

**FACTORS INFLUENCING CHILD ADOPTION PROCESS IN KENYA:
THE CASE OF CHILDREN'S HOMES IN NAIROBI COUNTY**

By

JACQUEI WAHU NGUGI

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DECLARATION

This research project report is my original work and has not been submitted for examination to any other university.

Signature..... Date.....

Jacquei Wahu Ngugi

Reg. No: L50/60628/2010

This research project report has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University supervisor.

Signature Date.....

Prof. HARRIET KIDOMBO

University Of Nairobi

DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my family for their constant encouragement and for being patient enough to see me go through my academic struggle thus realizing my long cherished dream.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

APHSA	American Public Human Services Association
CB	Canadian-born children
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DAI	Disturbances of Attachment Interview
GoK	Government of Kenya
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
JCICS	Joint Council on International Children's Services
PAA	Preschool Assessment of Attachment
RC	Romanian children
U.K.	United Kingdom
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USA	United States of America

ABSTRACT

The number of both local and international adoptions in Kenya had been rising over the years. For instance, the number of local and international adoptions was 125 in 2005, 178 in 2006 and 225 in 2007. An examination of the factors that lead to successful child adoption would therefore inform the policy makers and the individuals interested in adoption on how to go about the process successfully. Few studies have been done on child adoption process in Kenya. For instance, Mbuga (2008) studied child adoption and its implications on children in difficult circumstances. The study revealed that child adoption process was limited by non-sensitization of Kenyans on child adoption. Lalinde, (2009) on the social and cultural factors that influence legal child adoption in Nairobi, Kenya. According to this study, Kenya has a clear and defined legal process for adoption. The previous local studies did not investigate on the agency factors, family characteristics and child attributes affecting child adoption process in Kenya. Informed by this knowledge gap, the present study therefore sought to investigate factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya, a case of children's homes in Nairobi County. The study employed descriptive survey research design. The study population was institutions managing child adoption in Kenya. The target population of this study was the management staff of the 50 children homes in Nairobi County. The study used purposive sampling technique to sample children homes and simple random sampling to select the respondents. The study sought information from two of the top managers in the operations department in each of the children homes. This gave the study a sample size of 140 respondents and ten key informants from the government officials from the Child Services Department, High Court, and adoption agencies. Data collection was done using questionnaire and interviews guides. The quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20). The qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis. From the findings, The study concludes that the agencies play an important role in the child adoption process in Kenya. Family characteristics are an important factor that affects child adoption process in Kenya. The child factors also influence the child adoption process in Kenya. The legal requirements factors have a great influence on Kenya's child adoption process. The study recommends that agencies need to improve their adoption services to their clients by ensuring that they provide adopting parents with good training, timely, honest and thorough information about the child focus, other supportive resources and services which are important to the success of the adoption, moral and emotional support to the adopting parents, accurate background information of the child in-terms of status of their health and their upbringing problems. The agencies and the adopting parents should abide by the existing legal framework in Kenya that regulates child adoption. The study further recommends that before finalizing of the child adoption process, the agencies should undertake an in-depth examination (due diligence) of the adopting parents to ascertain their suitability to ensure best welfare of the adopted child.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Adoption is establishment of parent-child relationship which is non-biological and largely non-genetic (Lakshmi and Thanikachalam, 2007). It is the transfer of rights and responsibilities of a child from its birth parents to adoptive parents. Jones (2008) defines adoption as a mechanism by which adults legalize their parental relationship to non-biological children as well as a means to bring children into families. The Children Act of 2001 of the Laws of Kenya does not define what child adoption is.

According to Terry *et al.*, (2004), domestic and international adoptions allow many couples and singles to build a family or add to an existing family. They noted that international adoptions provide greater access to healthy infants and toddlers but child theft and trafficking are growing as a global concern with respect to international adoptions. Through a nonparametric test they showed statistical evidence that the annual growth rate of international adoptions has increased significantly more than domestic adoptions in recent years.

The United States is one of the major baby-receiving countries in the world. This prompted Zhang and Lee (2011) to explore the reasons why Americans prefer to adopt foreign-born children instead of adopting minority children domestically. They found that other than infertility reasons, concerns about domestic adoption, and the uneven domestic supply and demand of “desirable” children, there was a perception that American children available for adoption presented difficult problems whereas foreign children presented interesting challenges. The problems inherent in children from American foster care were confounded with race differences.

The Department of Children Services has set up an adoption secretariat and has facilitated the registration of 5 local societies and 15 foreign Adoption agencies. Kenya acceded to the Hague Convention on the protection of children and international Adoptions in year 1993. Over 2.4

million children are orphaned, majority of them as a result of HIV/AIDS among other factors, in absence of support, these children engage in child labour, sex tourism, early marriages and some live and work in the streets, beg, engage in drug and substance abuse, trafficking-small arms, mugging, theft etc.

According to the Children's Act CAP 586 Laws of Kenya, the adoption in Kenya requires; the applicants to be aged between 25-65 years at the time of submitting application and must be at least 21 years older than the child, joint applicants must be married to each other for at least three years, single foreign applicants may not apply for adoption unless under special circumstances and that the child to be adopted must be at least 6 weeks old and resident in the Republic of Kenya.

1.1.1 Problem of Orphans in Kenya

Kenya is located in Eastern Africa and borders Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. This country occupies a total area of 580,367 square kilometres (Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), 2010) and has a population of 40 million (Census Survey, 2009). Children fourteen years of age or younger account for 42.3% of the population (CIA, 2010), and 50% of the population is below the poverty line (CIA, 2010). People living with HIV/AIDS number 1.2 million; the rate of prevalence of HIV/AIDS among adults is 6.7 % (CIA, 2010). The prevalence of HIV/AIDS has declined since reaching a high of 10% in the 1990s (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, 2008), but the disease continues to have a devastating impact on the children of Kenya.

Approximately 15% of Kenya's children are one-parent orphans, and 2.5% are double orphans (Joint Council on International Children's Services, 2009). According to a 2007 report, Kenya had 2,430,000 orphans: 1,282,000 maternal orphans, 1,591,000 paternal orphans, and 443,000 double orphans (National AIDS Control Council, 2008). AIDS-related deaths accounted for 1,149,000 orphans: 692,000 maternal orphans, 750,000 paternal orphans, and 349,000 double orphans (National AIDS Control Council, 2008). Estimates indicate that between 200,000 and 300,000 children live on the streets (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, 2008).

One of the ways Kenya has responded to the orphan crisis is by seeking to provide support for family members to be able to better care for the children (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, 2008). This support includes cash subsidies to households caring for the orphans (Biemba, *et al.*, 2009). Additionally, the government has sought to promote domestic adoption, guardianship, and foster care (Joint Council on International Children's Services, 2009). The government of Kenya recommends that children should only be placed in institutional care as a last resort (Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development, 2008). Inter-country adoptions account for about 10% of all adoptions in Kenya (Joint Council on International Children's Services, 2009). A study of 23 receiving states revealed that between the years 2003 and 2009, approximately 310 Kenyan children were adopted by citizens of other countries (Selman, 2010).

1.1.2 Children homes in Nairobi County

There are 50 children homes registered in Nairobi County involved in the child adoption processes. The Kenya Children's Home Adoption Society was registered in 2005 by the Country's Adoption Committee of Kenya, to conduct both local and international adoptions. Through the agency, advice and support services are offered for those looking to adopt as well as those offering their children for adoption.

The Adoption Society caters for children from both Kenya Children Homes and from other children's homes countrywide. Kenya Children's Home Adoption Society takes time and effort to tailor services to the unique emotional, physical, spiritual and financial needs of families, working together for the child's best interest. In recent years the agency has formed unique legal adoption contracts with many other countries, allowing families from those countries to apply for adoption of Kenyan children through the agency. The agency strives to place children into well-screened and suitable homes whilst also keeping within the ethos of the society and adhering to best practices and the best interests of the child.

1.2 Problem Statement

The number of both local and international adoptions in Kenya had been rising over the years. For instance, the number of local and international adoptions was 125 in 2005, 178 in 2006 and 225 in 2007. Jones (2008) admits that even in the US, adoption remains rare. Through a study in the US, the author notes that among all women aged 18-44 in 2002, only 1.1% had adopted a child and 1.6% were currently seeking to adopt. Given the large number of orphaned children in the country, the successful adoption rates are still very low and there is therefore need to establish the factors that influence successful child adoption in Kenya. In fact, a report by Action for Children in Conflict (2009) conducted on street children in Thika recommended that there was need to explore ways to increase adoption and foster parenting as solutions for certain children given the overcrowded children's homes. An examination of the factors that lead to successful child adoption would therefore inform the policy makers and the individuals interested in adoption on how to go about the process successfully.

