ResearchGate

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355107265

An Assessment of Collaboration between Community- Based Informal Approaches and Government Formal Child Protection Structures in Mwingi Central-Sub County, Kitui County

Article · October 2021

CITATIONS
0

READS
48

3 authors, including:



Titus Kithome
The Catholic University of Eastern Africa
3 PUBLICATIONS **0** CITATIONS
SEE PROFILE



Stephen Asatsa
The Catholic University of Eastern Africa
48 PUBLICATIONS **51** CITATIONS
SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:

Post-doctoral Research View project

child protection View project

All content following this page was uploaded by Titus Kithome on 06 October 2021.

The user has requested enhancement of the downloaded file.

JRIIE Journal of Research Innovation and Implications in Education
Center for Research Implications & Practice

Website: www.jriiejournal.com **SSN 2520-7504 (Online) Vol.5, Iss.3, 2021 (pp. 116 - 126)**

An Assessment of Collaboration between Community-Based Informal Approaches and Government Formal Child Protection Structures in Mwingi Central-Sub County, Kitui County

Titus Mutia Kithome, Dr. Wilkster M. Shanyisa & Dr. Stephen Asatsa

Catholic University of Eastern Africa

Corresponding author: **titusmutia@yahoo.com**

Abstract: *Effective child protection framework requires a holistic approach where all actors are involved. This study was conceived to assess the level of collaboration between community–based informal approaches and government formal child protection structures in Mwingi central sub county. The study adopted mixed methods research design where data collection and analysis was done through both qualitative and quantitative methods. Both probability and non-sampling procedures were used to select a total of 433 respondents who included 399 adult members of the households, 24 children aged between 12-17 years and 10 key informants who participated in this study. The study was guided by the systems theory and the collected data was analyzed through thematic content analysis and descriptive statistics which involved the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20. The study results showed that there was poor close working relationship between structured child protection systems and community-based informal structures and the working relationship between the two approaches was greatly hampered by factors like: low visibility of government officials within the study region, community mistrust of government officials, and corruption by some government officials. The study recommends that there should more collaborative effort in child protection for better results.*

Keywords: Collaboration, Child, Protection, Community, Informal, Formal

How to cite this work (APA):

Kithome, T. M., Shanyisa, W. M. & Asatsa S. (2021). An assessment of collaboration between community-based informal approaches and government formal child protection structures in Mwingi Central Sub-county, Kitui County. *Journal of Research Innovation and Implications in Education, 5*(3), 116 – 126.

1. Introduction

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) reaffirms its commitment to the welfare of children, particularly those who do not live with their biological parents and need special care and protection (UNICEF, 2015). The CRC guidelines for alternative care for children recognize the family environment as the best option for child protection because it provides children with an opportunity to develop holistically (UN, 2010). However, some parents are either not able or unwilling to do so, a situation that calls for the intervention of other actors, either formal or informal. It is based on this background that Wessells (2015) stressed on the need for a unified approached towards child protection when both formal and informal approaches complement each other.

In explaining the role of different stakeholders in child protection systems among three Nordic states: Denmark,

Finland, and Norway, Pösö, Marit Skivenes & Hestbæk (2014) underscored the need for strengthening the relationship between the state, children, and their families. Pösö et al. (2014) observed that the government-controlled welfare state approach used in the child protection systems in the three Nordic states had some limitations like low involvement of children and families in matters concerning child protection. Resultantly, despite the three states placing a strong focus on prevention and provision of universal support and in-home child protection services, the number of children who need protection was still soaring (Pösö et al., 2014)

If children, peers, and other family members are actively engaged in the child protection process, they can be active agents of reform in both the formal and informal child protection systems. This is according to Balsellsa, Fuentes-Peláezb & Pastorb (2017) who observed that relying entirely on the views of professionals on matters concerning alternatives means of child care and protection without the involvement of the children and their family has negative effects on the welfare of the children even at their adulthood. Devaney & Byrne (2015) concurred on the need for building a strong partnership between state agencies and community-based informal structures towards the child protection agenda. In a study on the child protection and welfare system in the Republic of Ireland, Devaney & Byrne noted that, an effective child protection system should appreciate the role and ability and of different actors.

