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**ASSESSING EFFECTS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE
ON CHILDREN.**

A case study of Mathare North Division.

PRESENTED BY:

MBAABU MURIUNGI

COLLEGE NO: 108P05041

INDEX NO: 401001089

PRESENTED TO:

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the effects of physical abuse on children in Mathare North Division, Starehe Constituency, Nairobi Province. The study was focused in this location because physical abuse on children in Kenya is mostly seen in slum areas the likes of Mathare. The study involved collecting information on different perspectives from various categories of stakeholders within Mathare North Division. A sample of 30 respondents was arrived at where it examined the experiences of 20 children and opinions of 8 parents and 2 key informants on the effects of physical abuse on children. Questionnaires were used as data collection tools. Respondents were asked about causes of physical abuse on children, its effects to the children and society and measure of reducing the vice in the area.

Study findings indicate that the causes of physical abuse on children included; poverty, size of the family, domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, corporal punishment. Findings show that the effects included; isolation, poor social skills, fear, indiscipline and poor performance in school. On measures of reducing the vice respondents suggested; sensitization of the community about the effects of the vice, more government involvement in the fight against drug trafficking, family planning, strengthening families by assuring employment, shelter and food security, alternative disciplinary methods.