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Abstract

Child safeguarding is increasingly becoming a vital social issue in the contemporary world. This is due to the fact that children are increasingly being exposed to violence, exploitation and all forms of violation of their rights. Mombasa County is one of the regions where children's lives are being threatened by several forms of abuse. However, the county has actually benefitted from various child safeguarding programs but unfortunately not all have achieved what they had set to do so. The purpose of this study was to establish the factors influencing the implementation of sustainable child safeguarding programs in Mombasa County. The study was guided by four objectives which were financial resources(X1), project team competencies (X2), inter agency partnerships (X3) and monitoring and evaluation (X4) and their influence on implementation of sustainable child safeguarding programs(Y) in Mombasa County. Descriptive research design was adopted for the study. The study sampled (70) respondents who were drawn from (9) child safeguarding programs with a total population of (669) in Mombasa County. Data collection was carried out using questionnaires and key informant interview guide. The quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 24). The study results were presented through tables and narratives. The data was then presented through frequency tables and narrative analysis. All measures were recorded on five-point Likert scales anchored by Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5). The findings clearly showed that all the factors were present in child protection programs with high means of 4.09 for X1, 4.09 for X2, 3.94 for X3 and 4.19 for X4 while the dependent variable Y had a mean of 4.05. Hypothesis was tested after each question as per the objective of the researcher using the simple Chi-Square test. The findings further showed that all the four factors have a positive influence on sustainable implementation of child protection programs in Mombasa County.

The study concludes that monitoring and evaluation has highest influence on sustainable implementation of child protection programs with a significant positive change of 0.48 if a unit of it is increased, followed by inter-agency partnership with 0.40, project team competencies had the least influence of 0.027 and financial resources with a 0.169 influence. The study recommends that firms should improve monitoring and evaluation as well as monitor the relationship of interagency partnership because they highly impact the sustainability of child protection programs followed by financial resources and project team competencies. The researcher hopes that other studies in another context will be done to verify the findings.

Key words: *Child safeguarding, implementation, sustainability, financial resources, partnerships, monitoring and evaluation.*

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Build Africa (2013) advocates that every child has a right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Build Africa (2013) has designed child safeguarding policy that ensures children involvement in safeguarding programs ensuring anonymity for those who report their concerns. Eastern and Southern Africa have made great strides in protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence. Efforts to prevent and respond to violations of children's rights have multiplied and become more effective across the region, and public campaigns have been intensified to put the spotlight on violence against children. The Kenyan child continues to suffer from neglect, abandonment, physical and humiliating punishment, sexual abuse, child labor, early marriages, trafficking amongst others. The constitution of Kenya (2013) and Children's Act (2019) has made provision for parental responsibility, fostering, adoption, custody, maintenance, guardianship, care protection of children. It is in view that the study sought to find out the factors that influence the implementation of sustainable child safeguarding programs in Mombasa County, Kenya.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Save the Children (2013) reveals that 200,000 children currently live in institutions because their parents are unable to provide them with adequate care and protection. According to International Rescue Committee 100 million children live on the streets, 115 million are engaged in hazardous work, 8.4 million are victims of slavery, trafficking, debt bondage and forms of forced labor, forced recruitment for armed conflict, prostitution, pornography and other illicit activities; and as many as 90% suffer physical punishment in their homes. It is in view of this that the study investigated the factors that influence the implementation of sustainable Child Safeguarding programs in Mombasa County, Kenya.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to examine the factors influencing the implementation of sustainable child safeguarding programs, a case of Child Based Programs in Mombasa County, Kenya.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study objectives were guided by how the following influence the implementation of sustainable child safeguarding programs: financial resources; project team competencies; Monitoring and evaluation and inter-agency partnerships

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Sustainability of Child Safeguarding Programs

Hodgkin et al (2004) asserts that Child safeguarding programs do create child friendly spaces in emergencies, reunifying separated and unaccompanied children with their families in emergencies, developing public awareness campaigns against child trafficking.

2.2 Financial resources Availability and Sustainability of Child Safeguarding Programs

According to UNICEF, the holistic approach to child protection requires investments in human resources and the supply of many different types of services, without which there are gaps that weaken the entire system. For this to occur, political priority must continue to be accorded to children, accompanied by a sufficient budget to support adequate financial investment in child protection (Burton, 2012).