The performance of children protection systems among countries in Sub-Sahara Africa posts mixed results (UNICEF, 2012). While several countries have made very good progress towards child protection systems strengthening, there exists a wide disconnect between formal and informal approaches. This is due to variations in terms of values, beliefs, and expectations between the two approaches. Formal systems mainly emphasize providing 'services', while informal approaches tend to provide 'support and care to children in need of protection (UNICEF, 2012).

The Non-integration of informal child protection initiatives into the specific countries' legal frameworks in Africa particularly has resulted to poor collaboration between the formal and informal efforts towards child protection. This is according to Darkwah, Marguerite, Daniel & Yendork (2018) who observed that in Ghana, for example, the implementation of UNCRC policies among childcare institutions face resistance from the caregivers and members of the community. Darkwah, et al. (2018) cited that the UNCRC universal child rights principles have poor reception by some caregivers in the childcare institutions. Darkwah, et al. (2018) added that to a greater extend, the community members in rural Ghana also view UNCRC child rights provisions as deviation from cultural norms of child-rearing practice.

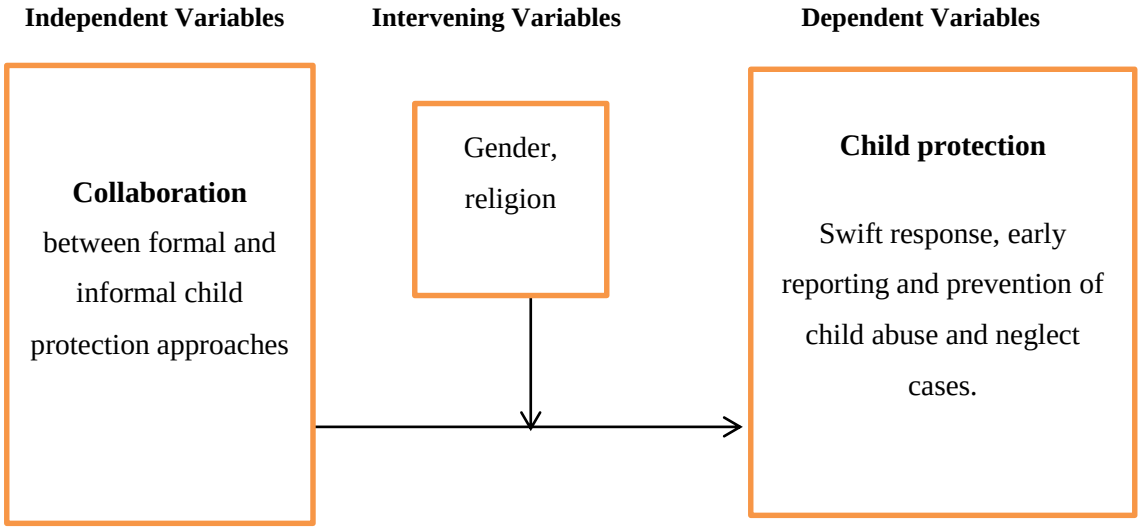
Nalianya (2013) observed that factors that contribute to a high number of children in need of protection in Kitui County include a lack of cooperation between established child protection units and existing community-based informal systems. According to Nalianya the majority of formal child protection units, such as Area Advisory Councils and Local Advisory Councils, are either nonexistent or ineffective and therefore community-based informal interventions such as kinship, as well as other family and community informal initiatives, should be strengthened so that children, parents, religious leaders, traditional leaders, elders, and household members are at the forefront of child protection.

The Kenya government has done well to enacted relevant child protection laws and policies. However, child protection in Kenya through formal ways is faced with many challenges a situation that calls for strengthening alternative means of child protection to complement the government efforts. Therefore, an effective child protection framework necessitates a systemic approach in which both formal and informal systems have strong collaboration. The purpose of this study was therefore to assess the level of collaboration between community – based informal child protection approaches and government structured units with a view of coming up with findings and recommendation for effective child protection in the study area.

1.1 Study objective

To assess the level of collaboration between communities - based informal approaches and formal child protection structures in Mwingi central sub county.

1.2 Conceptual frame work



1.3 Theoretical frame work

This study was guided by the Systems theory. According to Bertalanffy (1969), the original concept of systems theory was based on looking at the organization interaction of various parts of the organism with a view of measuring its growth and change. Bertalanffy believed that, all living and non-living things can be viewed as systems, and therefore consist of properties whose interaction can be studied to explain the changes therein.