Few studies have been done on child adoption process in Kenya. For instance, Mbuga (2008) studied child adoption and its implications on children in difficult circumstances. The study revealed that child adoption process was limited by non-sensitization of Kenyans on child adoption. Lalinde, (2009) on the social and cultural factors that influence legal child adoption in Nairobi, Kenya. According to this study, Kenya has a clear and defined legal process for adoption. Although the process is legally streamlined and efficient, it is perceived by people as very difficult to follow and not easy to understand. The adoption process also requires the adoptive parents to hire lawyers and cater for the court process which poses logistical challenges to majority of the adopting parents. The previous local studies did not investigate on the agency factors, family characteristics and child attributes affecting child adoption process in Kenya. Informed by this knowledge gap, the present study therefore sought to investigate factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya, a case of children's homes in Nairobi County.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to establish the factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya, a case of children's homes in Nairobi County.

1.4 Specific Objectives

The study was based on the following specific objectives;

- i. Establish the influence of agency factors on child adoption process in Nairobi County.
- ii. Assess the influence of adoptive family characteristics on child adoption process in Nairobi County.
- iii. Examine the influence of child attributes on child adoption process in Nairobi County.
- iv. Investigate the influence of legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Nairobi County.

1.5 Research Questions

The study posed the following questions:

- i. What is the influence of agency factors on child adoption process in Nairobi County?
- ii. What is the influence of adoptive family characteristics on child adoption process in Nairobi County?
- iii. What is the influence of child attributes on child adoption process in Nairobi County?
- iv. What is the influence of legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Nairobi County?

1.6 Significance of the Study

It has been argued that there are many people who are willing to adopt children but lack the necessary information. This study would be very valuable to such people as it would inform them of the process as well as the factors associated with successful adoption of children in Kenya.

This research has endeavoured to generate accurate information that can reliably be used by the government and interested stakeholders. The information can be used to inform policy decisions on child adoption in Kenya. The government could further use this information to formulate or improve the existing policy on child adoption.

The study would also be invaluable by adding on to the growing body knowledge of child adoption. There is scarcity of empirical studies on this area especially in the developing countries such as Kenya and this study would come in handy to fill the gap.

Researchers, students, academicians, and practitioners in child adoption in Kenya especially the child adoption agencies would find this study very useful. It would form the basis of future research in Kenya on the same or on related issues for researchers. It would guide discussions among students and scholars as concerns issues of child adoption in developing countries such as Kenya.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This is organized in five chapters. The first chapter consists of background to the study, statement of the study problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and definition of significant terms as used in the study.

Chapter two consists of a review of pertinent literature related to the study topic .The chapter also entails theoretical foundations and their subsequent interactions, a conceptual framework and summary of knowledge gaps.

Chapter three constitutes research design, target population, sample and sampling procedure, description of research instruments, validity and reliability of research instruments, methods of data analysis, operational definition of variables and ethical considerations. Chapter Four entail data analysis, presentation, interpretation and discussion of results, questionnaire return rate, respondents' characteristics and statistical testing of the study hypotheses. Finally, Chapter Five shall highlight in detail on summary of study findings, conclusions, recommendations and suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of empirical literature on factors influencing the adoption process of children. The chapter provides the concept of child adoption. The chapter further reviews the agency factors, family factors and child factors influencing the adoption process of children. The chapter also provides that theoretical review and the conceptual framework of the study.

2.2 Concept of child adoption

Adoption is establishment of parent-child relationship which is non-biological and largely non-genetic (Lakshmi and Thanikachalam, 2007). It is the transfer of rights and responsibilities of a child from its birth parents to adoptive parents. Jones (2008) defines adoption as a mechanism by which adults legalize their parental relationship to non-biological children as well as a means to bring children into families.

Adoption is the ultimate act of love, providing a permanent or stable family life for a child or children who would otherwise be deprived of one. Adoption is generally associated with couples unable to bear natural children. A couple unable to produce a child long after marriage is most often advised to contact an orphanage or a social institution for the bringing a readymade child home. Adoption is a legal institution of public order and social interest that allows for the creation, through a sentence issued to this effect, of a voluntary family link between people who do not possess it by nature. Adoption allows a family to take on the legal and moral responsibilities of caring for a child. The adopted child then demolishes all relationships with his/her genetic parents whether it be legal or moral. A child may be adopted until the age of 18, when they are considered to be legally an adult, although it is very abnormal for a child to be adopted in their teens (Reilly, 2003).

UNICEF (2010) maintains that every decision that affects a girl or boy including decisions about their adoption must take their greater interest into account. The Hague Convention on International Adoption constitutes important progress on the issue, for families as well as children who are adopted or up for adoption, because it promotes transparency and ethical correctness of the processes, with the aim of making children's greater interests a priority. UNICEF calls on national governments to guarantee the protection of each and every boy and girl during the period of transition leading up to the entry into effect of The Hague Convention (UNICEF, 2010).

Adopting in Kenya has been made easy as Kenya subscribes to the Hague Convention; an international instrument of the United Nations to regulate and guide child adoptions worldwide, and is the general standard for countries that have ratified it. There are also guidelines which are additional this and are made to ensure the Kenyan child is able to join a family while protecting every right of that child before, during and after the adoption process. Kenya has many orphaned and abandoned children and Kenyans are working to embrace them in a family setting, both locally and internationally (GoK, 2009).

Traditionally children were valued and owned by the community. The extended family played the role of protecting its members. Orphans were taken care of by the extended family mostly by their uncles and aunts. Due to changing socio- economic factors, the extended family support mechanisms have been weakened and are incapable of coping with the increasingly high standards of living. The circumstances facing many children are Social change, Poverty, Rapid urbanization, Teenage motherhood and HIV /AIDS (Fowers, 2008).

According to Rycus (2006) the view towards adoption is slowly changing worldwide as reflected by adoption of children by couples that can still bear their own children. These couples who can bear their own children, adopt other children because they love children and because they want to give additional company to their natural children or as a way of community service.

2.3 Theoretical Review

The study will be based on the attachment theory. The attachment theory was formulated by Bowlby (1940). According to the attachment theory, attachment means different things to different people, such as commitment, love, affection, warmth or even loyalty. Even in the scientific literature there seems to be an overlap between attachment, bonding, and affiliation. In this paper we use the term "attachment" as it is most often used to refer specifically to the relationship between an infant (and young child) and the infant/child's parent (usually mother) or preferred caregiver (Smith, 2005).

The concept was pioneered by British psychiatrist John Bowlby in the 1940's and is based in part on his observations of children in institutions. Bowlby saw attachment as being crucial to a child's personality development and to the development of healthy ways of relating to others. His theory borrows from ethology, cognitive psychology, control systems theory, and object relations theory. These multidisciplinary concepts all emphasize patterns of parent-infant relationships, and qualitative aspects within these relationships. The historical development of attachment theory is discussed in more detail in a supplement to this report (Abidin, 2005).

Bowlby described four infant behavioural systems - the exploratory system where the infant explores the world around them, the affiliate system where the infant learns to be with others, the fear/wariness system that helps the infant learn about dangers and to stay safe, and the attachment system that helps the infant to seek proximity to their attachment figure and develop a sense of security. He identified the attachment system as the most important of the four. Besides the attachment system described above, there are descriptions of attachment behaviours, attachment bonds and attachment relationships (Chandra, 1999).

Attachment behaviours is the term used to refer to the actions or signals of infants, such as crying, smiling and vocalizing, which help to bring their caregiver into close proximity. In later stages, the infant/ toddler will physically approach their caregiver, by crawling and walking toward them. Newborns arrive well equipped to play an active role in developing and maintaining an attachment relationship. Most are alert at birth, and are soon able to respond to human language (Condon and Sander, 2004) and to synchronize their movement with an adult.

A two-day old infant, for example, can discriminate between their mother's face and odour, and the face and odour of others (Field *et al.*, 1984). The emerging research on infant-caregiver relationships emphasizes this active participation on the part of infants. The term attachment bond is normally reserved for the warm, intuitive feelings felt by the caregiver/parent towards the child. The attachment relationship is increasingly recognized as the domain of the child - parent/caregiver relationship.

