

Journal of

Entrepreneurship and Project Management

(JEPM)

**Determinants Influencing the Performance of Child Welfare
Protection Project: A Case of Charitable Children Institutions in
Kilifi County, Kenya**

Aleo Nipher Apeli and Dr. Johnbosco M. Kisimbii



CARI
Journals

Determinants Influencing the Performance of Child Welfare Protection Project: A Case of Charitable Children Institutions in Kilifi County, Kenya

¹* Aleo Nipher Apeli

Postgraduate Student: The University of Nairobi

*Corresponding Author's E-mail: nipher.apple@gmail.com

²Dr. Johnbosco M. Kisimbii

Lecturer: School of Open and Distance Learning, University of Nairobi

Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of the study was to examine the key determinants influencing the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi county, Kenya. The study aimed to achieve the following objectives: to examine the extent to which training of workers influences performance of child welfare protection project, to determine the extent to which stakeholder engagement influences performance of child welfare protection project, to establish the extent to which availability of financial resources influences performance of child welfare protection project and to assess how monitoring and evaluation approaches influences the performance of child welfare protection project.

Methodology: The study adopted the descriptive research design. The target population was 20 directors and 110 project workers which summed to 130 persons. The study sampled 101 respondents which included (15) directors and (86) project workers in the social department of 15 child charitable institutions. Purposive sampling and proportionate sampling were utilized respectively. Primary data was collected by use of close ended questionnaire and the return rate was 70%. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version) latest version. The study results were presented through frequency tables and narratives analysis.

Results: The findings clearly depict that all determiners: training of workers, stakeholder engagement, availability of financial resources and monitoring and evaluation approaches were present in child welfare projects constituting of the composite mean of 3.9468, 2.988, 3.6798 and 3.9434 respectively while the dependent variable had a composite mean of 4.34. Hypothesis was tested on each alternative as per the objective using the simple Chi square test determined that training of workers had no significant influence on the performance of child welfare protection projects while stakeholder engagement, availability of financial resources and monitoring and evaluation had a significant influence on the performance of child welfare protection projects.

Unique contribution to theory, policy and practice: The study recommends that further research be conducted on training to provide more insight of this variable. The study recommends training of workers through university-agency partnerships be fortified to bring about new ideas and skills among project workers in addition, firms should ensure child welfare practitioners are endowed with valuable M&E skills and suitable approaches to meet the set target and objectives.

Keywords: *Training, stakeholder engagement, financial resources, monitoring and evaluation, child welfare protection project and charitable children institutions.*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Child protection and welfare have conspicuously become international issues in our globalized world. The International Community perceives child protection as ‘preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children- including child trafficking, neglect, child labour and harmful cultural practices’ (United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, 2012) The prevalence of poverty coupled with child vulnerability are acknowledged as the prime factors that fall disproportionately on children. Poverty as noted in parts of the World has driven children to exploitation and early marriages. Children should not be treated as instruments of public policy as they too have rights it is for these reasons, that cumulative efforts have led to the rise of Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (USP, 2030).

Child protection is ‘inherently a rights-based approach, premised on the fundamental principles of universality, accountability, non-discrimination and participation’ (ACPF & ODI, 2013). This means child protection is a right and state parties are obliged, under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children (ACRWC) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to make it universally accepted (Sepulveda & Nyst, 2012). In North America, Europe and Australasian countries child safety interventions fall under two categories; (Fargion, 2012): those that shield children against harm (child protection) and those that target child welfare and safety through family support (family welfare). The child protection approach maintains its focus on safeguarding children from harm and abuse either from society and cultural practices (Gilbert, 2011). The family welfare approach on the other hand has its foundational basis in that a child well-being may be put at risk due to family conflict or parental negligence and thus gives basis for an inclusive and universalistic child protection role. In countries with extensive levels of poverty juxtaposed with limited resources achieving both approaches are deemed to be futile.

Children conceived by younger mothers are prone to a substantial risk of parental negligence (Monea, 2011). A study in USA on local child protective services data indicates 3.3 million children are victims of abuse and negligence. This poses a serious threat as maltreated children /youth present suicide related behaviour. The Ministry of Health (MoH, 2009) reveals that unregistered children, maltreated and migrant are also prone to vulnerability. Current birth registration is at 70% but around 30% go unregistered leading in difficulty of accessing appropriate care, protection and basic services.

In South Africa, 21% of child population are orphaned while about 122,000 live in child headed households and half a million reside in foster care. The Department of Labour estimates that close to 1 million are involved in child labour, while the most second prevalent abuse is rape assault. Data indicates that 40% of the victims are children under the age of 18 years (UNICEF South Africa, 2018). In East Africa, particularly Uganda the state of child protection still grapples in Uganda as a result of turmoil noted after independence. Child welfare was negatively affected due to wars and *coups d etat* (1962-1985). Minor levels of stability have been ensued after President Museveni took power in 1986 although Northern Uganda has endured a lengthened and

debilitating civil disturbance. The effects of civil wars in Uganda resulted in child soldiers, internal displacement and refugee problems. The country also relies extensively on child labour, the wages ensures the child survival and helps with the family destitution (UNICEF, 2015).

