



## Attribution of parental alcohol abuse as a predictor of enrolment and transition trends among pre-primary schools in Kiambaa, Kiambu county Kenya

Lucy Njeri Wanjiru <sup>1</sup>, Ong'ang'a HM Ouko <sup>2\*</sup>  
<sup>1-2</sup> Kenyatta University, Kenya

\* Corresponding Author: **Ong'ang'a HM Ouko**

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### Abstract

Drug abuse is a contemporary issue globally. It affects youth and adults in equal measure. Young families and young parents for that matter are the most vulnerable cadre. Communities in the central parts of Kenya are experiencing the greatest effects of alcohol and substance abuse as manifested in their socio-economic engagement and school involvement. This means early grade enrolment could be the most causality in the long run. The purpose this study was to investigate the extent to which alcoholism and substance abuse among parents predicts the enrolment trends among pre-primary school centres. The study target population was all the 220 public and private pre-primary schools in Kiambaa sub-county. The study adopted *ex post facto* research design as the researchers could not envisage manipulation of the study variables. The study was anchored on the ecological *systems theory* by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1979). Two data instruments were employed to generate data namely questionnaire and a documentary analysis form. Pilot study was conducted in two schools which were not to be included in the actual study. Content validity used. Test-retest was used to test reliability where a coefficient of  $P \leq 0.07$  was acceptable. Descriptive data analysis techniques were used to analyze and present the findings. The study established that 38(76%) of the respondents agreed that alcoholism and substance abuse had a significant negative effect on parental involvement. They also agreed that enrolment of pupils to pre-primary schools low. The study recommended to teachers to take a major role of sensitizing parents on the importance of early years education. Further, policy makers should look for ways of dealing with drugs and substance abuse among rural folks to reduce the declining enrolment trends in pre-primary schools.

**Keywords:** parental, enrolment, alcohol, trends

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### Introduction

The family plays a central role in not only caregiving but also the early education of their young ones. Parents are both role models and primary agents of socialization and education of their children. This means therefore that parental alcoholism and substance could likely have a negative impact on their children's educational participation (NACADA 2019).

Globally studies show a strong relationship between substance abuse and educational participation and out comes (Marion Devaux & Sabine Vuik, 2021). Similarly, there is a significant relationship between drugs and substance abuse and the Health and Behaviour of School-aged children. It is evident that Children of alcoholic background compare rather lower in life satisfaction and attainment of higher academic achievement (Marion Devaux & Sabine Vuik, 2021).

According to NACADA, (2019), in Kenya alcohol and substance abuse is evidently higher among boys at 56% compared to the girls at 35% respectively. Further the same reveals a positive association of fathers' alcohol indulgence and their children's alcohol tendencies.

Understanding alcoholism within the context of the family (parents) is important if positive intervention on effects of the vice on low enrolment and retention in the schools, particularly at the pre-primary school grade levels. It is at the family level that alcohol and drug abusers are socialized (Eshiwani, 1993).

Studies underscore the role parental involvement plays in improving learners' school participation and improved learning outcomes. Heavy drinking among populations remains on the upward trend. According to NACADA (2007), 14% of Kenyans aged between 15 and 64 currently use alcohol whereas 8% of children aged 10 to 14 years have used alcohol at least once. This trajectory is worrying particularly as children are also involved in alcoholism. This necessitates the current study which sought to interrogate family alcoholism's ramification on enrolment and retention among pre-primary school centres in Kiambaa, Kiambu county Kenya.

A study by Wanjiru (2010) revealed that there was a positive relationship between parental level of ignorance, increased poverty and parental alcohol abuse. This means that the lower socio-economic class cadre remains the most affected in regard to alcohol and substance abuse. This study investigated parental alcoholism and substance abuse's effect on pre-primary schools' enrolment and retention trends in Kiambu County Kenya.

### Statement of the Problem

The role parents in the nurture and care for their children cannot be overemphasized. The family forms the first school for the child where the child learns about and from others. It is therefore important that children's schooling journey is supported by the immediate family members.

Families where alcohol and drugs form part of their day-to-day experiences, will form the breeding ground for socialized individuals into the vice (Ogoye-Ndegwa, Saisi, Mengich & Abidha, 2007) <sup>[8]</sup>. Studies have shown a significant relationship between family alcoholism and substance abuse and behavioural and health characteristics of their children. This further have ramification on children's educational achievement. Parents are role models and first agents of socialization. This means that parental alcoholism can have negative impact on their children's education (Marion Devaux & Sabine Vuik, 2021). It is on this basis that this study investigates parental alcoholism and substance abuse as predictor of pre-primary enrolment in Kiambaa, Kiambu County, Kenya.

