the National Crime research Centre for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 where Nakuru was ranked the second highest in prevalence of street crime perpetrated by street children. Post-election violence of 2007/2008 contributed significantly to influx of street children due to breakdown of social-economic strength triggered by these ethnic clashes, thereby giving rise to unprecedented crime levels that was largely associated to street children rise, also the county was chosen because of its cosmopolitan nature with rich diversity, its centrally located where people of all ethnic divide are found.

Target population for the study included officers from the Ministry of education offices in Nakuru and Naivasha, the NYS officials and trainers at the Gilgil NYS training college, officials from children department in Nakuru and Naivasha whom the street children wellbeing were directly under, Court Officials since children criminals matters are dealt with in the court, National Government administration officials that is Chiefs in Nakuru and Naivasha and Assistant County Commissioner in these towns, County Government of Nakuru officials in Nakuru in the gender and children services department and officers from Prison where borstal institution fall.

This research study used a sample size of 30% of the population within Nakuru. Stratified random sampling was utilized to select respondent for the study. Stratified random sampling design assisted the researcher to sample respondent in their respective strata being national and county government officials, street children and children department officials. Thirty percent of the population was 198 participants. The research used both open ended and closed questionnaires and interviews. A pilot study was conducted two weeks prior to the main study within Kakamega County in Western Kenya.

The research used both primary and secondary data during research. Primary data was collected using questionnaire both open and closed ended, while Interview was a one-on-one oral communication utilizing a set of predetermined questions. After the data collection process questionnaires were checked to ensure that only duly filled instrument by the respondent was used. Data collected was analyzed by aid of statistical package for social science (SPSS) version 27 for windows. Quantitative data collected was analyzed through descriptive statistics and inferential analysis. Qualitative data was grouped using open coding for the purpose of generating theme which was analyzed using thematic, content and critical discourse analysis. The data was displayed utilizing percentage, pie charts, graphs, frequency distribution table for quantitative data and narrative and theme for qualitative data.

## **FINDINGS**

### **Government Policies on Rehabilitation of Children Involved in Street Crime**

The study objective sought to assess the government policies on rehabilitation of children involved in street crime in Nakuru County. Study data relating to government policies on juvenile rehabilitation data relating to street children involved in crime were analyzed utilizing descriptive and inferential statistics, with results exhibited in tables 1, 2, 3 and 4.

### **Descriptive Statistics for Government Policies on Rehabilitation of Children Involved in Street Crime**

In table 1, responders were required to indicate their level of agreement to response options provided. Key: SA= Strongly Agree, A = Agree, NS = Not Sure, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

**Table 1: Government Policies on Rehabilitation Programmes for Children Involved in Street Crime**

Question	SA	A	NS	D	SD
Is street crime perpetrated by children a real source of concern in Nakuru County?	24(18.75%)	42(35.16%)	28(21.88%)	19(14.84%)	15(11.72%)
Does the government have institutions that provide intervention programmes for street children involved in crime?	26(20.31%)	36(28.13%)	25(19.53%)	22(17.18%)	19 (14.84%)
Are government policies for rehabilitation of children involved in street crime sufficient in addressing street criminality?	31(24.22%)	39(30.47%)	19(14.84%)	22(17.18%)	17 (13.28%)
Are government policies for rehabilitation of street children involved in crime tailored to meet changing needs in juvenile rehabilitation?	29 (22.66%)	47(36.72%)	11 (8.59%)	25(19.53%)	16 (12.5%)

Study findings in table 1 revealed that majority of the study respondents (35.16%) agreed street crime perpetrated by children was a real source of concern in Nakuru County. It was also noted that 18.75% of the respondents strongly agreed that street crime perpetrated by children was a real source of concern in Nakuru County. As to whether the government has institutions that provide intervention programmes for street children involved in crime, most respondents (28.13%) agreed while 20.31% strongly agreed. With regard to whether government policies for rehabilitation of children involved in street crime were sufficient in addressing street criminality in Nakuru County, most respondents (30.47%) agreed while 24.22% strongly agreed. Respondents were asked whether the government policies for rehabilitation of street children involved in crime tailored were to meet changing needs in juvenile rehabilitation and most respondents (36.72%) agreed while 22.66% strongly agreed. Government policy on rehabilitation of juvenile offenders generally and street children involved in crime specifically need to be crafted in a manner that structures the rehabilitation programmes to achieve positive behaviour change in the young offenders in a timely manner for there to be real impact in addressing recidivism (Dzikus et al., 2010). The same sentiments are shared by Okech (2017) in his visiting expert's paper titled "the juvenile justice in Kenya: growth, system and structures" presented at United Nations Asian and Far East Institute (UNAFEI) in Japan.

### **Correlation results for Government Policies on Intervention Programmes for Children Involved in Street Crime**

Correlation Analysis was done to ascertain the effectiveness of government policies on rehabilitation of street children involved in crime in addressing street criminality among children in Nakuru County and results exhibited in table 2.