Most African countries such as Lesotho, Swaziland and Sudan statutory laws do not over rule customary laws; customary, traditional law (araf) or Sharia law in Islam play key role in communities. Even though it's not written down it strongly connects people accustomed to it hence open to interpretation. In occasions when the two laws affirm each other it provides a strengthened child protection care system but when they contradict it presents negative effects on child welfare. Some customary practices can however be interpreted as child abuse under African Charter and the CRC (Fenrich, Galizzi, and Higgins 2011: Ndulo 2011). Rwanda has also had a history of massive genocide that created a ripple effect on most children's well-being. Psychological trauma and abandonment were observed however several international bodies stepped in to offer vital services (UNICEF, 2010).

In Kenya, approximately six million children are in dire need of protection while an estimated 2.4 million are orphans cared by Charitable Children Institutions (CCI). National statistics on child protection issues is very limited although media reports and various studies still indicate rampant rise of child abuse. Amsha Africa cites that child protection measures are partially implemented inhibiting effectiveness of the program. The Department of Children's affair is a leading government agency tailored to protect and preserve children's well-being. Its mandate emanates from the Children's Act and facilitates the provision of services while advocating the rights if children (Amsha Africa 2013). In a bid to curb the crime, the state prescribes harsh penalties to individuals found guilty. The Sexual Offence Act clearly denotes that one can indeed serve a life sentence, but even with the glimmering law in place conviction rates are still low (Omondi, 2014).

1.1 Statement of the problem

In Kenya, child welfare is a key focus and this commitment is reflected in notable investments, agencies and Children departments. The department of Children Services in conjunction with Kilifi county and charitable children institutions collaborate hand in hand at different stages while offering specialized care and support to child welfare. The Social Protection report reviews of (2018) stipulates that 3.2 million of the population constitute of orphans and vulnerable children among who receive care from extended families and residing institutions. It is estimated that charitable children institutions receive an official number 43,000 children annually, this number has continued surging due to the shutting down of a few charitable children institutions. According to Labour and Social Ministry review (2019) the findings illuminate that more than one in three homes in Kilifi county present a perilous environment for children both emotionally and physically, the study obliterates the myth that only girls are victims of sexual violence as statistics highlights 9% of the boys between age 18-24 years fall victims too.

Performance of CCIs have been immensely placed under scrutiny with UNICEF citing most child welfare institutions of underperforming leading to ineffectiveness of the project. This state is normally contributed by limitations arising from the project itself or external environment. The success of performance of child welfare projects in Kilifi county is dependent on numerous determiners. It is in this view that possible determiners such as; training of workers, stakeholder

engagement, availability of financial resources and M&E approaches were investigated to assess their influence on performance of child welfare project.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to examine the determinants influencing performance of child welfare protection project, a case of charitable children institutions in Kilifi County, Kenya.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study was based on the following objectives:

- i. To examine the extent to which training of workers influences performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County.
- ii. To determine the extent to which stakeholder engagement influences performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County
- iii. To establish the extent to which availability of financial resources influences performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County.
- iv. To assess how monitoring and evaluation approaches contributes to performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County.

1.4 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

- i. To what extent does training of workers influence performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County?
- ii. To what extent does stakeholder engagement influence performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County?
- iii. To what extent does availability of financial resources influence performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County?
- iv. What influence does monitoring and evaluation approaches have to performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

The research tested the following hypothesis at the 95% level of significance:

- i. **H₀:** - Training of workers has no significant influence on performance of child welfare project.
- ii. **H₀:** - Stakeholder engagement has no significant influence on performance of child welfare protection project.
- iii. **H₀:** Availability Financial resources has no significant influence on performance of child welfare protection project.
- iv. **H₀:** Monitoring and evaluation approaches has no significant influence on performance of child welfare protection project.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

2.1.1 Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Theory

According to Bronfenbrenner (1994) and Bronfenbrenner (2005) ecological theory consist of five interrelated concentric systems that affect a children's developmental outcome; microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macro system and chronosystem. Levels of systems begin with an individual extending to family, communities and larger socio-political environments influencing an individual's comporment. Garbarino (1977) describe the ecology model to be closely associated with four points; understanding how one adopts to environment, studying systems that affect an individual, examining social habitability of an individual environment and considering political, economic and demographic conditions that affect child welfare. Bronfenbrenner's contextual framework seeks to examine layers of influence among children prone to abuse, neglect and maltreatment. The microsystem level consists of closest structures with direct contract to the child such as family, care givers, foster institution, school and neighborhood. This level can present two likely impacts; the child influences the family and immediate environment just as the family influences the child also termed bi-directional influence. Bronfenbrenner's (1990) affirms that this situation posits massive impact on the child. Experiences occurring in the microsystem influence a child's perceptions of its milieu and later interactions.

Mesosystem provides connection between structures of a young child for example connection between a child and guardian or community (Berk, 2000). The exosystem is the layer that depicts larger social system that affects or influences the child though not directly. The exosystem impacts child development by interacting with the microsystem structures in which this case includes education, social security and legal bodies that set policies to safe guard children. Bronfenbrenner implies that even through children may not be directly involved negative or positive the impacts are normally felt by children (Forrest, Shen Miller & Elman, 2008). The macrosystem comprises of cultural laws and customs which are typically transferred from one generation to subsequent through institutions such as family community (Bronfenbrenner,1990) In this research macrosystem presents dominant impact on interactions of all other levels through the policies, laws and regulations set by government aimed at safeguarding children are still being flouted by ignorant individuals who pay scant regard for the laws. Hence these issues coupled with poverty and social toxic environment can have an effect on the microsystem.