### Purpose of the Study

This study sought to investigate parental alcohol abuse's effects on pre-primary school pupils' enrolment trends in Kiambaa, Kiambu County.

### Related Literature Review

#### The Concept of Family Drugs and Alcohol Abuse

Alcoholism and drug abuse is today a common practice among youth and young parents. This in essence undermines the efforts put in place to improve educational outcomes and education for all (EFA) goal. Studies have shown a correlation between drugs and alcohol abuse among learners as a cause of low academic outcomes (Ana & Balsa, 2011; Coyman, 2002) <sup>[1]</sup>.

Further studies have been conducted on parental alcoholism and drug abuse against their children's academic

achievement (Manilal, 2014). Parental involvement has been linked to children's school participation.

In Kenya, the national commission against drug abuse (NACADA) has extensively conducted and documented a lot on drug and substance abuse. According to its rapid baseline survey, NACADA (2017) established that the situation of alcohol and substance abuse was entrenched among most communities in Kenya. NACADA statistics revealed that in a population cohort of respondents aged 15-65, 37.1% of the population engaged in alcohol and substance use 30% had not used any alcoholic drink, and 14.9% never sniffed/ chewed/ piped tobacco. NACADA further opines that overall, 16.7% population aged 15-65 years, have ever used a tobacco product in their lifetime. The prevalence of khat stands at 8.9%, bhang stands at 1.1%, hashish stands at 0.6%, and heroin stands at 0.7% while cocaine stands at 0.7% (NACADA, 2012). From the above revelation, the age bracket of drugs and alcohol users, indicates that most of them are within the age of late youth and young parents. Hence this study to will investigate the extent parental alcoholism and substance abuse effect on enrolment trends in pre-primary school centres in Kiambu county Kenya.

On the other hand, school enrolment trends in Kenya have not been uniform across the regions. Pre-primary School enrolment, was rated at 65.14 % gross in 2019 (World Bank, 2019).

According to (Somerset, 2007) <sup>[10]</sup>, enrolment trend has been on the rise since independence in 1963 although not uniform across regions and the different socio-economic contexts. This means that children from disadvantaged and vulnerable populations have remained under enrolled. These trends can be seen in poverty and deprived areas where access to pre-primary education is often seen as of low priority. Several studies have tried to track factors affecting enrolment and access in education. The factors have however revealed that socio-economic factors are good predictors for access and retention in the education. These studies have however focused on higher grades of education ignoring pre-primary school grades. This study however, investigated family alcoholism and substance abuse influence on enrolment and retention trends in pre-primary school centres.

Ayaga (2018) <sup>[7]</sup>, investigated *inherent inconsistencies and challenges facing Pre-primary school Education*. The study assessed trends of education, inherent inconsistencies and challenges of preschool education in Kisii County and targeted a population of 968 comprising of 699 public schools and 269 private pre-primary schools. The study revealed that over 70.1% of the ECDE centres lacked in adequate and qualified pre-primary school grades. Studies underscore the role of parental involvement in enhancing learners' academic achievement (Serum, 2019) <sup>[9]</sup>. The current study investigated parental alcoholism and substance abuse as factors influencing enrolment and retention of pre-primary school graders in public pre-primary school centres in Kiambu County.

Parents who indulge in alcoholism and substance abuse may not prioritize the success and development of their families. Pre-primary school parents may not find the education and foundational learning of their children as important as their decision-making capacity may be thwarted (Serum, 2019) <sup>[9]</sup>. Globally the effects of alcoholism and drug abuse are well in the public knowledge. Parental involvement therefore may a sure hindrance on learners' participation in education.

Liu, Sulaimani & Henning, (2020) <sup>[2]</sup> agrees to the fact that

parental involvement as an important component in the holistic development of infants.

Maluleke (2014) [3] in Zimbabwe, established that only few parents were involved in their children's educational programmes. Meaning that most learners did not benefit from their parents' involvement and participation. Many factors were associated with the low levels of parental involvement in children's education including but not limited to; low parental education, low economic status, lack of proper school policy, poor communication and teachers' attitude towards parents. This study however did not investigate the influence of parents' alcoholism tendencies and substance abuse on their enrolment and retention trends in early grades of primary school. This is what the current study will sought to do in Kiambu county Kenya.

