
Awareness Level of Pupils On CSA in Emesa Sub-Location, Kisii County, Kenya

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Abstract

Child abuse as recorded in literature in many parts of the world continues to affect children conventionally. The abuse dates back to ancient civilizations as seen in the reports of child genital mutilation, infanticide, neglect, abandonment and child trafficking. Child abuse is a worldwide problem that occurs in various forms and is profoundly entrenched in cultural, economic and social practices. It manifests in different forms such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a global problem which cuts across all geographical boundaries ranging from social, economic, cultural and political. Despite myriad research on its awareness level has been difficult to estimate among pupils. This study, therefore, concentrated on the awareness levels of pupils on CSA. The study used systematic sampling to select pupils, convenience sampling to select parents/guardians and purposive sampling to select key informants. The sample size was 100 pupils, 100 parents/guardians and 10 key informants. The findings of the study reveal that the knowledge of teachers, parents and other caregivers on CSA prevention directly influences the child's prevention awareness. The study recommends dialogue among the religious institutions, policy formulators, teachers and parents and the introduction of sex education both at the school and societal level to equip the learners with possible negotiation techniques, abuser identification, where to report in the event of abuse and consequences of the abuse and the emphasis should not only be on girls but also boys since they can be sexually abused.

Key Words: Child abuse, Child Sexual abuse, Child trafficking, Prevention awareness, Female genital mutilation, Sex education