The chronosystem encompasses the dimension of time, (long or short) in relationship to the environment (Bronfenbrenner, 1989). Here elements can either be extended or internal and as children who suffer from abuse maltreatment no longer have faith in the system nor the less set to protect them, this is the of the representation of the chronosystem. However, Bronfenbrenner's possess a limitation which is the dimension of resilience (Engler, 2007) resilience helps us understand an individual's capacity as it is manifested in the individual's ability to recover from difficulties while being optimistic of a bright future (Dalli, Miller and Urban (2012). argues that it is the ability to bounce back from the edge and find strength in adverse situations. Engler (2007) states adding resilience to Bronfenbrenner's theory can unravel ways in which people conquer travesties and traumas as the theory virtually illustrates the negative effects of how individuals will

develop when exposed to tragedy and adversity. The theory sought to explain how individuals brought up in negative environment endures and becomes successful.

2.1.2 SARFIT Theory of Performance

SARFIT theory (Structural Adaptations to Regain Fit) propounded by Donaldson (2001) is a suitable model within Contingency theory (CT) that is majorly based in contingency factors with little interference of policy factors. SARFIT theory presents interchanging series of misfit and fit aspects, this provides a continuous process of adaptation of structures and contingencies. The state of being fit in an organization is deemed temporary, however increase of contingency variables such as diversification and size can plunge the organization into a misfit. According to Donaldson, this process is cyclic as the temporary states (fit and misfit) alternate each other thus causing a ripple effect to the organization resulting to higher and lower performances respectively.

Structural Adaptations to Regain Fit theory is relevant to this study, as it envisions that optimal performance in child welfare protection project will gradually lead to expansion and development hence attaining the needs of vulnerable and neglected children. The theory also acknowledges that organization performance fluctuates thus constant effort should be channeled to continuously improve it.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2015), a conceptual framework is a hypothesized model depicting the model under study and relationship between dependent and independent variables. In relation to the study, it shows relationship between the dependent variable (child welfare and protection project) and how it's influenced by other variables.