2.3.1 Major components of attachment theory

The important elements in attachment theory are as follows: attachment is universal to all humans; it is not race or culture-specific; it is instinctive and biological; attachment is an 'understanding', not learned through reasoning or teaching; it is, therefore, intuitive; multiple attachments occur, but attachments are ranked and generally mother-infant is primary (Biemba, 2009); it is, thus, hierarchical; attachment is about a close (usually affectionate) relationship, and its impact lasts from cradle to grave; it is, therefore, enduring and lasting (Condon and Sander, 2004)

The basic tenet of attachment theory is that the reciprocal relationship between the child/infant and the caregivers has a biological basis (Chandra, 1999). The main function of this attachment relationship is to increase chances of survival for the infant by helping the infant to seek proximity to someone who will care for him or her (Fowers *et al.*, 2008). The attachment relationship also takes into account the emotional aspects of infant-mother relationships. Bowlby argued that the establishment of "felt security" for the infant and development by the infant/child of "internal working models" is crucial, and that unwanted separation from the attachment figure gives rise to emotional distress. Current concepts of attachment theory accept that the infant may form selective attachments to a number of persons. However, a hierarchical aspect among the relationships is respected (Bowlby, 1980).

It is also accepted that attachment behaviors will be exhibited according to the degree to which the attachment system is activated. Thus, the literature suggests, attachment security in a mother-infant relationship is related to her accessibility and appropriate responsiveness to the infant (Fowers *et al.*, 2008). Once established, the security of the mother/caregiver relationship is

highly stable over time. In addition, the research suggests that attachment security predicts other aspects of a child's development such as social competence, or problem solving (Sroufe *et al.*, 1990; Sroufe *et al.*, 1992).

2.3.2 Types of attachment styles and behaviours

Mary Ainsworth's work is seminal in understanding the currently accepted distinctive patterns of different attachment relationships. Her use of the so-called "strange situation" experiments allowed classification of observable attachment patterns (Ainsworth *et al.*, 1999; Ainsworth *et al.*, 1971).

Ainsworth studied the behavior of young toddlers (12 to 20 months) through the use of "strange situation" experiments. This structured observation procedure focuses on the balance that the toddler achieves between attachment and exploratory behavior when moderate stress is introduced. The three classifications of attachment described by Ainsworth include; secure attachment, insecure attachment-(avoidant), and insecure attachment-(ambivalent). The secure toddlers were those who use their mothers/caregivers as a secure base for exploration. On reunion with their mother, they greeted the parent with smiles, positive gestures and vocalizations. They sought comfort from their mother when they were separated, but were easy to soothe and comfort upon her return, and could renew their exploratory activity once comforted. Secure infants were found to be engaged in more rewarding interactions with their caregivers (Isabella and Belsky, 1990).

The insecure (often described as anxious) group of toddlers showed two different patterns of response termed avoidant and ambivalent. The avoidant pattern was characterized by little display of secure base behavior. On separation from their caregivers, toddlers exhibited minimal discomfort. On reunion with their mother/caregiver, they sought distance from the parent and showed more interest in the toy objects than the parent. The ambivalent pattern was seen in the toddlers who were either fretful or passive. They reacted in a distressed manner to separation from their mother, but on reunion, showed signs of angry rejection and were not soothed by her return (Ainsworth *et al.*, 1999).

At a later stage, Main and others (1981; 1982; 1985; 1986: 1994) built on this work and described a fourth attachment category - the disorganized or disoriented group of toddlers. These were children who did not demonstrate a characteristic or predictable attachment response to the strange situation. They reacted in disorganized way to the stranger and stress. This category of attachment was apparent in high-risk children (i.e. those with a history of neglect or abuse) on a regular basis.

Although the original attachment classifications have been described for toddlers up to 20 months, there have been several attempts to classify attachment relationships in older children and in the adult population (Bartholomew and Shaver, 1998). More recently, attachment relationships have been described using home-based measures of attachment.

Two important approaches have been used to classify attachment styles of preschool children - the picture response procedures developed by Kaplan and Main (1986) and the study of representational-based attachment security founded on observation of doll play. The Cassidy-Marvin (1992) systems and the Preschool Assessment of Attachment (PAA) have also studied attachment patterns in preschool children.

2.3.3 Early attachment and impact on later functioning

The theoretical basis of most of the attachment research is that secure attachment in infancy will predict good psycho-social outcomes in later years. However, many other factors can be expected to modify the impact of secure attachment on later functioning, including cultural variations of attachment, psychosocial circumstances, factors within the child (e.g. child temperament), and intergenerational transmission of values and beliefs. Secure infants engage in mutually rewarding interactions with their mothers (Isabella and Belski, 1991). Main and Cassidy (1988) found a relaxed harmony in the relationships between securely attached six-year-olds and their parents. The consistent theme of research findings is that the harmony between the mother and infant in early years has benefits in the immediate post toddler phase of relationship development and in the later development of peer relationships. Securely attached children are more likely to have close friends, be more socially competent, more accepted by

their peer group, have more empathy for others and be able to read emotional cues (Leiberman, 1977; Water, Whippman and Sroufe, 1979).

The findings from the Minnesota Parent-Child Project of Middle Class families suggest that children with secure histories were more self-reliant and better problem solvers. They found that being secure did not guarantee optimal mental health and social adjustment for each individual child, but it was one the important protective factors for emotional well-being. Secure attachment is thought to be one of the protective factors involved in the development of resiliency (Sroufe, 1997; Steinhauer, 1998).

In contrast, children with (anxious) insecure attachment histories were found to be less confident and more reliant on others to have their needs met, and more at risk for psychosocial malfunctioning, such as somatic complaints, social withdrawal (Lewis *et al.*, 1984), anxiety disorders (Warren *et al.*, 1997). Avoidant children exhibit different forms of social incompetence - they are often identified as the bullies by their peers and are hostile and aggressive (Troy and Sroufe, 1987). The research on conduct problems in early childhood concludes that both avoidant and disorganized children are at a greater risk (Greenberg *et al.*, 1993). Carlson and Chicchetti (1989) found that 82% of children who had been maltreated had a history of disorganized/disoriented attachments.

Overall, research findings to date substantiate the proposition of attachment theory that a child's attachment history does matter. There are few longitudinal studies that can inform us about the impact of attachment styles over time, but there is more concerted effort at present to examine the impact of early relationships on later functioning. Certain risk factors seem to have greater or lesser impact on specific developmental stages of a child's life. Security in early relationships for the infant to preschool child, cognitive competence and motivation for the middle childhood years, and parental norms regarding behaviour during the adolescent period (Greenberg, 1993) appear to be critical for healthy development.

An understanding of how it evolved historically facilitates any assessment of the current state of knowledge of attachment theory, its usefulness and its limitations. For readers who have not had the opportunity to study the evolution of the concept of attachment in the scientific literature, we

have provided a summary from the highly regarded book written by Robert Karen (1994) as a supplement to this report.

2.3.4 Attachment and International Adoption

Most children adopted internationally start life in an institution and institutions have negative effects on children. One serious negative effect is attachment problems. It is critical to understand the relationship of attachment problems to children adopted internationally. O'Connor *et al.* (2000) conducted a longitudinal study over 6 years in the U.K. that included 152 children adopted from Romania and 52 adoptees from the U.K. At ages 4 years and 6 years, a group of 152 children adopted from Romania before the age of 42 months were compared with 52 children adopted soon after birth in the U.K. There were 111 Romanian children adopted into their homes before they were 24 months old and all of the U.K. children were adopted before this age. The method of assessing attachment was a semi-structured interview with the parent created by the authors as well as socio-emotional and cognitive data collected using standardized instruments. Approximately 20% of children had attachment disturbances. Results revealed a close association between the length of time in an institution and the severity of attachment disturbances. Attachment disturbances remained stable in attachment disturbances and demonstrated minimal decrease over the 2 year follow-up period. Overall, while all children demonstrated remarkable resilience, children adopted under the age of 2 had the best outcomes (O'Connor *et al.*, 2000).

Research in the Netherlands also examined the attachment of infants who were adopted internationally. Juffer and Rosenboom (1997) observed 80 mothers and their children from Sri Lanka, South Korea and Columbia; dyads were examined in their homes at 6 and 12 months after adoption. The children were all adopted transracially and were placed into adoptive homes before the age of 6 months. At 12 and 18 months the Strange Situation was administered to evaluate the mother-child relationship. Attachment classifications were coded with the Ainsworth categories. Results indicate that 74% of the children had a secure attachment. There were no differences regarding the birth country or the presence of biological children already in the family (O'Connor *et al.* 2000).

