**FAMILY BACKGROUND AND JUVENILE DELIQUENCY IN UGANDA**

**A CASE OF KAMPALA CAPITAL CITY, NAKAWA DIVISION**

**BY**

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**2018/AUG/MADES/1367/WKD/AM**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN**

**PARTIALFULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD**

**OF A DEGREE OF MASTEROF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**OF NKUMBA UNIVERSITY**

**JANUARY, 2022**

1. **Key Words**

**Juvenile delinquency:** Kenneth (2015) defines juvenile delinquency as the act of committing a crime at a very young age. A juvenile delinquent is a young person, particularly a teenager under the age of eighteen, who breaks a state or federal law by committing a crime. Teens are still immature and do not think like adults, therefore they are prone to making mistakes or committing crimes that not fully in their control.

**Family background**: This is the kind of family one comes from and the kind of education one has. Family background can also refer to such things as social and racial origins, financial status or type of work experience (Sykes and Matza (2010).

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The study was about the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency in Uganda. It focused on a case study of Kampala Capital City, Nakawa Division”

In Uganda, the number of juvenile delinquents that go to correctional facilities to serve time for the crimes they have committed has been on the rise. At the same time, incarcerated youth return to the justice system at alarmingly high rates. Minority youth make up approximately two-thirds of the youth in the juvenile justice system (Griffin, 2010).

**C. Study Objectives**

The study was guided by three research objectives namely; to assess the extent to which a single parenthood structure influences juvenile delinquency in Nakawa Division, to assess the extent to which a step parenthood structure influences juvenile delinquency in Nakawa Division and to assess the extent to which family stability influences juvenile delinquency in Nakawa Division.

**D Methodology**

The study used a descriptive research design and used both qualitative and quantitative approaches for data presentation and analysis. In addition, the study used purposive sampling and simple random sampling method to determine the sample which was 86 respondents

**E. Findings**

The study findings revealed thatsingle parents are burdened with the need for extra hands around their households because they don’t have enough time with their children. It was also revealed that a number of step parents in Nakawa Division have failed to respond adequately to their children’s’ emotional needs. It was stated that in Nakawa Division, most of the children are raised by their single mothers who provided and cared for these kids in a way that at times they barely felt the absence of their fathers.

In conclusion, it was stated that Delinquency is not in-born; it is acquired and gradually grows within an individual turning him or her into juvenile delinquents with time depending on the environment which he lives. Rehabilitation as an approach to delinquency among juveniles’ demands nothing else rather than friendly environment that can restore justice, order, comfort, dignity and the culture of peace among juveniles.

**F. Recommendations**

The study recommends the need to understand that the intimacy with which parents communicate is strongly related to the committing of delinquent acts. It is also recommended that approaches to the prevention of violence and crime should include measures to support equality and justice, to combat poverty and to reduce hopelessness among young people.

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