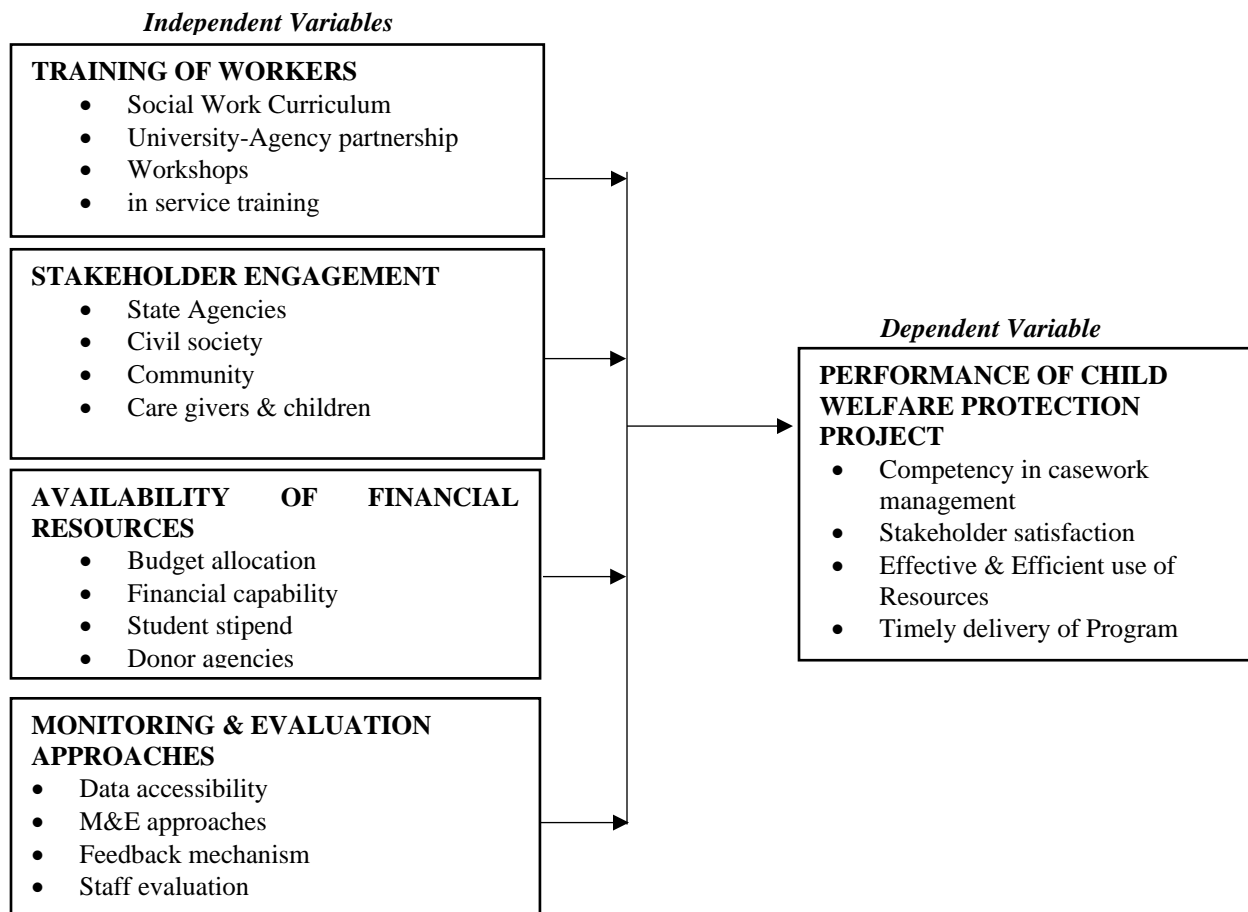


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

2.4 Empirical Literature Review and Research Gaps

The table 1 outlines a summary of empirical literature review and research gap

Table 1: Summary of Empirical Literature Review and Research Gap

Variable	Author & Year	Research findings	Knowledge gaps
Training of workers	Yuen-Tsang & Wang (2014)	Study findings revealed that University- Agency partnerships in China had significant influence on students as it enhanced revitalizing experiences on students undertaking course work in child welfare projects	The study focused mainly on the student aspect and considered university-agency engagement as an alternative way in creating solutions. The current study focused on child welfare practitioners and sought to investigate how collaborative efforts between agencies and higher learning institutions influences performance of child welfare protection project.
	Mupedziswa & Sinkamba (2014)	The study findings concluded that most training embraced the use of western literature and ideologies which had a significant influence were on social work curricular notable in most South African institutions.	The study relied on the use of western literature among south African institutions. The current study was conducted in Kilifi and sought to understand how indigenous literature combined with philosophical ideologies aid in performance of child welfare project.
Stakeholder engagement	Bindman, Kulmala & Bogdanova (2018)	The study findings showed that NGOs are the real catalysts of change as they engage in policy formulation and provision of services especially in marginalized regions. The study also employed use of interview on the Moscow based NGOs and experts in the child protection department.	The study was on how NGOs act as agents of change in policy making in Russia. The current study focused on charitable children institutions as agents of change in safeguarding children with respect to Kilifi county. The study incorporated the use of questionnaires and interviews as a method of data collection tool.
	Gordon, L. (2015)	The study on child participation conducted in Jamaica revealed that child participation is usually overlooked due to presence of cultural aspects with little regard for a legal framework.	The study sought to establish whether proper structures or platforms are set to help facilitate child participation which aid on performance child welfare project in Kilifi county.
Availability of financial resources	Sidze, Pradhan, Beekink & Maina (2013)	The result findings conducted on Reproductive health Financing in Kenya revealed that the state received an increment on donor aid, however most funds were routed to HIV/AIDS projects triggering the halting of other projects in the health sector.	The study sought to investigate how proper need assessments are applied to donor funds to enhance the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi county.

	Anderson, Hecksel& Guzman (2020)	The result finding conducted on National Child Welfare Workforce revealed that student stipend programs had a significant effect on training and commitment of social workers.	The study focused solely on students and the impact of student stipend on training. This study however concentrated on interns and workers stipend ensure and how it influences performance of child welfare protection project
Monitoring& Evaluation	Dong, Li, Jiangi, Yan& Li (2015)	Study findings conducted on Data issue consideration for M&E of Natural Resources Environment established data availability was a key essence to achieving the effectiveness of an M&E system.	The study sought to investigate how data quality and frequency of data uploading aid in the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi county. It also sought to examine the suitable M&E approaches used in charitable children institutions.
	Lamhauge, Lanzi &Agrawala (2013)	The result findings indicated that most practitioners faced a number of difficulties when dealing with evaluation, measuring attribution and setting of baselines.	The current study sought to identify whether project workers contain M&E skills and whether acquisition of M&E skills lead to performance of child welfare protection projects

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive research design. The target population was 20 directors and 110 project workers which summed to 130 persons. The study sampled 101 respondents which included (15) directors and (86) project workers in the social department of 15 child charitable institutions. Purposive sampling and proportionate sampling were utilized respectively. Primary data was collected by use of close ended questionnaire and the return rate was 70%. Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version) latest version. The study results were presented through frequency tables and narratives analysis. All measures will be recorded on five-point Likert scales anchored by Strongly Agree (1) to Strongly Disagree (5).

4.0 PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Questionnaire Return Rate

Table 2: Questionnaire return rate

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Response	42	69.77%
Non- response	18	30.23%
Total	60	100%

The researcher sent out 86 questionnaires out of which 60 were completed and returned as illustrated in Table 2. The overall response rate for the study was 69.77% which in social science research is acceptable. According to Dodds and Hess, (2020) a response rate above 50% is considered good and adequate for the generalization of findings.

4.2 Training of workers on performance of child welfare protection project

4.2.1 Descriptive Statistics for influence of training of workers on the performance of child welfare protection project

The respondents were asked to what extent does training of workers influence the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi county by using a five Likert scale ranging from strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree. The descriptive statistics especially mean and standard deviation were used to perform the analysis and summarized in table 3.