In Canada, Chisholm (1998) conducted a longitudinal study examining indiscriminate behavior patterns and attachment of children adopted from Romania. Attachment security was assessed

by a measure adapted from the Attachment Q-sort (Waters and Deane, 1985) and a videotape of a separation and reunion episode based upon the Strange Situation. The videotaped episodes were coded with the Preschool Assessment of Attachment (PAA; Crittenden, 1988-94). Chisholm examined 46 children who had been adopted after spending at least 8 months in a Romanian orphanage (RO). Two comparison groups consisted of Canadian-born children (CB) who were not adopted (n = 46) and Romanian children (RC) adopted into Canadian families before the age of 4 months (n = 37). The three groups were all matched within one month of age and sex. The children who were adopted had been placed with their adoptive families for at least 26 months. The average age of children at the time of the adoption was 19 months.

Chisholm (1998) found that RO children scored significantly lower on the security of attachment measure than did the CB and RC groups. The RC children's security of attachment did not differ from the CB children. The authors found that the primary difference in attachment patterns between the RO and CB groups was the ambivalent attachment behavior exhibited by RO children. Although RO, RC and CB parents did not differ on their parent attachment scores (e.g., parent levels of commitment to the parenting role), it was only in the RO group that parent attachment was correlated significantly with the child's attachment score. Although even low scores on parent attachment may be good enough for CB and RC children, the RO children may require a higher level of parental commitment in the form of more emotional warmth and a greater ability to read children's cues. The researchers hypothesize that the uncommunicative behaviors and behavioral problems exhibited by RO children may have made it more difficult for their parents to respond to them in ways appropriate for the development of secure attachment. The researchers note that the RO children's attachment security scores were unrelated to both their age at adoption and the length of time they had been in their adoptive families. RO children's lower scores on security of attachment are attributed to the extended period of neglect and social deprivation they experienced while institutionalized (Chisholm, 1998).

One confound of these studies is that children all left one country to be adopted into another country. To control for this confound, Smyke *et al.* (2002) examined three groups of children living in Bucharest, Romania in 1999. The first group was 32 toddlers living in a large

institution in Bucharest receiving standard care. The second group was 29 toddlers living in the same institution in a pilot cottage designed to create more consistent care and reduce the number of adults caring for each child. The third group was 33 toddlers residing with their biological family who had never been institutionalized. The presence of attachment disorders and other behavioral problems was assessed by caregiver/parent report using the Disturbances of Attachment Interview (DAI). The outcome was that children living on the typical institutional unit had significantly more signs of disordered attachment than children in the other two groups. Both the emotionally withdrawn and the indiscriminately social patterns of attachment disorder were apparent in the institutionalized children. Results also revealed that mixed patterns of attachment are more typical than more formerly reported.

Taken as a whole, the studies suggest adopted children who come from institutions are more at-risk for attachment problems. Yet these studies do not systematically study attachment in context of the post-adoption environment.

2.4 Agency factor influencing the adoption process

The agency mandated to offer child adoption services facilitate the adoption process. The adoption procedure starts with the first interview with a social worker. According Reilly (2003) sixty families (37 percent) reported that the agency contributed by providing moral support, which included emotional support to the parents, a partnership approach, a willingness to advocate for the family, and timely communication with the parents. Fifty-three families (33 percent) said that the agency contributed nothing to the success of the adoption. Thirty-six families (22 percent) reported that the agency-provided resources or services were important to the success of their adoption (Reilly, 2003).

According to Rycus (2006) twenty-three families (14 percent) identified receiving good training and honest and thorough information about the focus child as important to the success of their adoption. Some examples of information parents appreciated knowing up front included that the child suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome, schizophrenia, and attachment issues. Parents reported that knowing the problems up front helped them to identify the most appropriate

therapist or medication right away. The services they appreciated receiving were special attachment therapies and respite care (Rycus, 2006).

To overcome the problem of having an inadequate pool of prospective adoptive families, the majority of respondents stated that agencies should increase their efforts at family recruitment. More specifically, staff noted that recruitment of minority families and families willing to adopt older children and sibling groups were needed. Other solutions to this barrier included: 1) hiring workers whose sole responsibility is recruitment; 2) improving and increasing marketing and community awareness; and 3) dedicating State funds to state wide recruitment. One respondent also added that agencies should “utilize our families to get the word out about adopting, as adoptive families are a major resource we have yet to use (Abidin, 1995).

There was a statistically significant difference in how public and private agency adoption staff perceived barriers related to inadequate pools of families, in general and for children with special needs. Analyses revealed that 60 percent of adoption staff working in private agencies rated “the lack of families appropriate for adoption of special needs children” as a major barrier, whereas 80 percent of adoption staff in public agencies rated it as a major barrier (American Public Human Services Association, 2006).

The agencies provided at least one really helpful worker or that the agency did a really thorough job. Twelve families (seven percent) mentioned the financial support provided by the agency as contributing to the success of the adoption. The agency strives to place children into well-screened and suitable homes whilst also keeping within the ethos of the society and adhering to best practices and the best interests of the child (Smith, 2005).

According to Rycus (2006) the child adoption agencies play a strategic role in facilitating the child adoption process through offering training to the adoptive parents, provision of information about the focus child. Knowing the problems up front helps the adoptive parents to identify the most appropriate therapist or medication right away (Rycus, 2006).

2.5 Family factors influencing child adoption process

According to Smith (2005), Rycus (2006) and Selman (2010), the most significant family factors associated with a successful adoptive process include; sound economic background of adopting parents, an existing adoption history, a cordial relationship between the adopting spouses, minimal stressors, a good educational background, and a sound psychological well-being. A baby is given up for adoption to have a better life when a parent gives up all rights to that baby, or when a baby is taken away from a parent for various reasons. Parents in third world countries give up their babies so that they can have better lives and be given all the rewarding and enriching opportunities that their parents were never able to have and that they can't afford to give to their children. Babies are given up for adoption many times because they are so loved and it pulls at the parents' very heart strings to let them go. But they know that the baby will be raised in a loving home. Many babies are given up for adoption when a mother and father relinquish all rights to them for many different reasons. Many parents will lose all rights to their child and never see that baby again. And sometimes, the birth mother does retain some rights to her child and is given limited access (Rycus, 2006).

Babies are given up for adoption by young teenage mothers who can't afford to care for their babies in a proper manner. They can't afford to take care of the baby and they are too young to handle the responsibility. When a couple can't have a baby of their own, they certainly would love to welcome a new baby into their home when they have been trying for years to have a child of their own. When a young girl becomes pregnant and realizes that she is too young to handle all the responsibility that having a baby brings, then sometimes it is best to give the baby up for adoption. The teenager can finish high school and go to college thus creating a good life for herself rather than not having a future (Selman, 2010).

Babies can be given up for adoption by poor families in other countries that can't afford to have another child. Many times when a family is poor and living in squalid conditions they create more children than they can afford and are very willing to allow their children to go to another country where they can grow up and have a better future. Sometimes, when a couple or a

mother, or a father can't afford to take care of the baby, they give the baby up for adoption to a family that can afford to take care of the child (Smith, 2005).

Often people who give up their babies for adoption can't physically take care of the baby because they are disabled. People will place their babies or children into children's homes where someone can take care of the baby. Two core premises in social work are that families exist in every age and culture and that no other human group can nurture a child socially, emotionally and economically as well as a family. Examining the family from an ecological perspective, a helpful framework would be to look at the family as a system. A systems approach to human development focuses on the relationships within the family as well as the social environment's influence on family functioning. Viewing the family as a system provides us with a perspective to study children within the context of their family relationships (Rycus, 2006).

Systems theory can also be utilized as a framework for conceptualizing and thinking about attachments in a family. Family interaction patterns and cycles influence attachment. The circular causality (via the feedback loops) in a family system influences reciprocity and mutuality. Byng-Hall (1999) reported links between family therapy concepts and attachment research. Both approaches emphasize the importance of care giving, communication, joint problem-solving and reciprocity in relationships. Relevant to a discussion of family functioning is Byng-Hall's depictions of family organizational styles as connected or engaged (Byng-Hall, 1999).