**Table 2: Correlation Results for Government Policies on Intervention Programmes for Children Involved in Street Crime**

		Government Policies	Street children Criminality
Government Policies	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
Street children Criminality	N	128	
	Pearson Correlation	.549*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	128	128

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**Source:** Research Data (2021)

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was calculated to assess the degree of the linear relationship between government policies that inform rehabilitation of street children and street criminality in Nakuru County. Results of the study as exhibited revealed a statistically significant connection between government policies and street criminality in Nakuru County ( $r= 0.549$ ;  $P<0.05$ ). This infers that government policies for addressing street criminality were effective in reducing street crime perpetrated by children in Nakuru County. These results are contrary to results in a study by Conticini et al., (2007) that government interventions often fail however good they may be because they don't factor the desire and flexibility these children deserve or aspire at time they are even subjected to torture or abuse. Such programmes like rehabilitation and collection centres have often been associated with physical abuse of the street children. Street children prefer the freedom of the streets in relation to the abuse and strict regulations found in some children's facilities to previous studies done where (Conticini et al., 2007).

District Children Advisory Committees (DCACs) were created by Kenya's government in the early 1990s via presidential order to improve district-level coordination of child care initiatives (Mbugua, 2012). The goal of the mandate was to increase the community's, Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) and Private Sector's (PSCs), Line Ministries' (LMs), Faith-Based Organizations' (FBOs'), and Community-Based Organizations' (CBOs') involvement in the management of Child-Related Issues (CROs') (Onwong'a, 2013). The present Area Advisory Councils (AACs), which are governed by the Children Act, have taken the place of the DCACs (Mbugua, 2012). The Department of Children's Services, which was under the former Ministry of Home Affairs and National Heritage, was where all of these programs were located (MOHA and NH). Their primary responsibility was to provide these street kids with preventative and supporting programs. Even though the majority of the programs were managed by the local governments of the time, they received approval under the Children and Young Persons CAP 141, which was created to oversee both kinds of programs. None, nevertheless, put together a helpful program (Onwong'a, 2013).

### **Regression Results for Government Policies for Rehabilitation of Street Children Involved in Criminality**

Research data relating to government policies for intervention measures as predictors of trends in children crime in the streets was put through a regression analysis, with the results exhibited in table 3.

**Table 3: Model Summary for the Government Policies Regarding Street Children Criminality**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.327 <sup>a</sup>	.284	0.273	.91077	1.615

a. Predictors: (Constant), Government Policies for Rehabilitation of Street Children

b. Dependent Variable: Street Children Criminality.

**Source:** Research Data (2021)

The study aimed to ascertain whether government policies on rehabilitation of street children involved in crime were predictors of street criminality among children in Nakuru County. The study did this by calculating the Durbin-Watson statistic and looking at the presence of autocorrelation. To rule out autocorrelation, the statistic must fall between 1.5 and 2.5. (Garson, 2012). There was no autocorrelation in the residual data because the observed Durbin-Watson coefficient, which was 1.615, was between 1.5 and 2.5. For this reason, the linear regression model was suited for the research. In order to ascertain whether the data residuals in their study by Ogundipe, Idowu, and Ogundipe (2012) had autocorrelation, they utilized the Durbin-Watson test. As a result, the regression model used in their research was justified.

Regression analysis was utilized to assess the amount variation in street crime depended on the type and scope of government intervention in Nakuru County. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) was 0.284 inferring that government policies on rehabilitation of street children involved in crime accounted for 28.4% of the variance in street children criminality in Nakuru County.

#### **ANOVA for Government Policies on rehabilitation of Street Children involved in Criminality**

The ANOVA for government policies regarding rehabilitation of street children involved in criminality was calculated to assess how effectively the study's model predicted criminal behavior among street children in Nakuru County and findings exhibited in table 4:

**Table 4: ANOVA for Government Policies on Rehabilitation of Street Children Involved in Criminality**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.142	1	.174	.136	.002 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	246.362	297	.624		
	Total	246.536	298			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Government Policies for Rehabilitation of Street Children

b. Dependent Variable: Street Children in Criminality

**Source:** Research Data (2021)

To estimate the degrees of variability within the regression model and serve as the foundation for significance tests, a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted. ANOVA results for the linear model for government policies to reduce street child crime presented in Table 4 above showed an F-value of 0.136, which is statistically significant, and a P-value of 0.002, indicating that the model as a whole was significant in predicting street child crime in Nakuru County. The study therefore shows that government policies for rehabilitation of street children involved in criminality in Nakuru County were adequate in addressing street criminality among children. The government has made enormous efforts to advance and advocate for the aforementioned rights after realizing that children's rights are human rights. Kenya has ratified a number of international treaties in this regard, including the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The National Council for Children's Services (NCCS), a council, created the national children policy to act as a framework for the Kenyan government as it implements Section 30 of the Children's Act 2001, which is the law's section dedicated to accomplishing commitment to the children (GOK, 2018). By doing this, all Kenyan children will be able to understand their rights as outlined in the numerous international agreements. The rights listed under protection rights that are pertinent to the Framework for the Rehab of Street Children are: Suitable Measures to Protect Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), which includes supporting caregivers, strengthening and supporting community systems that look after the orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), treating, caring for, and supporting children, along with their parents and caregivers. Additionally, all youngsters living in charitable institutions for children must be shielded from any possible mistreatment and exploitation. The Hague Convention on International Trade Law's provisions should be domesticated in order to do this. As a last resort and interim strategy for children while they wait for suitable placement and alternative family care

in the neighbourhood, adoption and provision for CCIs are used (GOK, 2018). Children's Act of 2001, Section 47.