The main tenets of systems theory can therefore be said to include: The principle of openness in systems where a whole unit, can evolve through interaction with the environment; its holistic approach where the systems approach focuses in the interaction and relationship between the parts and the whole; system theory being goal oriented where parts and the whole work towards a common goal and; the adaptive ability of the system to change within an environment (Banathy, 1991; Bertalanffy, 1969)

The researchers of the current study noted that different forms of alternative care and protection of children are best suited in different circumstances and it is not a fit-all situation for the affected children. Therefore, any child protection system needs to build on the strength of each unit within the wider system when addressing issues affecting different segments of the society.

2. Literature review

Devaney & Byrne (2015) underscored need for strong collaboration between various child protection actors like the family/community members and the wider formal protection units. This was according findings of a study conducted on the potential of the Family Welfare Conferencing FCW within social work practice in the Republic of Ireland. Browne, E. (2013), was also in support of the role of informal approaches in child care and support, but noted that they should not be seen as a replacement for traditional government services, but rather as a supplement to them. Browne goes on to say that when the formal and informal systems operate together, they become more effective in ensuring safety of all children who are at risk of abuse and neglect.

Balsellsa, et al. (2017) in a study conducted in Spain underscored the importance of involving children in decision making on matters that concern their welfare. Closer to views of Balsellsa et al., (2017) were the findings of a study conducted by Smithson & Gibson (2015) on experiences of parents involved in English child protection systems. The study findings supported the idea that a good child protection system should be concerned with the experiences of the children and the ideas of the parents. The study also found that some of the approaches used by formal child protection programs run by social workers were authoritarian and disregarded views of from of the family and the community.

Child protection initiatives that are embedded into the social fabric of the society promote a sense of

responsibility among all stakeholders in child protection, both formal and informal. This is according to MacDonnell, et al. (2015) in a study conducted on the strong community for children model, a community-based child protection initiative in South Caroline, USA. The results of the study revealed a compelling need for all players in the formal and informal sectors to develop a clear sense of obligation and cooperation. The researcher agreed with the results of the report, emphasizing the importance of instilling a clear sense of duty in all members of society on matters of child safety in order to improve parental responsibility. Child protection becomes more successful if different members of the community, such as teachers, religious and local leaders, and families, work together as a team with a deep sense of duty for children's rights, according to the results of the reviewed report.

O'Leary et al. (2015) in a study conducted among refugees in South Lebanon refugee camp attributed the success of social workers and volunteers in the refugee camp to the cooperation, collaboration and support from community-based leaders like: religious, political and leaders other organized groups. The researcher of this current study agreed that professional who works closely with the beneficiaries have a high chance of succeeding.

In developing countries' child protection systems, adequate communication mechanisms between families and formal child protection structures are needed to prevent cases of mistrust, which could jeopardize child protection efforts (Mysen & Kelly, 2017) The results of this in-depth comparative analysis of child protection systems in England/Wales, Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia revealed a wide range of gaps between these countries' child protection systems. According to the report, child protection efforts are more difficult in countries with low family and community involvement.

Over-reliance on western-based formal child protection structures at the expense of informal family-based values and belief systems could be detrimental to the success of child protection in middle-level income countries like Indonesia. This is according to O'Leary et al. (2018) who noted that, due to over-reliance on the institutional-based approach in child protection in Indonesia, the majority of children in the childcare institutions feel delinked and alienated from their families and community. The study by O'Leary et al. (2018) recommended a shift and reorientation towards a more community-based approach that takes into account the community values and norms in child-rearing and protection practices.

In Africa, community-based informal child protection systems such as customary chiefs, queen mothers, women organisations, and community health workers play an important role, according to Badoe (2017). Badoe also mentioned the importance of community members engaging in focused awareness-raising and open conversations about good parenting and child safety through informal networks in which they can easily recognize and trust. According to Wessells et al. (2012) in a study conducted in Sierra Leone, there was a disconnect between the formal child protection programs in Sierra Leone and the informal community-based child protection. As a result, the national child protection framework was underutilized at the neighborhood level, according to the results of the report.