Borrowing from General Systems Theory, Walsh (1982) provided a conceptual framework for normal family functioning. Walsh viewed normal behavior in the context of systems interacting in a circular process influenced by multiple systems. The definition of normal varies over time and social contexts. It also varies with both internal and external demands that necessitate adaptation over the life cycle of the family. Influenced by Erikson (1959), Walsh viewed family functioning as developing over time, tackling appropriate developmental tasks, and involving a lifelong process of adaptation, growth, and mastery of change. Walsh also called for empirically-based models to provide a more solid foundation for evaluating family development, functioning, and competence (Byng-Hall, 1999).

The underpinning concepts in General System Theory (Von Bertalanffy, 1968) provide much theoretical support for Olson, Sprenkle and Bell's (1983) Circumplex Model of Marital and Family Systems. Borrowing from Systems Theory, the Circumplex Model views the family as a system with interactions between subsystems and system boundaries between family members producing variations in functioning of families (White, 1996). Also, General Systems Theory states that change occurs along the life span, and families need organizing principles to adjust to these changes. Lastly, a feedback loop between the family and the wider social environment influences the development of the family over time (White, 1996).

Olson, Sprenkle and Russell (1979) developed the Circumplex Model to explain differences in family functioning. Family functioning may be defined as the interactions with family members that involve physical, emotional or psychological activity. The model states that a balance between two major constructs called adaptability and cohesion within the family underpins healthy family growth and development. Family cohesion is defined as the closeness that family members feel towards each other. Family adaptability is defined as competence in the families' ability to make appropriate changes in the family structure as the family grows, as in the case of adding a new family member with adoption. Family cohesion most resembles attachment and is about feeling connected to the family. Family adaptability is about the process of negotiation within a family in regards to roles and rules (White, 1996). A balance within the range of cohesion and adaptability produces the most optimal level of functioning. The contextual framework supporting the parent-child relationship can also have an important impact. The level of support, whether direct or indirect, has a systemic impact upon the adoptive family attachment relationship. A third concept, communication, is the vehicle by which adaptability and cohesion are expressed. The Circumflex Model provides the theoretical framework for the Family Adaptability and Cohesion Evaluation Scale (FACES II) for assessing the overall functioning of the family (Olson, Sprenkle and Russell, 1983).

All family systems have resources and stressors. Several stressors to the family are said to put adoptive families in jeopardy of adoption instability, which ultimately impacts child outcomes and attachment. Parental stress may be defined as physical and emotional strain caused by the responses to pressure from parenting. Rosenthal, Schmidt and Conner (1988) stated that parental

expectations are often unrealistic regarding their children. The majority of parents who adopt internationally are middle class to upper middle class with high educational standards and achievement-oriented plans for raising children. Children adopted from institutions may have severe behavioral, emotional or developmental issues that can challenge and deflate parental expectations about having a family if parents are not properly prepared. This can be a stressor to the family system (Rosenthal, Schmidt and Conner, 1988).

Another stressor for adoption families is the diminished capacity for families to be flexible and allow change. The formation of an adoptive family consists of the combination of the child with the pre-adoptive history and the family system that existed before the child (Groze, 1996). The integration of the child into the adoptive family system resembles a model similar to blended families (Carter and McGoldrick, 2005). A family that is too rigid or inflexible has the risk of not allowing this integration to take place and placing the adoption at risk. A rigid family is also less likely to promote secure attachment (Olsen *et al.*, 1983).

An additional resource or stressor is the parent-child relationship (Belsky, 1984). While many focus on what the child brings to the parent-child relationship, Belsky (1999) asserts that the psychological well-being of the parent contributes directly to the parent's ability parent children with difficult characteristics. Parenting is stressful. Stress can be normative as a result of having to develop skills to effectively parent children at different ages, particularly for first time parents who learn from experience. Yet there are non-normative sources of stress such as that which comes from parenting a child with behavior problems. Judge (2003) investigate parent stress associated with behavior of children with a history of institutionalization. The sample included 109 mother-father pairs and 124 children adopted from Eastern European countries. Stress was measured by the Parental Stress Index (Abidin, 1997). Judge (2003) found child behavior problems were associated with higher levels of parental stress and that there were significant differences between fathers and mothers. In a later study, Judge (2004) investigated parental stress and attachment in children adopted from Eastern European orphanages. Children with more insecure attachment had more behavioral problems and parents experienced more stress as a result; high levels of parental stress negatively impacted the quality of attachment (Judge, 2004).

Other adoption researchers have found similar findings. Brodzinsky, Smith and Brodzinsky (1998) found parents who have lower levels of stress are better equipped to respond appropriately to the child's social, emotional, cognitive and behavioral signals seeking attachment with the parent. High levels of parental stress are correlated with disturbances of attachment in adopted children (Teti, Nakagawa, Das and Wirth, 1991; Chisholm, 1998). Mainemer (1998) found children adopted from Romania caused parents more stress than children domestically adopted. Also, children who had been institutionalized for longer periods of time created more stress for families (Mainemer, 1998).

In summary, children who have been institutionalized and adopted internationally are at risk for attachment problems due, at least in part, from their pre-adoptive history of institutionalization. The history of international adoption has demonstrated that rising numbers of children are being adopted from institutions (Tessler *et al.*, 1999). Research on institutionalization has also revealed that even when the basic needs of children are met in an orphanage, they suffer from a lack of a sensitive and responsive caregiver with whom they can attach (Bowlby, 1951; Provence and Lipton, 1962; Spitz, 1945; Tizard and Hodges, 1977; Tizard and Rees 1974, 1975). Early research suggested that effects of institutionalization were damaging and permanent (Goldfarb, 1943; Spitz, 1945). However, as theory and methodology have advanced, more recent research on institutionalization has indicated that the effects of orphanage life are malleable and often amenable to change (Juffer and Rosenboom, 1997), at least for many children. Children come to their newly adoptive families with different effects of institutionalization (Van IJzendoorn, 2006). Families are not always certain how to read and respond to children's cues to help facilitate attachment with children who have been raised in institutions (Van IJzendoorn, 2006).

2.6 Child factors influencing adoption process

School-age children learn to describe and control their feelings. As they mature, their relationships deepen. They discover the ability to consider others' feelings and points of view. Therefore age of the child and the level of development determine the success of the adoption process. Children develop an identity based on who they are in relation to their family,

classmates, ethnic group, and community members. This is a major developmental task, particularly in the upper age range of this group. The level of social interaction of the children also affects the adoption process (Rycus, 2005).

Selman *et al*, (2010) identified that child factors affects the child adoption process to a great extent. The age and educational background of the children, his/her temperament and behaviour and the status of mental health affect the adoption process significantly (Selman *et al*, 2010).

A child's history and adoptive experience can affect his or her development. When thinking about their child's progress, parents should consider factors around their child's adoption, such as its social and emotional impact; developmental delays; and effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol or other drugs, child abuse and neglect, or multiple moves (Smith, 2005).

Much of that identity comes from their family and the relationships with the people in their lives. For adopted children, developing an identity is more complicated. They must merge two separate families and histories as they explore how they fit in. In middle childhood, children adopted as infants or toddlers often start thinking about themselves and their pasts more carefully. They begin to sort through critically important questions about who they are. Those who felt "special" and "chosen" because they were adopted may begin to realize, at least subconsciously, that someone else "unchose" them. Many struggle with issues of self-worth, self-esteem, and being different. Newly adopted children may be grieving for previous homes or caretakers. Some adopted children may have difficulty with social relationships outside the family (Biemba *et al*, 2009).

At the start of 2001, there were approximately 131,000 children under the care of public agencies waiting to be adopted (AFCARS, 2003). The mean age of the children waiting to be adopted was 8.1 years; 64 percent of them were older than five. These children had been in care an average of 3.75 years. More than half of the waiting children were minorities: 43 percent were black and 13 percent were Hispanic. And slightly more than half were male (52 percent) (Start, 2001).

According to Selman (2010) children who did not spend enough time with emotionally healthy adults may have difficulty identifying and controlling their emotions. Children from orphanages or group care settings may not have had many opportunities to see or practice healthy social interactions. Children who were maltreated may not have learned how to empathize with others, may have learned to relate to others in a violent way, or may reenact trauma they have experienced. Children who have been separated abruptly from previous caretakers or who have insecure attachment to their primary caregivers may be anxious when they are away from home (Selman, 2010).