2.3 Project Team Competencies and Sustainability of Child Safeguarding Programs

ANPPCAN (2014) revealed that for functional and effective National Child Protection System there should be clearly defined structures and roles for all actors, particularly state and non-state actors to ensure that they align their efforts to achieve a common goal. (Hopkins, Mudrick and Rudolph, 1999) found that continued lack of trained and qualified workers resulted in the continued de-professionalization of the child welfare field

2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation and Sustainability of Child Safeguarding Programs

CPS (2010) reported Monitoring and Evaluation supports and drives a child protection system toward goal attainment. Evaluation address accountability and help determine the status of children and elements and dynamics that provides the most leverage for goal directed change

2.5 Inter-Agency Partnerships and Sustainability of Child Safeguarding Programs

Walker (2004) stresses the need of Public sector workers at child safeguarding units to work in partnership for effective safeguarding and proper coordination and delivery of service to the child. Everyone must be clear about their individual roles and understand the part played by their colleagues in order to secure the best possible outcome for child welfare.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The theories discussed were Implementation theory and Complexity theory. Implementation theory addressed contents of child care programs. Complexity theory was discussed to address challenges funding child care activities

3.0 Research Methodology.

The quantitative data that was collected was keyed in and analyzed using descriptive statistics with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20). These data were then subjected to the descriptive Statistics feature in SPSS to generate means and the standard deviation which was presented using tables, frequencies and percentages. The hypothesis was tested using chi square tests and the researcher found it suitable to determine the extent of the association between the variables under study by developing a regression model. The model will be as follows

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$$

Y is the weighted sustainable implementation of child protection measure for the k^{th} Dimensions ($k = \{1...4\}$); X_1 = Financial Resources, X_2 = project team competencies, X_3 = Monitoring and Evaluation, and X_4 = Inter agency partnerships. $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2 \dots \beta_5$ are coefficients

where β_1 represents the weight of X_i in the model. ε represents the error term. The regression coefficient ' β_0 ' is the point at which the model starts to operate the constant; while $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5$ are the net influence in Y for each unit change of X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5 . The error term is a random variable with a mean of zero, which captures those variables that cannot be quantified. The study findings were presented using tables.

4.1 Sample size

Table 1 shows out of 70 targeted population only 58 respondents returned their questionnaire

Table 1: Questionnaire Return Rate

Name of Organization	Sample Size	Returned questionnaires	Percentage
SOS CV Msa	35	31	88.57%
SOS FSP	10	9	90%
Wema Centre	5	5	100%
Shanzu Good Hope	2	2	100%
World vision	1	0	0%
Police Services	2	1	50%
Sub county Education Officers	7	5	71.43%
Ray of Hope Mission	3	3	100%
Probation Department	5	2	40%
Total	N=70	58	82.86%

4.2 Financial resources availability influence on Sustainable Implementation of Child Safe-guarding Programs

Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics on how financial resources availability influence sustainable implementation of child safe-guarding programs

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on how Financial Resources Availability Influence Sustainable Implementation of Child Safe-guarding Programs

	N Statistic	Min Statistic	Max Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Dev. Statistic
X1	58	2	5	4.07	.843
Valid N (listwise)	58				

Table 2 shows a high mean of 4.07 was obtained indicating that most respondents strongly agree that funding influence sustainability of children program. The standard deviation of 0.843 is smaller than 1 indicating that most of the responses are around the mean. Standard deviation is a measure of the average distance between the values of the data in the set and the mean thus the study concludes that most respondents agree with the preposition for funding as a means of sustainable implementation of child protection programs the smaller the value the more the responses are clustered around the mean and thus represents a skewed distribution

4.3 Project Team competencies influence on the Implementation of Child Safe Guarding Programs

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics Results of the Relationship between Project Team Competencies and the Success of Child Safe-guarding Program

	N Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Deviation Statistic
X2	58	4.09	.742
Valid N (listwise)	58		

According to the descriptive statistics in Table 3 Project Team competencies had mean a of 4.09 (SD= 0.742) thus most respondents agree that the project team competencies influence the success of child safe guarding programs in Mombasa County.

4.4 Monitoring and evaluation tools influence on implementation of child safe guarding programs

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics for Monitoring and Evaluation

	N Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Deviation Statistic
X3	58	3.94	.767
Valid N (listwise)	58		

Results from Table 4 shows monitoring and evaluation had a mean of 3.94 which when rounded off are 4 this means that most of the respondents agree that monitoring and evaluation is practiced in implementation of child protection programs. While the standard deviation is 0.767 which is smaller than 1 thus the responses were bundled around the mean of 4.

4.5 Relationship between Inter-agency Partnerships and Implementation of Child Safe-guarding Programs.

Table 5 presents the descriptive statistics for inter-agency partnership

Table 5: Descriptive statistics for Inter-agency Partnership

	N Statistic	Mean Statistic	Std. Deviation Statistic
X4	58	4.16	1.859
Valid N (listwise)	58		

The variable X4 has the highest mean of 4.16 as shown on table 5 this indicate that most respondents agreed that inter agency partnership was practiced in child protection programs in Mombasa County. However, finding have a standard deviation of 1.859 which is higher than value 1 indicating that most of the responses are scattered and not around the mean. Standard deviation is a measure of the average distance between the values of the data in the set and the mean thus the study concludes that most respondents strongly agree with the preposition that inter agency partnership is highly practiced in implementation of child protection programs.