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics of training of workers performance of child welfare protection project.

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Standard Dev.
The organization conducts university-agency partnership to build theory capacity and innovation among staff	11.7	25.0	41.7	21.7	0	3.2667	0.93640
Regular seminars and workshops are conducted in the organization to equip staff appropriately.	20.0	71.7	8.3	0	0	4.1167	0.52373
In service training is administered periodically to ensure efficient execution of child caseloads.	20.0	48.3	23.3	6.7	1.7	3.7833	.090370
Competent and skillful staff enhances the success of child welfare protection projects.	36.7	50.0	10.0	3.3	0	4.2000	0.75465
Program workers employ indigenous approaches/ methods in safeguarding vulnerable children.	48.3	43.3	5.0	3.3	0	4.3667	.73569

Note: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree.

The results shown in table 3 implies that majority 71.7 % agree that regular seminars and workshops has influence the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County with a mean of 4.1167 and standard deviation 0.5237, followed by 50% said competent and skillful staff influence the performance with a mean of 4.200 and standard deviation 0.7546 respectfully, 48.3% agree that in service training is administered periodically influence the performance of child welfare projects with a mean 3.7833 and standard deviation 0.9037 respectively, 43.3% strongly agree that project workers influence the performance of child welfare project with a mean of 4.3667 and standard deviation of 0.73569 and said that 25% agree that university partnership-agency influence the performance with a mean of 3.2667 and standard deviation of 0.93640. The composite means and standard deviation was 3.9468 and 0.6237 respectively.

4.2.2 Inferential statistics for influence of training of workers on the performance of child welfare protection project.

The researcher used chi square to determine the acceptance or rejection of hypothesis as outlined below:

H₀: - Training of workers has no significant influence on the performance of child welfare protection project.

Table 0: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	86.624 ^a	66	0.045
Likelihood Ratio	65.597	66	0.491
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.142	1	0.143
N of Valid Cases	60		

a. 82 cells (97.6%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.

The results of the chi square analysis on Table 4 show that the calculated chi-square statistics, for 110 degree of freedom is 86.624, Additionally it indicates that the significance value (.045) is more than the usual threshold of .005. In conclusion, the study accepts H_0 and reject H_1 therefore there is no significant relationship between worker training and performance of child welfare protection project as shown in table 4. This implies that training of workers has no influence on performance of child welfare project.

4.3 Influence of Stakeholder Engagement on performance of child welfare protection project.

4.3.1 Descriptive Statistics for Stakeholder engagement on performance of child welfare protection projects

The respondents were asked to what extent does stakeholder participation influence the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County by using a five Likert scale ranging from strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree and strongly disagree to strongly disagree. The descriptive statistics especially mean and standard deviation were used to perform the analysis and summarized in table 5.

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics on Stakeholder engagement on performance of child welfare protection projects.

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation
State agencies provide sufficient involvement in child welfare protection project.	13.3	46.7	16.7	21.7	1.7	3.4833	1.03321
The organization collaborates with other organizations at different levels to foster child protection.	14.3	45	21.7	16.7	3.3	3.4833	1.03321
Health professionals offer inter agency consultations, guidance, support and care among maltreated children.	3.3	3.3	18.3	45.0	30.0	2.0500	0.96419
The community is actively engaged with the organization to steer the success of child welfare projects.	6.7	11.7	43.3	30.0	8.3	2.7833	0.99305
Child participation is acknowledged and applied to safeguard the children	5.0	38.3	30.0	20.0	6.7	3.1500	1.02221

Note: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree.

The results show that 46.7% agree that state agencies influence the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County with a mean 3.4833 and 1.0332 respectively, 45% agree that collaboration influence the performance with a mean 3.4833 and 1.0332 respectively, 38.3% said

that child participation is acknowledged and applied to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children enhance performance with a mean 3.1500 and standard deviation 1.0222 respectively, 45% disagree that health profession offer inter agency consultations, guidance, support and care among maltreated children influence performance with a mean 2.0500 and standard deviation 0.9641 respectively and 43.3% were neutral that the community is actively engaged with the organization to steer the success of child welfare project with mean of 2.7833 and standard deviation 0.9930 respectively. The composite mean and standard deviation was 2.988 and 1.009 respectively.

4.3.2 Inferential statistics on influence of stakeholder engagement on performance of child welfare project

The researcher used chi square to test the hypothesis below;

H₀: - Stakeholder engagement has no significant influence on performance of child welfare protection project.

Table 6: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	112.543 ^a	78	0.004
Likelihood Ratio	73.165	78	0.634
Linear-by-Linear Association	.010	1	0.919
N of Valid Cases	60		

a. 98 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.

The results of the chi square analysis show that the calculated X statistics, for 78 degree of freedom is 112.543, Additionally it indicates that the significance value (0.004) is less than the usual threshold of .005. In conclusion, therefore this postulates that there is positive and significant relationship between stakeholder engagement and performance of child welfare protection project hence the study accepts H₁ and reject H₀ as shown in table 6.