In a study conducted in Ghana among employed caregivers working in institutional child care facilities, Darkwah et al. (2018) discovered a high negative perception among some caregivers that child rights values and structured laws were a hindrance to quality child care because of several controls that restricted their parental control. The results of the study revealed a negative attitude toward standardized child rights values, with participants believing that they clashed with cultural expectations for proper child care.

Efforts towards child protection in Africa call for specific countries to go beyond the enactment of child protection laws and have in place concrete measures towards implementation and operationalization of the same. This is according to Jamieson et al. (2017) in a study on the child protection system in South Africa. Despite South Africa has put in place relevant child protection laws, the study revealed challenges like poor methods of handling reported cases of child abuse as an impediment to children prevention, response, and protection.

Krueger at al. (2014) noted that a major obstacle to an effective and functional child protection system is that which does not take into account informal child rearing/protection strategies and community perception when designing child protection systems. When family and community views vary from national child protection policies, successful child protection becomes difficult, according to the results of the report. Although agreeing with the results of the report, the researcher suggested that national policymakers refrain from implementing child-rearing and child-rights policies that are not culturally acceptable or based on available local resources.

Despite the government enacting and passing related child protection laws and policies, Uganda's efforts on child protection face a slew of difficulties, similar to those faced by South Africa. According to a report on child rights in Kampala's slum areas by Renzaho et al. (2017). The results of the study revealed that there was a lack of cooperation among different stakeholders when it came to reporting and reacting to child abuse cases. Furthermore, the study

identified harmful cultural values and traditions as a major reason for Uganda's structured child protection system's poor results. As a result, there are more cases of abused children due to victims' fear of embarrassment or retribution from community members, especially if the aggressor is a parent or a community member who is held in high regard.

Collaboration among community members in Africa, particularly in rural areas, between the formal child protection system and community-based child protection actors remains a challenge. This is according to a baseline study conducted by ANPPCAN (2013) on community child protection systems in Uganda. The study findings indicated that, despite evidence of some interface between the two-child protection systems, the majority of community members continue to avoid the existing formal systems within the community and prefer to use family and other community-based child protection mechanisms. The study attributed this disconnect to lack of accessibility to the formal child protection units, socio-cultural norms, and poor attitude by community members to formal government structures.

Although community-based informal child protection units play an important role in child care and protection, if they are not fully integrated with the formal legal government structure, they may also be a source of violence for children. This is according to Kostelny et al. (2014) in a study conducted in Mombasa, Kilifi, and Kisii in Kenya who added that the success of the community-based informal approaches towards response and prevention of abuse cases need proper linkage with the wider child protection formal system. The researchers noted that proper awareness of the reporting process and other child protection laws and regulations should be created among families and community members.

3. Methodology

3.1 The Research design

The adopted explanatory sequential mixed methods research design and was conducted in Mwingi central sub county, Kitui County. The County borders Tana River County to the Eastern side, Makueni to the West, Tharaka Nithi to the North and Machakos on the Southern side. The Kamba ethnic group inhabits the County predominantly.

3.2 Study population and sampling

The total population for Mwingi Central Sub County is 108,713 persons living in 26,753 households, and the total land area is 1,146.4 sq.KM with an average house hold size of 4.3 (KNBS, 2019). The sample size for the adult members of the households was calculated using mathematical formulae developed by Taro Yamane. Both probability and non-sampling procedures were used to select the sampled population where using simple random sampling a total of 433 respondents who included 399 adult members of the households , 24 children aged between 12-17 years were selected for the study. 10 key informants who participated in this study were purposively sampled. Quantitative Data was collected by use of questionnaires and while qualitative data was through interviews.

3.3 Validity and reliability

To ensure validity data collection instruments were checked to avoid error and ensure inconsistency during data collection. The study conducted to test and re-test reliability, which involved administering instruments to the same group of informants at different times.

3.4 Data analysis

The collected data was analyzed through thematic content analysis descriptive statistics which involved the use of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 20.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 The response rate

The response rate for the household adult members was 348 (87.2%) while for children going to school and out-of-school children was 8 (80%) and 6 (50%) respectively. The response rate for the key informants was 10 (100%).

