

Stigma and the Right to Education of Children Living with HIV/AIDS in Kikuyu Sub-County

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Abstract

The study sought to find out whether stigma and discrimination infringed on the rights of the children living with HIV/AIDS (CLHA). The literature review depicted isolation, rejection, name calling, physical abuse and child labour and these vices infringed on the rights of the child. The study used a survey design and simple random sampling was done to ensure equal representation. Tools were story telling sessions and observation schedules on children living with HIV/AIDS. Through story telling sessions, children living with HIV/AIDS told of their ordeals and stigma experienced before and after the death of the parent(s). The study established that CLHA right to education was infringed through isolation and discrimination in the sitting arrangement in class. It was evident that CLHA suffered separation of items, not allowed to share meals with other children, not allowed to share learning materials nor washrooms with other children. Isolation and discrimination to poor performance by the victims and consequently dropping out of school. Based on the study results, all children living with HIV/AIDS need protection, support, love and care.

Key words: Stigma, right to education, children, HIV/AIDS, kikuyu sub-county