A study by Machine (2017) investigated the factors that determined pupils' school enrolment in the lower primary schools in Kiambaa, Kiambu County. One of the key findings of the study was that majority of the parents engaged in alcoholism and drug use thus affecting enrolment of children in lower primary school grades. This study established a significant correlation between family structure and school enrolment and that poverty situations among parents was also attributed to low school enrolment. Kiambaa sub-county is one of the nine sub-counties in Kiambu County. The current study focused the affluent cosmopolitan population in Kiambu to determine the extent of parental alcoholism and enrolment trends in pre-primary schools. A similar study by Kanyua (2018) in Tharaka Nithi revealed that parental alcoholism and drug abuse did influence enrolment in schools and this was attributed to alcohol and drug abusive by the parents. These revelations underscored the negative effects of alcohol and substance abuse on education particularly in the formative lower grades. This study was intended to investigate parental alcohol and substance abuse's effects on pre-primary school pupils' enrolment.

## Methodology

### Findings of the Study

This study sought to investigate the extent to which alcoholism and substance abuse among parents predicts the enrolment trends among pre-primary school centres in Kiambaa, Kiambu County, Kenya. The table below presents the responses of the study subjects regarding the types of substances which were prevalently available.

**Table 1:** Prevalence of drugs and substances abused

Item	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
Alcohol	37(74%)	7(14%)	8(16%)
Second generation brews	40(80%)	5(10%)	6(12%)
Weed/ bhang	15(30%)	20 (40%)	15(30%)
Commercial alcohol	20(40%)	12(24%)	18(36%)
Cocaine	2(4%)	34(68%)	14(28)
Mandrax	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Others specify	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)

From table 4 above it is revealed that most parents (74%) abuse alcohol where most of them abuse second generation brew as opposed to 40% who use commercial alcohol. The above finding be an indicate that parents may be giving pre-primary school education a low priority. This is revelation agrees with Kennedy and Mukerji (1986) who indicated that more and more persons were faced with social and moral challenges that were blamed on alcohol abuse.

Table 2 below illustrates the trends of enrolment in pre-primary school centers in Kiambaa, Kiambu County since the inception of CBC in the year 2017.

**Table 2:** Pre-primary enrolment trends over the past five years

Item	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
It is on the upward trend	8(16%)	10(20%)	32 (64%)
On the slow upward trend	42(84%)	3(6%)	5(10%)
On the downward trend	40(80%)	8(16%)	2(4%)
Just static	0(0%)	48(96%)	2(4%)

On enrolment, respondents from the sampled schools (16%) agreed that there was generally a low upward trend in enrolment whereas majority (84%) of the respondents agreed on a slow upward trend. It can further be noted that majority of the respondents (80%) indicated that there was a downward trend in enrolment. Consequently, alcoholism becomes both a cause and a consequence of this downward trend in enrolment. According to the National Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA,2020), Kiambaa is fast becoming a place with rampant cases of alcohol and substance abuse whose effects can be witnessed on parental alcohol and substance abuse. This too affects enrolment trends in the pre-primary school centers. To understand the trends over the period in focus, a documentary on enrolment trends was administered and the results illustrated as under.

### To further understand

**Table 3:** Documentary Analysis Form on trends of enrolment between 2017-2022

Year	Enrolment (PP1)	Enrolment (PP2)
2017	1864	1803
2018	1996	2048
2019	2443	2152
2020	1684	1785
2021	1802	1796
2022	1356	1340

From table 3 above there is a clearly different enrolment rate between PP1 and PP2 ECDE children. The total number of children enrolled in PP1 was at 1864 while at it PP2 was 1803, with a drop of about 61 pupils from PP1 to PP2.

In 2018 the number of enrolments increased in PP1 1996 while in PP2 it was at 2048, an increase of 52 pupils in the years 2019 the enrolment of PP1 (2443) while PP2 (2152). There was a dropout of 311 pupils from PP1 to PP2. This could be attributed to the covid19 pandemic. Overall, the trends in enrolment and overall transition from PP1 to PP2 has not been encouraging. Largely, the findings are in line with Maina (2010) who underscored the negative effects of parental alcohol abuse on enrolment in pre-school centers in Central province. It can be argued therefore that pre-primary school enrolment and transition from PP1 is unstable in Kiambaa, Kiambu County partly due to parental alcohol and substance abuse behaviour.

### Recommendations

This study recommends a major collaborative effort by government and other stakeholders to scale up antidrug crusade and sensitization campaigns to reduce vice. All efforts are to be put in place to sensitize parents on the need for early childhood education and foundational learning as a means to socio-economic equity.

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