4.2 Whether all child protection cases were reported to the government authority

The respondents were asked their views if all child protection incidents were reported to the appropriate government agency and the following were the responses and according to figure 1, the following responses were received:

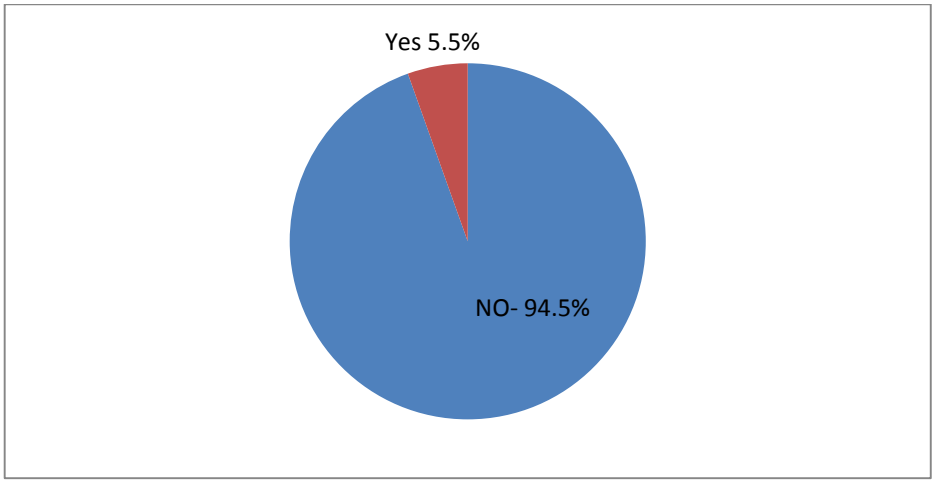


Figure 1: Whether all child protection cases were reported to the government

329 (94.5%) of participants said that not all child protection incidents were registered, while 19 (5.5%) said there were no unreported cases. The study results according to figure 1 show that many cases of children, who need protection, go unreported to government authorities. According to ANPPCAN (2013), the large number of unreported cases of children in need of protection can be due to community members' limited access to government formal units, retrogressive social-cultural norms, and a negative attitude toward government formal structures. Renzaho, et al. (2017) added to the study's results by stating that a lack of coordination among various government child protection units had a negative impact on the level of reporting and response to cases requiring protection. Interview with Key informants also confirmed that many child abuse cases were not reported to the police.

4.3 Response on reasons for none reporting of child protection cases

In the analysis of likely reasons as to why some child protection cases are never reported to the government authorities, the respondents gave diverse reasons which are presented in table 1

.

Table 1: ***Response on non-reporting of child protection cases***

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Little hope of getting justice due to challenges of getting witnesses /evidence	94	27.0
Long distance and cost involved	147	42.2
Delay of cases	42	12.1
Preference for local settlement of cases for compensation	69	19.8
Fear of retaliation by some Members of community	85	24.4
Government officers not easily Available	37	10.6
When cases are hidden or not Reported	20	5.7
Ignorance of child protection laws	73	21.0

The reasons given as illustrated in table 1 included ; little hope of getting justice due to challenges of getting witnesses /evidence 94 (27.0%); long-distance and cost involved 147 (42.2%); delay of cases 42 (12.1%); preference for local settlement of cases for compensation 69 (19.8%); fear of retaliation by some members of community 85 (24.4%); government officers not easily available 37 (10.6%); when cases are hidden or not reported 20 (5.7%) ignorance of child protection laws 73 (21.0%) . The study results revealed a situation where it was not easy for members of the community to report child protection cases to government authorities due to the challenges stated above.

Wessells (2018) agreed with the results of the research, stating that a lack of knowledge of child protection laws and a hostile attitude among community members toward government child protection formal units are major problems that contribute to unreported child abuse and neglect cases. According to Wessells (2018), there is a greater need to raise community awareness about the importance of documenting child abuse reports and collaborating with formal child protection services that should be accessible at the community level.

4.4 Response on whether informal community-based structures work closely with the formal structures

With a view of determining whether there was a close working relationship between formal and informal community-based structures, respondents were asked their opinion and the following responses were received: According to figure 2 , 217(62.4%) respondents thought that there was no close working relationship while 120 (34.4%) indicated that there was a close working relationship between the two approaches. 11 (32. %) did not provide answer to this question probably because of lack of knowledge regarding formal child protection units .

