SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS FOR THE PROBLEMS & NEEDS OF ORPHANS IN PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN EMBAKASI DISTRICT OF NAIROBI PROVINCE

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INTRODUCTION

- Millions of children around the world have been orphaned by HIV and AIDS crisis besides other causes.
- In Kenya 2.5 million orphans are being supported by the Government according to Minister for Social Services Hon Esther Murugi (2010, April 30 Daily Nation)
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To determine proportion of orphans in Embakasi public primary schools
- To find out the needs of orphans in Embakasi public primary schools
- To Establish the extent of gender difference in the reported needs
- To determine what interventions have been adopted to respond to the problems & needs
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- A descriptive survey design was adopted
- Location of study
FINDINGS

- Out of a total enrolment of 14,032 in the study schools, 13% are orphans.
- All the study schools had orphans enrolled in them with two having the highest enrolment of 22%.
- The orphans have various problems & needs.
- Various interventions were applied by the schools.
CONCLUSIONS

- Orphans have psychological/emotional problems which lead to absenteeism.
- Uniforms and books are some of the orphans’ educational needs.
- Food is the most important physiological need.
- Guidance & counselling is the intervention adopted for psychological problems while feeding programmes address the need for food.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Teachers need to be trained to address the problems and needs of orphans appropriately.
- The Government should support schools by complimenting the school feeding programmes because it helps in ensuring enrolment & regular school attendance of the orphans.
RELEVANCE OF STUDY TO THEME

- “...counsellors need to find ways of addressing the other needs of clients besides the psychological/emotional problems”

Dr Philomena Ndambuki, Kenyatta University