4.4 Availability of financial resources on performance of child welfare protection project.

4.4.1 Descriptive Statistics for availability of Financial resources on performance of child welfare protection project

The respondents were asked to what extent do availability of financial resources influence the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County by using a five Likert scale ranging from strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree to strongly disagree. The mean and standard deviation were used to perform the analysis and summarized in table 7.

Table 7: Descriptive statistics on availability of Financial resources on performance of child welfare protection project.

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation
Donor funds are periodically disbursed based on the needs whilst enhancing a sustainability of the project.	15.0	71.7	11.7	1.7	0	4.0000	0.58222
The organization involves itself in various fund-raising campaign and activities	30.0	41.7	13.3	3.3	11.7	3.7500	1.25718
State budget allocation of funds is disseminated regularly and timely to cater for the children's welfare.	8.3	31.7	38.3	13.3	8.3	3.1833	1.04948
The organization dispatches student stipend to staff involved in higher learning of social work.	20.0	40.0	30.0	8.3	1.7	3.6833	0.94764
The organization conducts financial capability to caregivers endorsed with funds to cater for the child's needs.	13.3	60.0	20.0	5.0	1.7	3.7833	0.80447

Note: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree.

The results show that 71.7% majority agree donor funds are periodically disbursed based on the needs whilst enhancing a sustainability of the program enhances performance with a mean of 4.0000 and standard deviation 0.5822 respectively, 60% agree that financial capability influence performance with a mean 3.7833 and standard deviation 0.80447 respectively, 38.3% were neutral that State budget allocation of funds welfare influence performance with a mean 3.1833 and standard deviation 1.04948 respectively, 41.7% agree that organization involves itself in various fund raising campaign and activities influence performance with a mean of 3.7500 and 1.25718 respectively and 40% agree organization dispatches student stipend to staff involved in higher learning of social work influence performance with a mean of 3.6833 and standard deviation 0.94764 respectively. The composite mean and standard deviation was 3.6798 and 0.9282 respectively.

4.4.2 Inferential statistics on availability of financial resources on performance of child welfare protection project

The researcher used chi square to test the hypothesis below;

H₀: Availability of financial resources has no significant influence on performance of child welfare protection project.

The results of chi square analysis on Table 8 show that the calculated chi square statistics, for 130 degree of freedom is 119.864, additionally it indicates that the significance (.002) is less than the usual threshold of .005. In conclusion, there is a significant relationship between financial resources and the performance of child welfare protection projects, thus, the study accepts H₁ and reject H₀.

Table 8: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	119.864 ^a	78	0.002
Likelihood Ratio	86.934	78	0.229
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.919	1	0.015
N of Valid Cases	60		

a. 98 cells (100.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.

4.5 Influence on Monitoring and Evaluation approaches on performance of child welfare protection projects.

4.5.1 Descriptive Statistics for Monitoring and Evaluation approaches on performance of child welfare protection projects

The respondents were asked what influence does monitoring and evaluation have on the performance of child welfare protection project in Kilifi County by using a five Likert scale ranging from strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree to strongly disagree. The descriptive statistics especially mean and standard deviation were used to perform the analysis and summarized in table 9.

Table 9: Descriptive Statistics on Monitoring and Evaluation approaches on performance of child welfare protection projects

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation
The organization is endowed with feedback mechanisms that helps restructure the quality and effectiveness of child welfare project.	8.3	51.7	28.3	8.3	3.3	3.5333	0.89190
There is ease of data access on vulnerable children so as to protect them from the perilous environment.	43.3	36.7	18.3	0	1.7	4.2000	0.85964
The organization employs a Logical framework approach in achieving targeted goals relating to performance of child protection project.	26.7	68.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	4.1667	0.69298
Internal and external evaluations are conducted regularly to assess the performance of the organization.	61.7	38.3	0	0	0	4.6167	0.49030
Child welfare project employ the use of result-based approach in meeting the expected outcomes	10	23.3	45.0	20.0	1.7	3.2000	0.93519

Note: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree.

The result show that 68.3% of the majority agree that employing logical framework influence performance of child welfare protection with a mean 4.1667 and standard deviation 0.69298 respectively, 51.7% agree that organization endowed with feedback mechanism helps influence monitoring and evaluation in performance of child welfare organization with a mean 3.5333 and 0.8919 respectively, 43.3% strongly agree that ease of data access on vulnerable children enhance

monitoring and evaluation hence performance of child welfare programs with a mean 4.2000 and standard deviation 0.8596 respectively, 61.7% strongly agree that internal and external evaluation conducted regularly influence performance of child welfare program with a mean 4.6167 and standard deviation 0.4903 respectively and 45% were neutral on whether use of result based approach in meeting the expected outcome influence performance of child welfare programs with a mean 3.2000 and standard deviation 0.9352. The composite mean and standard deviation was 3.9434 and 0.774 respectively.

4.5.2 Inferential statistics on Monitoring and evaluation approaches on performance of child welfare project.

The researcher used chi square to test the hypothesis below;

H₀: Monitoring and evaluation has no significant influence on the performance of child welfare protection programs.

Table 10: Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	111.042 ^a	60	0.000
Likelihood Ratio	72.824	60	0.124
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.352	1	0.125
N of Valid Cases	60		

a. 76 cells (98.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.