A children officer had this to say;

*The government has made efforts to come up with policy guidelines for the rehabilitation of street children and all other children in conflict with the law in Kenya (Field data, 2021).*

In order to accomplish this, the government created rehabilitation schools to offer housing and amenities for the care and protection of children who are in trouble with the law. These rehabilitation centers feature distinct spaces for kids who need care and protection, as well as divisions for children of opposite genders, age groups, and child offenders. The manager of a rehabilitation school is also required by government policy to accept any kid who is lawfully sent, transferred, or otherwise committed to the school's care (GOK, 2010).

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study objective sought to examine the government policies on rehabilitation of children involved in street crime in Nakuru County. Study data relating to government policies on juvenile rehabilitation data relating to street children involved in crime were subjected to descriptive and inferential statistics. Study findings revealed that majority of the study respondents (35.16%) agreed street crime perpetrated by children was a real source of concern in Nakuru County. It was also noted that 18.75% of the respondents strongly agreed that street crime perpetrated by children was a real source of concern in Nakuru County. As to whether the government has institutions that provide intervention programmes for street children involved in crime, most respondents (28.13%) agreed while 20.31% strongly agreed. With regard to whether government policies for rehabilitation of children involved in street crime were sufficient in addressing street criminality in Nakuru County, most respondents (30.47%) agreed while 24.22% strongly agreed. Respondents were asked whether the government policies for rehabilitation of street children involved in crime tailored were to meet changing needs in juvenile rehabilitation and most respondents (36.72%) agreed while 22.66% strongly agreed.

Correlation Analysis was done to ascertain the effectiveness of government policies on rehabilitation of street children involved in crime in addressing street criminality among children in Nakuru County Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was computed to determine the degree of linear association between government policies that inform rehabilitation of street children and street criminality in Nakuru County. Results of the study revealed a statistically significant relationship between government policies and street criminality in Nakuru County. This implies that government policies for addressing street criminality were effective in reducing street crime perpetrated by children in Nakuru County.

Research data relating to government policies for intervention measures as predictors of trends in children crime in the streets was subjected to regression analysis to investigate whether government policies on rehabilitation of street children involved in crime were predictors of street criminality among children in Nakuru County. Regression analysis was conducted to determine the amount of variation in street crime that was a function of nature and extent of government intervention measures within Nakuru County. The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) was 0.284 implying that government policies on rehabilitation of street children involved in crime accounted for 28.4% of the variance in street children criminality in Nakuru County.

The ANOVA for government policies regarding rehabilitation of street children involved in criminality was calculated to assess how effectively the study's model predicted criminal behavior among street children in Nakuru County. One way ANOVA for the linear model on government policies for rehabilitation of street children criminality revealed an F - value = 0.136 which is statistically significant with P value = 0.002 meaning that the overall model was significant in the predicting street criminality among children in Nakuru

County. The study therefore shows that government policies for rehabilitation of street children involved in criminality in Nakuru County were adequate in addressing street criminality among children.

Results of the study revealed a statistically significant relationship between government policies and street criminality in Nakuru County based on the study findings, a conclusion was made that government policies for rehabilitation of street children involved in criminality were adequate in tackling street crime in Nakuru County.

Based on the study findings and conclusions, the following recommendation was made;

Offering preventive and supporting programs for the benefit of these street children is the primary responsibility of government agencies tasked with street child rehabilitation. The government should develop comprehensive policies that are supported by legal backing for the rehabilitation of street children. Such policies should be tailored to meet the emerging trends in juvenile crime and to remain in keeping with the dynamism in offending.

### **Suggestions for further research**

This study identified major gaps that need further consideration in research. These include the following:

- The study was carried out in one County (Nakuru County). There is need for more research in other counties in Kenya to generate more information on the effectiveness of rehabilitation strategies for street children involved in crime. This should seek to establish the variations in intervention strategies and programmes and the effects of these differences in the success of behaviour change and development among street children involved in crime.
- There is need for a study to ascertain the effect of training and assessment programmes, needs assessment and situation analysis on effective reformation of street children involved in crime. This is because most institutions that rehabilitate street children do not conduct a preliminary assessment to determine the training needs of street children as a re-requisite for enrollment into rehabilitation programmes.

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