While exact data are not available, it is likely that the vast majority of waiting children have special needs. In that same year, 50,000 foster children were adopted. Of these, 38 percent were non-Hispanic white, 35 percent were non-Hispanic black, and 16 percent were Hispanic. The mean age of adopted children was 6.9 years, while the median age was 6.3 years. An equal number of boys and girls were adopted. The majority of foster children adopted in 2001 were adopted by their foster parents (59 percent) or a relative (23 percent). Federal data indicate that only 17 percent of foster children who were adopted were adopted by persons with whom they did not have a prior relationship (American Public Human Services Association, 2006).

The high share of children adopted by relatives and foster parents represents a radical shift in child welfare practice. Originally conceived of as temporary caretakers, as late as the 1970s many foster parents were required to sign a statement that they would not seek to adopt children placed in their care. Similarly, relatives were typically not considered as adoptive resources. Less than three percent of children adopted in 1982 were adopted by their relatives (Family Impact Seminar 1997).

It is highly likely that these 2006 data underestimate the share of foster children adopted by general applicants. An increasing number of states encourage or require general adoption families to become foster families prior to finalizing the adoption. Since we do not know how many of the adopting foster parents became foster parents only for purposes of adoption, we do not know how many adopters recorded as foster parents are really general applicants (American Public Human Services Association, 2006).

Nevertheless, most of the reported foster parent adoptions were by longer-term foster parents. Very little information has been published on the characteristics of persons adopting foster care children. AFCARS data indicate that two-thirds (67 percent) of the foster children who are adopted, are adopted by married couples. Data from a small-scale study of persons adopting special needs children found that the majority were white (69 percent), married (84 percent), had not graduated from college (72 percent), and were either the child's foster parent (43percent) or relative (10 percent) (Rosenthal, Groze, and Curiel 1990). Children adopted by minority adoptive parents were more likely to be adopted by relatives, foster parents, single parents, or mothers who did not graduate college (Rosenthal *et al.*, 1990).

A pre-AFSA study comparing adoptive parents of foster children to parents adopting independently in California found that while the majority of both groups of adoptive parents were between the ages of 31 and 40, a significant number of public agency adopters were less than 30 years old (Barth, Brooks, and Iyer, 1995). Moreover, parents adopting foster children had lower levels of education and income than parents adopting independently (Barth *et al.* 1995).

2.7 Legal requirements factors and child adoption process in Kenya

Prospective adoptive parents must reside in Kenya, in the capacity of foster parents, for three months prior to legally completing the adoption of their foster child. This also applies to citizen adoptions. While this is not an attempt by Kenya to limit inter-country adoption, the unintended result is in fact dampening the utilization of inter-country adoption in serving children and runs counter to the Hague Guide to Good Practice (Inter-country Adoption Office, 2009).

Foreigners who do not permanently reside in Kenya make up nearly 10% of all Kenyan adoptions (Irene, 2009). Adopting from Kenya is a challenge but it is also a great opportunity for parents to learn about their child's culture. Most importantly Kenya's adoption requirements are child centered. Unfortunately, the U.S. is no longer accepting adoptions applications for Kenya due to Kenya's difficulties with Hague compliance (Robyn, 2009).

There is no easy solution. The orphan crises must be approached from a variety of directions. The policies the Kenyan government implements must have a transformative effect. As such new legalities and new policies must be multifaceted, build on other development efforts and aims, and most importantly have the best interests of the child at the core (John, 2008). Kenya is striving to find a home for every child in need. They approach the problem from a variety of fronts: family support and reunification, foster care, guardianship, kinship care, and adoption. There are many other actors in the child welfare field, such as international NGO's. Ultimately it is most important that all actors work within the law, evaluate their motives and actions, and work toward a solution shaped not by international hands, but by Kenyans (John, 2008).

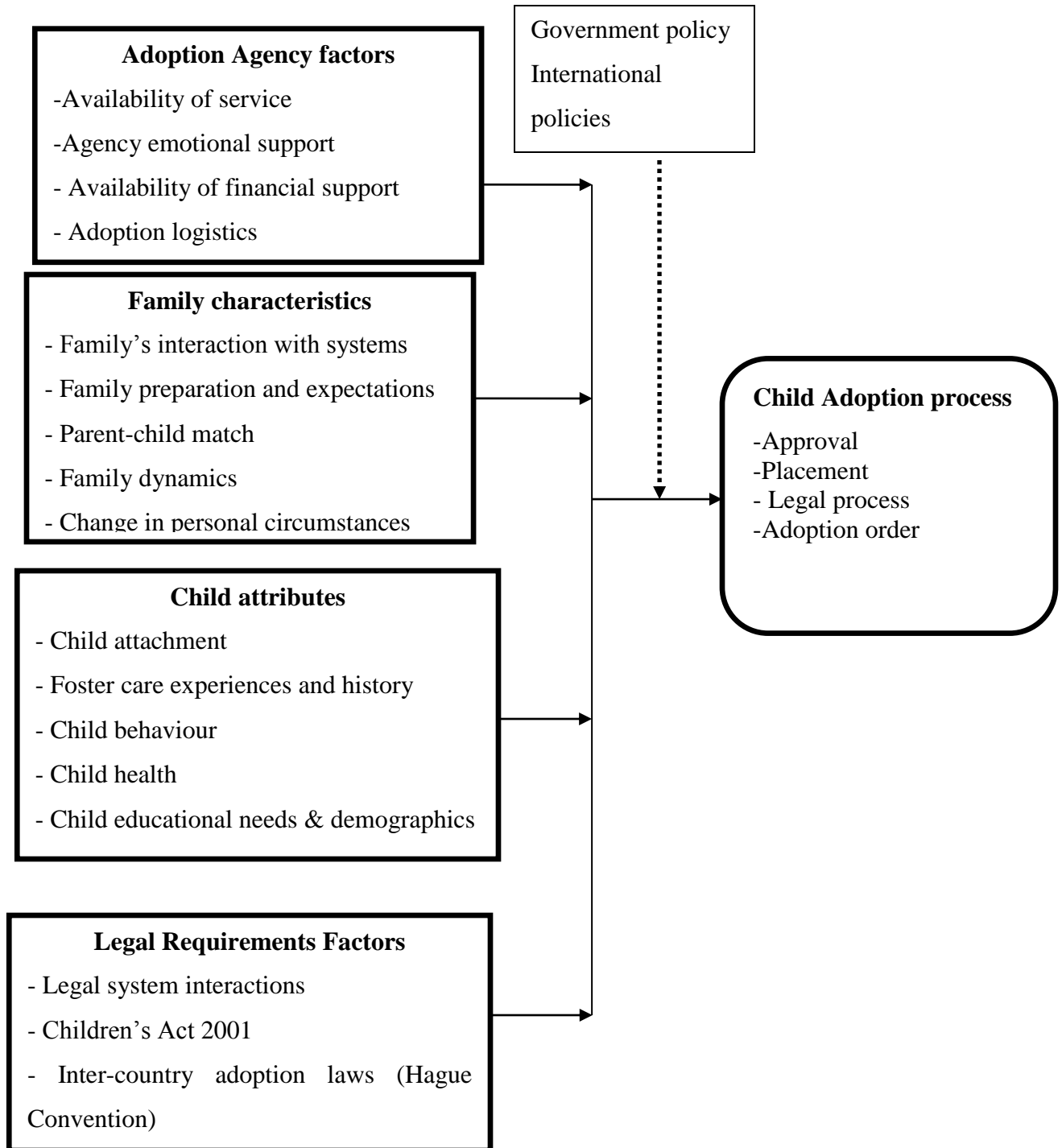
2.8 Conceptual Framework

This section provides a structural narrative description of the relationship between the variables forming the concepts of the study. In this study the framework below is an illustration of possible underlying factors influencing the adoption process of children in Kenya.

Independent variables

Moderating variables

Dependent variable



2.8.1 Agency characteristics

There are several agency factors which may influence the outcome of child adoption. These include availability of services, agency emotional support, availability of financial support, adoption process logistics, legal system interactions, jurisdictional and inter-jurisdictional issues, family assessments, level of agency bias and culturally competence, agency communication/responsiveness, and adoption exchanges. The agencies offer support to the adopting parents thereby influencing the child adoption process.

2.8.2 Family characteristics

These include family commitment, family's ability to interact with systems, systems support, family preparation and expectations, parent-child match, family composition, family dynamics, child integration, parenting ability and temperament, family distress at placement disruption, and change in personal circumstances. The success or failure of the child adoption process largely depends on the well-being of the adopting parents.

2.8.3 Child characteristics

The child factors are child attachment, foster care experiences and history, child behaviour, child health, child mental health, child educational needs, and child demographics. The child adoption process is also significantly affected by the psychological, physical and social well-being of the child being adopted.