The results of the chi square analysis on Table 10 show that the calculated X statistics, for 60 degree of freedom is 111.042, Additionally it indicates that the significance value (.000) is less than the usual threshold of .005. In conclusion, therefore there is positive and significant relationship between Monitoring and evaluation and performance of child welfare protection project hence the study accepts H₁ and reject H₀.

4.6 Performance of child welfare protection project

The study would have been futile if the dependent variable was not captured in the charitable children institutions thus descriptive statistics was done and findings presented below.

Table 11: Descriptive Statistics

Statement	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation
The project improves the livelihood of targeted children and communities.	43.3	56.7	0	0	0	4.4333	0.49972
Child practitioners experience personal growth due to routine involvement in the project.	56.7	36.7	6.7	0	0	4.5000	0.62436
Child welfare protection project has contributed to the organization performance	30.0	60.0	5.0	0	0	4.2500	0.54072
The organization measures the outcomes and impacts of the investments made in children.	28.3	61.7	10.0	0	0	4.1833	0.59636

Note: SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, N = Neutral, D = Disagree, SD= Strongly Disagree.

The findings as shown in table 11 show that 56.7% agree that the program improves the livelihood of the targeted children and communities with a mean of 4.4333 and standard deviation of 0.49972, while 56.7% strongly agreed that child practitioners experience personal growth due to routine involvement program with a mean of 4.5 and standard deviation of 0.62436 respectively, 30% strongly agree child welfare protection has contributed to the organization performance with a mean of 4.2500 and a standard deviation 0.54072 and 28.3% strongly agree that the organization measures the outcomes and impacts of the investments made in children. The composite mean was approximately 4.34 indicating agreement of the dependent variable thus further analysis can be conducted to ascertain the extend of relationship between the dependent and independent variable.

4.7 Discussion of findings

The study above indicated that there was no significant relationship between training of program workers and the performance of child welfare protection projects within Kilifi County, this contradicts the findings by Mupedziswa & Sinkamba (2014) that training has a significant influence to the performance of child welfare protection programs. The study also revealed that stakeholder engagement had significant influence on the performance of child welfare protection projects. The findings indicate that there is existing partnership and collaboration of agencies at different level and stages that have led to performance of child welfare protection programs. This is consistent with the findings by Bindman, Kulmala & Bogdanova (2018), that affirm that agency and private sector collaboration ensures that different stakeholders understand their role and how they impact the overall system. The research also revealed that there was a significant relationship between availability funding and the performance of child welfare protection projects. This affirms the findings by Sidze, Pradnan, Beekink & Maina (2013), that funding lays a vital role in proper efficiency and execution of caseworks. Lastly, the research covered the influence of monitoring and evaluation approaches on the performance of child welfare protection projects in Kilifi County

and showed consistency as the results had significant relationship to the performance of welfare protection program. This is accordance with the findings by Dong, Li, Jiangi, Yan & Li (2015), that asserted data accessibility and the use of result-based approach method aid in achieving objective performance.

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary of the findings

5.1.1 Training of workers on performance of child welfare protection projects.

The study analyzed various aspects of training to determine how it influences the performance of the child welfare protection programs. The aspects of training investigated were: presence of university-agency engagement, number of workshops and seminars administered, number of project workers enrolled in service training and presence of indigenous social work curriculum. The researcher found out that there exists inadequate partnership between university and agency, thus workers are not fully exposed to the social work curriculum. It was also found out that minimal in service of workers was offered, however presence of periodic seminars was conducted to keep workers informed on policies and changing laws. The chi square test revealed no significant relationship between training and the performance of welfare protection programs.

5.1.2 Stakeholder engagement on performance of child welfare protection project.

The study scrutinized different aspects of stakeholder engagement to assess how it influences performance of the child welfare protection project. The indicators under investigation were: networking with the state authorities, the input of health institutions, presence of community and child participation. The researcher found out that county government fostered strong collaborations with agencies, health institutions offered minimal support, however the communities played a crucial role in boosting performance of child welfare institutions. Child participation was also acknowledged and practiced in most organizations, using the chi square a significant relationship was observed between stakeholder engagement and the performance of child welfare project.

5.1.3 Availability of Financial resources on performance of child welfare protection project.

The study probed various aspects of funding availability to determine how it influences the performance of the child welfare protection projects. The aspects of program funding investigated were: the availability of financial instruments, adequacy of funds, presence of donor funding and the presence of financial capability to the caregivers. Funding was stated as a major issue as most organizations acknowledged that the state does not disburse funds to their institutions, but rather they involve themselves in fund raising and campaign activities. The chi square test revealed that there was significant relationship between availability of financial resources and child welfare protection program.

5.1.4 Monitoring and evaluation approaches on performance of child welfare protection projects.

The study examined several aspects of monitoring and evaluation to determine how it influences the performance of the child welfare protection programs. The aspects investigated were: data accessibility, use of result-based approach, use of the logical framework approach, presence of staff evaluation. The researcher found out that presence of the result-based approach was commonly however most practitioners lacked adequate skills in M&E as they could not comprehend the logical framework approach and its application. It was evident that organizations regularly conducted internal and external evaluations and presence of feedback mechanisms was also noted. The chi square revealed a significant relationship was achieved between M&E approaches and the performance of child welfare projects.