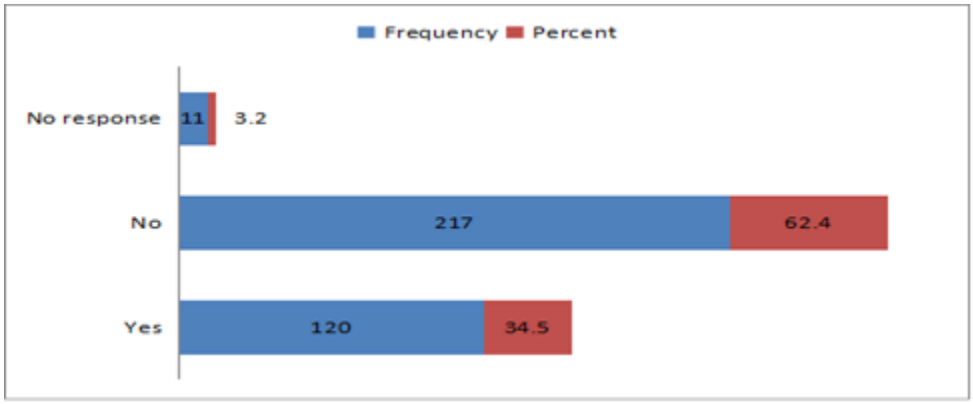


Figure 2: informal community-based structures work closely with the formal structures

Devaney & Byrne (2015) underscored the need for closer collaboration between informal community-based structures and the formal government units in the fight against child abuse and other maltreatments like neglect discrimination and abandonment. MacDonnell, et al. (2015) agreed with Devaney & Byrne (2015) about the importance of interdependence, as well as a clear sense of obligation and cooperation among all participants in the formal and informal sectors. In an interview with government officers who took part in the report, they all agreed that in Mwingi Central Sub County, there was a disjointed approach to child safety between the formal government system and the informal community-based approaches.

4.5 Response on reasons for low level of collaboration of formal informal approaches in child protection

The study interviewed the participants to obtain their opinion regarding the reasons that could be attributed to low level of collaboration between the formal government child protection units and the informal community bases structures.

Table 2: Level of collaboration of formal informal approaches in child protection

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Low visibility of some government		
Officials at community level	76	21.8
Mistrust	51	14.7
Fear of harassment by some		
Government officials	26	7.5
Corruption by some government		
Officials	37	10.6
Inadequate communication	27	7.8
No response	131	37.6
Total	**348**	**100.0**

According to the study results as illustrated in table 2, the following reasons were received from the participants who responded to this question: low visibility of some government officials at community level 76 (21.8%); mistrust 51 (14.7%) fear of harassment by some government officials 26 (7.5%); corruption by some government officials 37(10.6%); inadequate communication 27(7.8%) and none response 131(37.6%).

This position was collaborated by Badoe (2017) who underscored the important role played by traditional leaders and religious leaders, teachers, and women groups in child protection. According to Badoe (2017), various child protection programs are needed to ensure a strong working partnership between government officials and informal structures in order to achieve greater success in child protection. Kostelny et al., (2014) agreed with Badoe (2017) that, despite the important role played by the community-based informal structures in child protection, their role has not been formally recognized by respective child protection systems. The researcher agreed that disconnect between various child protection sectors leads to uncertainty and mistrust among the community when dealing with government child protection units like the police, office of the chief, and the children officer.

An interview with a government official involved in child protection concurred that there was mistrust between members of the community and government officials when it comes to conflict resolution of matters affecting the society. Low visibility of government officials and mistrust were cited as major explanations for weak coordination between formal and informal child protection approaches, according to the study's findings. Fear of harassment, corruption among government officials, and a lack of proper communication networks, according to the researcher, have all played a role in the low levels of cooperation between the two child protection approaches.

A discussion with one of the community members from Isekele village confirmed the study results that they fear dealing with police because some police officers were corrupt and only like dealing with petty offenses like arresting brewers of illicit alcohol for bribery but ignore serious offender like rapist whom they normally release due to lack of evidence.