2.10.4 Legal Requirements Factors

The legal requirements factors included legal system interactions, children's act and the inter-country adoption laws.

2.9 Chapter summary

The child adoption agencies are strategic in facilitation child adoption process through offering training to the adoptive parents, provision of information about the focus child. Knowing the problems up front helps the adoptive parents to identify the most appropriate therapist or

medication right away (Rycus, 2006). However, majority of the studies on factors influencing child adoption process such as Rycus (2006), Jones (2008) and Abidin (1995) were conducted in USA. Since there exists legal and contextual differences between USA and Kenya, similar study on factors influencing child adoption process is crucial.

The most significant family factors associated with a successful adoptive process include; sound economic background of adopting parents, an existing adoption history, a cordial relationship between the adopting spouses, minimal stressors, a good educational background, and a sound psychological well-being. The studies however, were conducted in the western countries where child adoption services are well streamlined and child adoption is highly practiced (Smith, (2005), Rycus (2006) and Selman (2010). A similar study in Kenya is critical in underpinning the contribution of family factors towards a successful child adoption process.

The child factors affected the child adoption process to a great extent. This is because, the age and educational background of the children, his/her temperament and behaviour and the status of mental health affect the adoption process (Selman *et al*, 2010). The study was done in the USA, Washington DC and a similar study in Kenya would show the differences and similarities of the role of child factors on child adoption process.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out various stages and phases that were followed in completing the study. In this section, the research identifies the procedures and techniques used in the collection, processing and analysis of data. Specifically, this chapter presents the research design, the target population, the sampling procedure, the sample, research instruments, data collection procedure and data analysis. The research methodology would provide a blueprint of the study.

3.1.1 Site Description

Nairobi County is one of the 47 Counties of Kenya. It's the capital city of Kenya which is also Kenya's largest city. Nairobi County was founded in 2013 on the same boundaries as Nairobi Province, after Kenya's 8 provinces were subdivided into 47 counties.

Nairobi is still by far the smallest administrative province in Kenya, but the most important in terms of the activities and functions it performs. Besides being the capital city of Kenya, it is also the country's largest urban centre, and one of the largest in Africa

In Nairobi, Kenya there are many active Non-Governmental Organizations running and supporting Charitable Children's Institutions; these range from orphanages to daycare and family support centers. The Children's Act of 2001 states that these organizations must have government approval. Unfortunately a significant number of the Charitable Children's Institutions are acting illegally and are not recognized by the government. For example, reports indicated that some organizations even recruit children to enter orphanages (Irene, 2009).

This recruitment is in contrast to the reunification principle found in the Kenyan Children's Act, which states: "if a child is separated from their family without the leave of the court the government will work towards reunification. Building more orphanages will likely only compound the crisis. The risk is evident: "Those who are poor see placing (their children) with

others who are more affluent as a sensible option. An orphanage may be able to clothe, feed, and school the child, but it cannot replace the love a family can provide. Rather, Charitable Children's Institutions monies could be better spent by supporting education, creating long-term job opportunities, and alleviating poverty. For example, the Institutions could assist ailing grandparents in caring for their grandchildren. Many NGOs have embraced this concept and actively seek to provide opportunities, education, and daycare, to help support the families of vulnerable children. NGOs small and large must focus their actions to harmonize with Kenya's development plans (Robyn, 2009).

3.2 Research Design

For the purpose of this study, the researcher employed descriptive survey research design. Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) state that the descriptive survey research design is a method which enables the researcher to summarize and organize data in an effective and meaningful way. The present study used descriptive survey research design which would be a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. Both methods of research are preferred because the researcher would be able to collect in-depth data to answer questions concerning the status of the subject of study. The quantitative approach used questionnaires that enabled the researcher to collect quantitative data for descriptive statistics. Qualitative research determines and reports the way things are and also helps a researcher to describe a phenomenon in terms of attitude, values and characteristics (Orodho, 2003). The design would be suitable for this study since it would help to describe the state of affairs as they exist without manipulation of variables (Kothari, 2004).

3.3 Study Population

According to Kothari (2004), a population is a well-defined set of people, services, elements, events, group of things or households that are being investigated. Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) explains that the target population should have some observable characteristics, to which the researcher intends to generalize the results of the study. This definition ensures that population of interest is homogeneous. The population of the study consisted of institutions managing child adoption in Kenya. There are 50 children homes registered in Nairobi County. The target

population of this study were the management staff of the children homes that formed the study respondents (Government of Kenya, Child Services Department, 2012).

3.3.1 Sample size and sampling procedure

According to Orodho and Kombo (2002), sampling is the process of collecting a number of individuals or objects from a population such that the selected group contains elements representative of the characteristics found in the entire group. Denscombe (2008) argues that no specific rules on how to obtain an adequate sample have been formulated. He suggests that in a homogenous situation a small sample would be required while in a heterogeneous variable situation a large sample is required. Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) suggest that 10-30 percent of the accessible population would be enough for descriptive surveys. Data was collected from the officials managing children homes (District officer Embakasi, 2014).

The study used purposive sampling technique to sample children homes mandated to carry out adoption of children in Nairobi County. Simple random sampling was used to select the respondents. The researcher sought information from two of the top managers in the operations department in each of the children homes. This gave the study a sample size of 140 respondents. To select the study respondents, the study used purposive sampling technique. In this method, the researcher purposively targeted a group of people believed to be reliable for the study (Denscombe, 2008). The study sought information from the ten key informants from the government officials, the Child Services Department, High Court and adoption agencies.

Table 3.1: Sampling Size

Sections	Sample
Children Homes/ Child Adoption Agencies	
Top level management staff	30
Middle level management staff	30
Child adoption department (in Child Services Department)	
Top level management staff	5

Middle level management staff	20
Social Workers	5
Child welfare society of Kenya	10
High Court	10
Parents	30
Total	140

3.3.2 Unit of analysis and observation

The unit of observation was the children homes offering child adoption services in Nairobi County. The study's unit of analysis was the factors influencing child adoption in Nairobi. These included the agency factors, family factors and child factors.

3.4 Data collection tools

This section provides information on the data collection tools applied in this study. The tools include; key informants' interviews, focus group discussion, secondary data from the government reports and other agencies sources and questionnaire.

3.4.1 Questionnaire

In this study both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. This is because the two methods have the possibility of change and of asking complimentary questions. Qualitative aspect is more dynamic, interactive and generates a more detailed data that contributes to in-depth understanding of the context in which the phenomenon under study takes place. On the other hand, the quantitative approaches would make it possible for the generation of the salient background characteristics of the study population. The approach therefore was triangulated in nature, comprising questionnaires administration, secondary data review and in-depth interviews. The three methods were used to generate information from officials of children's home in the study area. The questionnaire was used to enlist, in quantitative terms, the factors

influencing child adoption. The in-depth interviews were conducted on government officials from the Child Services Department, High Court and adoption agencies, as the key informants. The key informants were directly in touch with the child adoption in Nairobi.

3.4.2 Interviews

The interview method of collecting data involves presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses (Kothari, 2004). The interviews provided an in-depth picture of factors influencing adoption. The questionnaire comprised of questions, which sought to answer questions related to the objectives of this study. The questions entailed both closed ended to enhance uniformity and open ended questions to ensure maximum data collection and generation of qualitative and quantitative data. The constituents' questionnaire was divided into two sections, the background information section and the research questions section. Furthermore, the research questions section was divided to sections according to the research objectives. Semi-structured questionnaires were used to collect primary data from the respondents. In order to ensure uniformity in responses and to encourage participation, the questionnaires were kept short and structured to cover multiple-choice selections in a likert scale.

3.4.4 Key informants interviews

Key informant interviews are qualitative in-depth interviews with people who know what is going on in the community (Ngechu, 2004). The purpose of key informant interviews is to collect information from a wide range of people—including government officials from the Child Services Department, High Court, and adoption agencies—who have first-hand knowledge about the issue. These experts, with their particular knowledge and understanding, provide insight on the nature of problems and gave recommendations for solutions (Ngechu, 2004). A key informant guide was designed as a tool of data collection in this method. A few guiding questions were designed to lead the discussion with the key informants.

3.4.6 Secondary Data Review

This method of data collection primarily deals with data that has already been collected and is readily available from other sources like journals and technical reports. The data may either be published data or unpublished data (Kothari, 2004). The study reviewed secondary data from the government reports and other agencies sources dealing with child adoption for comparative purposes with the current study.