5.2 Conclusion

In reference to the research objectives, it is evident from the findings that worker presents no significant relationship to the performance of child welfare protection projects while stakeholder participation, availability of funds and monitoring and evaluation approaches had a significant relationship to performance of child welfare protection projects.

5.3 Recommendations and Contributions of the Study

The following recommendations were made in reference to this study;

- i. Worker training should be fortified through University- agency partnerships to enhance innovativeness, revitalizing experiences and new approaches to the organization.
- ii. The management needs to promote stakeholder engagement through ensuring that a platform is provided where children are encouraged to voice their opinions and decisions are reached mutually so as to promote the best interest of the child while enhancing personal development.
- iii. The institutions need not only rely on donor funding but should also engage in fund raising campaign and recreational activities as ways of availing funds to the organization.
- iv. The management should also ensure project workers attain adequate skills in M&E approaches to enable them facilitate the result-based approach method effectively in order to achieve the target goals of the organization.

REFERENCES

- Anderson, G. R., Williams-Hecksel, C., & de Guzman, A. (2020). The stipend student commitment to child welfare. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 14(1), 122-138.
- Berk., L.E. (2000). *Child Development* (5th Ed.) Boston: Ally and Bacon 23-28
- Bogdanova, E., Cook, L. J., & Kulmala, M. (2018). The carrot or the stick? Constraints and opportunities of Russia's CSO policy.
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (2005). *Making human beings human: Bioecological perspectives on human development*. Sage.

- Bronfenbrenner, U., & Ceci, S. J. (1994). Nature-nuture reconceptualized in developmental perspective: A bioecological model. *Psychological review*, 101(4), 568.
- Dalli, C., Miller, L., & Urban, M. (2012). Early childhood grows up: Towards a critical ecology of the profession. In *Early childhood grows up* (pp. 3-19). Springer, Dordrecht.
- Dodds, S., & Hess, A. C. (2020). Adapting research methodology during COVID-19: lessons for transformative service research. *Journal of Service Management*.
- Donaldson, L. (2001). *The Contingency theory of organizations*. Thousand oaks. Sage publishers.
- Engler, K. (2007). *A look at how the ecological systems theory may be inadequate*. A Capstone project Article. Winona State University. Research gate publishers
- Fargion, S. (2012). Synergies and tensions in child protection and parent support: *Policy lines and practitioners' cultures*. Wiley online library
- Fenrich, J., Galizzi, P., & Higgins, T. E. (Eds.). (2011). *The future of African customary law*. Cambridge University Press.
- Forrest, L., Shen Miller, D. S., & Elman, N. S. (2008). Psychology trainees with competence problems: From individual to ecological conceptualizations. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 2(4), 183.
- Garbarino, J. (1997). The human ecology of child maltreatment: A conceptual model for research. *The Journal of marriage and family*, Vol 39, No4 pp.721-735 National council on Family Relations Publishers
- Gordon, L. N. (2015). Child participation in Jamaica: cultural reality versus idealism. *Social and Economic Studies*, 49-74.
- Lamhauge, N., Lanzi, E., & Agrawala, S. (2013). The use of indicators for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation: lessons from development cooperation agencies. *Climate and Development*, 5(3), 229-241.
- Monea, J., & Thomas, A. (June, 2011). Unintended Pregnancy and Taxpayer spending: *Perspectives on sexual and Reproductive health* 43: 88-93. doi: 10.1363/4308811. PMID21651707. Wiley online library
- Mugenda, O.M., & Mugenda, B.G. (2015). *Research methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. Nairobi: Acts Press.
- Mupedziswa, R., & Sinkamba, R. P. (2014). Social work education and training in Southern and East Africa: Yesterday, today and tomorrow.
- Ndulo, M. (2011). African customary law, customs, and women's rights. *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*, 18(1), 87-120.
- Omondi, S. (2014). *A Critique of the Statutory Provisions on Child Sexual Abuse in Kenya*. <http://41.204.183.105/handle/11732/351>
- Sepúlveda, M., & Nyst, C. (2012). *The human rights approach to social protection*. Helsinki: Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

- Sidze, E. M., Pradhan, J., Beekink, E., Maina, T. M., & Maina, B. W. (2013). Reproductive health financing in Kenya: an analysis of national commitments, donor assistance, and the resources tracking process. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 21(42), 139-150.
- Sidze, E. M., Pradhan, J., Beekink, E., Maina, T. M., & Maina, B. W. (2013). Reproductive health financing in Kenya: an analysis of national commitments, donor assistance, and the resources tracking process. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 21(42), 139-150.
- UNICEF, Accra (2014). *Child Protection baseline report: UNICEF Annual report*
- UNICEF. (2005). *The impact of conflict on women and girls in west and central Africa and the UNICEF response*. Unicef.
- Wang, X., & Yang, W. (2019). Water quality monitoring and evaluation using remote sensing techniques in China: a systematic review. *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, 5(1), 47-56.
- Yuen-Tsang, A., & Healy, L. M. (2019). Shaping the Global Trajectory: The Leadership Role of International Organizations. In *Strategic Leadership in Social Work Education* (pp. 117-134). Springer, Cham.