4.6 Response on participants rating of collaboration of formal and informal child protection approaches

The study sought to establish the participants' rating of the collaboration of informal community-based informal approaches and various formal government child protection units. According to figure 3, 25 (7.2%) rated the relationship as very strong; 72(27.7%) strong; 158 (45.4%) somewhat strong; 87(25%) not strong.

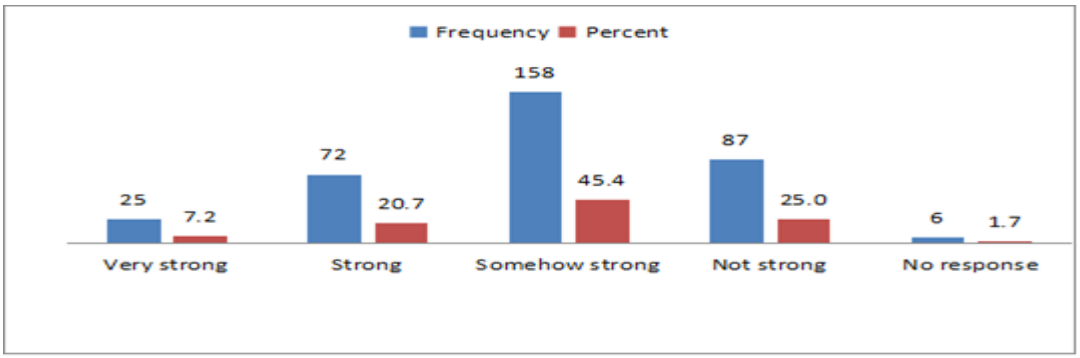


Figure 3: Collaboration of formal and informal child protection approaches

The researcher observed that the study results posted mixed results where cumulatively, 97 (27.9%) participants rated the collaboration between the two child protection approaches as either strong or very strong.

A total of 251(72.1%) participants indicated that they rated the collaboration between formal and informal approaches as somewhat strong, not strong or chose not to give any rating at all. The low rating provided by the study participants was noted by the researcher because it corroborated by the key informants interviewed.

Need for close collaboration between stakeholders was supported by Simpson (2017) in an earlier study who noted that effective child protection interventions should go beyond having child protection laws and polies in place but should also have in place proper engagement mechanisms between law enforcers and the recipients of the services. Since it is community members who

recognize and report child abuse and neglect cases to the government authority, the current study's researcher agreed that good working relationships and close cooperation are needed.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

The study concluded that members of the community were finding it hard to access to formal child protection units whenever they needed to report a child protection case. The study attributed this to several reasons like high cost, poor communication networks, negative attitude of community members, traditional norms which encouraged child abuse and corruption of some government officers. Because of the above factors, 62.4 percent of study participants believed there was no strong working relationship between formal and informal child protection approaches.

The study revealed that some members of the community felt their working relationship with formal government units was hampered by factors such as a lack of hope of receiving justice from government units as a result of low visibility of government officials within the study region, community mistrust of government officials, and corruption.

Several participants also believed that the strained working relationship between members of the group and formal government officials stemmed from the abuse they face while seeking services from government offices. As a result, the study concluded that there was little cooperation between the two approaches, formal and community-based informal, resulting in low community adoption of government services related to child safety.

The study further concluded that there were little efforts towards having a unified approach towards child protection as advanced by the systems theory which guided this current study.

5.2 Recommendations

From the findings of the study, it is recommended that:

1. The government should look for ways of improving the visibility of government formal child protection units at the community level. This should include improvement of transportation network between the community levels and the sub-county headquarters; increment of government staff working in child protection units; increment of funding to relevant government department dealing with child protection; improve logistical support to staff involved in child protection in uses like vehicles, fuel and field allowance.

2. There should be deliberate moves to create awareness to the members of the community on the role of formal child protection units.

3. The various government agencies involved in child protection should have a more unified approach towards child protection like sharing of information and resources.

References

ANPPCAN (2013).*Baseline survey on community child protection systems in Uganda*: ANPPCAN International.

Badoe, E. (2017). A critical review of child abuse and its management in Africa. *African Journal of Emergency Medicine.*2211-419X/2017: Elsevier: (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/BY-NC-ND/4.0/).

Balsellsa, A., Fuentes-Peláezb, N., Pastorb, C. (2017). Listening to the voices of children in decision-making: A challenge for the child protection system in Spain. *Children and youth review services review.*79418- 427

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.06.055

Bertalanffy, L.V. (1969). *General system theory*. New York, George Brazillier.