Table 6: Chi square test in the result of relationship between inter-agency partnership and implementation of child safeguarding program

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	229.491 ^a	143	.000
Likelihood Ratio	124.423	143	.867
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.677	1	.031
N of Valid Cases	58		

a. 168 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .02.

Table 7: Symmetric Measures for X4 and Y

		Value	Asymp. Std. Error ^a	Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Nominal	Phi	1.989			.000
	Cramer's V	.600			.000
Interval by Interval	Pearson's R	.286	.104	2.237	.029 ^c
Ordinal by Ordinal	Spearman Correlation	.631	.077	6.094	.000 ^c
N of Valid Cases		58			

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

c. Based on normal approximation.

Findings on tables 6 and 7 shows that the study concludes 168 cells had counts of less than 5 and that the minimum expected count was .02. The probability of the chi-square test statistic (chi-square= 229. 447) was $p=0.000$ which is less than the alpha level of significance of 0.05 indicates that, there is a high statistically significant association between inter agency partnership and sustainability of child protection programs. Thus, the study rejects the null hypothesis that inter agency partnership has no significant influence on the implementation of sustainable child safeguarding programs. Further findings on table 4.8 show the Cramer's V at 0.60 further shows the strength of association between the variables to be positively significant. This conclusion is further supported by the high value of the spearman correlation of 0.631 which is higher than 0.5 indicating a significant relationship between inter agency partnership and child protection agencies.

4.8 Regression Analysis of the variables

The researcher sought to establish the extent of the relationship between the four factors that influence child protection programs in Mombasa County. The findings are indicated on the tables 8 and 9.

Table 8: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.732 ^a	.536	.501	.498	.536	15.313	4	53	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), X4, X1, X3, X2

b. Dependent Variable: Y

Table 9: Regression Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error			
1	(Constant)	1.185	.399		2.972	.004
	X1	.169	.137	.198	1.236	.222
	X2	.027	.142	.028	.189	.851
	X3	.482	.124	.524	3.881	.000
	X4	.040	.038	.106	1.045	.301

a. Dependent Variable: Y

The model summary on table 8 shows a significance of 0.000 which is less than 0.05 level of significance indicating that the model is statistically significant. Using results from Table 9 the researcher used the coefficients to develop the regression equation **$Y = 1.185 + 0.169X1 + 0.027X2 + 0.482X3 + 0.40X4$** . The equation shows that all factors have a positive influence on the implementation of child protection programs. There is a constant value of 1.185 which is accounted by other factors other than the factors under study. There will be a 0.16 improvement on the sustainable implementation of child protection programs if there is a unit increase of the funding resource factor, consequently there will be a 0.48 improvement in implementation if monitoring and evaluation is increased by one unit, similarly, there will be a 0.40 improvement of the sustainable implementation of child protection programs if we increase one unit of inter-agency partnership. A unit increase of project team competence will lead a slight improvement of the implementation of child protection programs in Mombasa County by 0.027.

5.1 Discussion

The study above reveals that there is direct relationship between funding and sustainability of child safe guarding programs within Mombasa County. This is consistent with findings by (Morara 2008) who cited that some programs have had to be reduced, changed or closed because of a shift over donor funding mechanisms. The study also revealed that project team competencies have significant influence on child safe guarding programs. The findings indicate that majority of the respondents strongly agree with the statement that having staff who are skilled and trained leads to success child safe guarding programs as well as motivated staff is key to ensuring project success. Most of the respondents agreed that administrative structures of the program have led to success of the project. ANPPCAN (2014) concluded that there should clearly be defined structures and roles for all actors. Briar-Lawson et al, (1997) also noted the utilization of qualified empowered and trained personnel, in child affairs, is a prerequisite to better child welfare. This is in agreement with the findings of this study that human resource capacity influence implementation of child safe guarding program. Majority

of implementers affirmed that there is an existing partnership at different level in child safe guarding project and this has been greatly influenced by open communication channels and laid down policies which strengthen the working relationship between the agencies. This agrees with studies by Ruch (2005) and NAPCWA (2003) noting the collaboration among partners leads to individual outcomes. Fluke and Wulczyn found that monitoring and evaluation analysis as important tool for effective feedback. This research has shown advantage of utilizing Monitoring and evaluation in pin pointing implementation gaps.

5.2. Conclusion

The study concluded that there is significant relationship between success of the program implementation in Mombasa County and all the four variables under study firstly financial resources, secondly project team competencies, thirdly Inter-agency partnership fourthly monitoring and evaluation.

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