Banathy, B. H. (1991). Systems design of education. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Educational Technology Publication.

Browne, E. (2013). *Community-based social protection*. (GSDRC, help desk research report 1020). Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham.

Darkwah, E., Marguerite, D. & Yendork J., S. (2018). Care- 'less': exploring the interface between Childcare and parental control in the context of

child rights for workers in children's homes in Ghana. *BMC International Health and Human Rights* 18:13 https://doi.org/10.1186/s12914-018-0151-9.

Devaney, C. & Byrne, P. (2015). The value of family welfare conferencing within the child protection and welfare system: *Child Care in Practice*-21:4, 340-356, DOI: 10.1080/13575279.2015.1027173.

Jamieson, L., Mathews, S., & Berry, L. (2017). *Strengthening the child protection system in South Africa, Cape Town.* Children's Institute, University of Cape Town. [Policy brief]

Kostelny, K., Ondoro, K., & Wessells, M. (2014). Community-based child protection mechanisms in Kisii/Nyamira Area: A rapid ethnographic study in two rural sites in Kenya. *Interagency Learning Initiative on Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms and Child Protection Systems*, London.

Krueger, A., Thompstone, G., & Crispin, V. (2014). Learning from child protection systems mapping and analysis in West Africa. Research and policy implications. *Child Frontiers Ltd- Global Policy Volume 5. Issue 1.*

Meysen, T. & Kelly, L. (2017).Child protection systems between professional's cooperation and trusty relationship: A comparison of professionals practical and ethics dilemma in England /Wales, German, Portugal, and Slovenia. *Child and family social work.1-8*

Nalianya, C. K. (2013). *Contribution of area advisory councils in child protection. A case study of Kitui County, Kitui West District*. University of Nairobi, MA Thesis (unpublished)

O'Leary, P., Tilda, A., & Squire, J. (2015). Community-based child protection with Palestinian refugees in South Lebanon: Engendering hope and safety; *International Social Work*. Vol. 58(5) 717 –731. DOI: 10.1177/0020872815584427 isw.sagepub.com

Pösö, T., Skivenes, M. & Hestbæk, A. (2014). Child protection systems within the Danish, Finnish and Norwegian welfare states: Time for a child centric approach. *European Journal of Social Work*, 17:4, 475-490. DOI 10.1080/13691457.2013.829802.

O'Leary, P., Young, A., McAuliffe, D., & Wismayanti, Y. (2018). Developing the social work role in the Indonesian child protection system: *International Social Work journals.* 1 –15 DOI: 10.1177/0020872817747028.

Renzaho, A., Kamara, J., Stout, B., & Kamanga, G., (2017). Child rights and protection in slum settlements of Kampala, Uganda: *A qualitative study, Journal of Human Rights*. DOI: 10.1080/14754835.2017.1362548

Simpsonp, K. (2017). The practical sense of protection. A discussion paper on the reporting of child abuse in Africa and whether international standards actually help keep children safe. *Child Abuse Review* Vol. 26: 252–262 - DOI: 10.1002/car.2477

Pösö, T., Skivenes, M., & Hestbæk, D. (2014). Child protection systems within the Danish, Finnish and Norwegian welfare states. Time for a child centric approach. *European Journal of Social Work*, 17:4, 475-490, DOI: 10.1080/13691457.2013.829802

United Nations. (2010). *Guidelines for the alternative care of children*. New York: United Nations General Assembly

UNICEF, (2012). *Evaluation report: global evaluation of life skills education programs,* New York: UNICEF

UNICEF, (2015). *Review of the life programme: Maldives skills education*. New York: UNICEF

Wessells, M. (2015). *Bottom-up approaches to strengthening child protection systems: Placing children, families, and communities at the Centre.* Columbia University, USA. Elsevier

Wessells, M., David F. M. Lamin, D., King, D., Kostelny, K., Stark, L., & Lilley, S. (2012): The disconnect between community-based child protection mechanisms and the formal child protection system in rural Sierra Leone: Challenges to building an effective national child protection system, Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies: *An International Interdisciplinary Journal for Research,* Policy and Care, 7:3, 211-227

View publication stats