3.4.8 Validity of the research instrument

According to Bridget and Lewin (2005), validity is the degree by which the sample of test items represents the content the test is designed to measure. Saunders *et al.*, (2007) indicated that content validity is a measure of the degree to which data collected using a particular instrument represents a specific domain or content of a particular concept as intended. Lacity and Jansen (1994) define validity as making common sense, and being persuasive and seeming right to the reader while Cronbach, (1971) indicated that validity refers to results that have the appearance of truth or reality. Therefore, a pilot study would be conducted to refine the research instrument so that results obtained from the field would be a true representation of situation on the ground.

Therefore, validation of the research instrument was important to this study as it ensured that the study collected relevant information to answer the research questions. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) contend that the usual procedure in assessing the content validity of a measure is to use a professional or expert in a particular field. To establish the validity of the research instrument the research sought the opinions of experts in the field of study especially the University supervisor and lecturers. This facilitated the necessary revision and modification of the research instruments thereby enhancing validity.

3.4.9 Reliability of the research instrument

Reliability refers to the consistency of measurement and is frequently assessed using the test-retest reliability method. Reliability is increased by including many similar items on a measure, by testing a diverse sample of individuals and by using uniform testing procedures. Reliability gives the internal consistency of data collected. This ensures that the data has certain internal

consistent pattern. When no pattern is found in the responses, this indicates that probably the test is too difficult and as a result the respondents just guess the answers randomly.

The Shuttleworths' test retest formula was used to get the coefficient to estimate the reliability;

$$r_{xx^1} = \frac{S_1^2}{S_x^2}$$

Where;

x = Performance on the first measurement

x^1 = Performance on the 2nd measurement

r_{xx^1} = Correlation coefficient between x and x^1

S_1^2 = Estimated variance of the true score

S_x^2 = Calculated variance of the observed scores

$$r_{xx^1} = 0.7$$

Reliability of the research instrument was enhanced through a pilot study performed on a pilot group of 10 respondents from children homes that were not involved in the main study. The respondents were conveniently selected since statistical conditions were not necessary in the pilot study (Cooper and Schindler, 2003). The pilot data was not included in the actual study. The pilot study allowed for pre-testing of the research instrument. A correlation coefficient of above 0.7 was deemed that the instrument was reliable. The reliability coefficient results from the pilot study was 0.75, thus the questionnaire was reliable for data collection.

3.5 Data Analysis Technique

This area discusses the technique used by the study to analyze the data collected. The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis which is the process of presenting and interpreting numerical data. The responses collected from the questionnaires were checked for completeness and consistency and where errors were detected, necessary cleaning was done. The results of the research were both qualitative and quantitative information. The quantitative data collected was keyed in and analyzed using descriptive statistics with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20). The quantitative data generated was subjected to the descriptive Statistics feature in SPSS to generate mean, median, mode, standard deviation and variance, which have been presented using tables, frequencies and percentages. The study also applied inferential statistics to determine the causal relationship between the variables.

Qualitative Data Analysis is the range of processes and procedures whereby we move from the qualitative data that has been collected into some form of explanation, understanding or interpretation of the people and situations we are investigating. It is usually based on an interpretative philosophy. The idea is to examine the meaningful and symbolic content of qualitative data. In this research, the qualitative data from the in-depth interview was analyzed using content analysis. This was by developing a thematic framework from the key issues, concepts and themes emanating from the transcripts and field notes. The information generated was then interpreted and explained.

3.6 Ethical issues

The researcher sought permission from the relevant authorities before commencing the study. The respondents were assured that the study was meant for academic purpose only, and that their responses would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

3.7 Operationalization of variables

Table 3.2: Operationalization of variables

Objectives	Variables	Indicators	Measurement scale	Tools of Analysis	Specific Tool
To establish the influence of agency factors on child adoption process in Kenya	<p><u>Independent:</u> Agency factors</p> <p><u>Dependent:</u> <u>Child adoption process in Kenya.</u> -Compliance with the Children Act of 2001 -cordial relationship with adopted child - Transfer of rights and responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Availability of service -Agency emotional support level - Availability of financial support - Adoption logistics - Legal system interactions 	-Nominal -ordinal	Causal relationship	Correlation analysis
To assess the influence of family factors on child adoption process in Kenya.	<p><u>Independent:</u> Family factors</p> <p><u>Dependent:</u> <u>Child adoption process in Kenya.</u> -Compliance with the Children Act of 2001 -cordial relationship with adopted child - Transfer of rights and responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Family’s interaction with systems - Family preparation and expectations - Parent-child match - Family dynamics - Change in personal circumstances 	-Interval -Nominal -Nominal -Interval	Central Tendency Dispersion, and Causal relationship	Mean, standard deviation, regression and Correlation analysis

<p>To examine the influence of child factors on child adoption process in Kenya</p>	<p><u>Independent:</u> Child factors</p> <p><u>Dependent:</u> <u>Child adoption process in Kenya.</u> -Compliance with the Children Act of 2001 -cordial relationship with adopted child - Transfer of rights and responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - child attachment - foster care experiences and history - child behaviour - child health - child educational needs & demographics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Interval -Nominal -Nominal 	<p>Central Tendency Dispersion, and Causal relationship</p>	<p>Mean, standard deviation, regression and Correlation analysis</p>
<p>To investigate the influence of Legal requirement factors on child adoption process in Kenya</p>	<p><u>Independent:</u> Legal requirement factors</p> <p><u>Dependent:</u> <u>Child adoption process in Kenya.</u> -Compliance with the Children Act of 2001 -cordial relationship with adopted child - Transfer of rights and responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal system interactions - Children’s Act - Inter-country adoption laws (Hague Convention) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Interval -Nominal -Nominal 	<p>Central Tendency Dispersion, and Causal relationship</p>	<p>Mean, standard deviation, regression and Correlation analysis</p>

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents analysis and findings of the study as set out in the research methodology. The results were presented on the factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya. The study sought answers to the following research questions: What is the influence of agency factors on child adoption process in Kenya? What is the influence of family characteristics on child adoption process in Kenya? What is the influence of child attributes on child adoption process in Kenya? What is the effect of legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Kenya?

4.1.1 Response Rate

The study population was institutions managing child adoption in Kenya. The study targeted 140 respondents out of which 100 respondents participated in the study contributing to a response rate of 71.4%. This response rate was sufficient and representative and conforms to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) stipulation that a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a rate of 60% is good and a response rate of 70% and over is excellent. This commendable response rate was due to extra efforts that were made via personal calls and visits to remind the respondents to fill-in and return the questionnaires. The chapter covers the demographic information, and the findings are based on the objectives. The findings were then presented in tables, graphs and charts as appropriate with explanations being given in prose thereafter.

4.2 Demographic Information

The study sought to ascertain the general information about the respondents involved in the study with regards to their gender, age, education level and duration of working in their respective organizations. The demographic information points at the respondents' suitability in answering the questions on the factors that influence child adoption process in Kenya.

4.2.1 Sex of the respondents

The study sought to establish the sex of the respondents and the findings are as shown in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Sex distribution of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Male	43	43
Female	57	57
Total	100	100

According to the findings, majority of the respondents (57%) were female while 43% were males. This implies that most of the responses emanated from the females as they were the majority. It also means that there is gender disparity in the management of children homes where the majority of the children homes were managed by the females.

4.2.2 Age distribution of the respondents

The study sought to establish the age distribution of the respondents and the findings are as shown in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4 Age distribution of the respondents

	Frequency	Percent
20-30 years	7	7
31-40 years	21	21
41-50 years	30	30
Over 50 years	42	42
Total	100	100

According to the findings, most of the respondents (42%) were over 50 years, 30% were between 41-50 years, 21% were between 31-40 years while 7% were between 20-30 years. This implies that most of the respondents were old enough to fully understand factors that influence children adoption. Further it implies that most of the respondents were adults who had family obligations and hence would be in a position to provide credible information relating to factors that influence adoption of children.

4.2.3 Education Level

The study sought to establish the level of education of the respondents and the findings are as shown in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 Education Level

	Frequency	Percent
Diploma	46	46
Certificate	38	38
Graduate	12	12
Masters	4	4
Total	100	100

The findings established that most of the respondents (46%) were Diploma holders, 38% were certificate holders, 12% were Graduates while 4% had masters. This shows that most of the respondents had a sound academic background to allow them to understand factors that

influence adoption of children in Kenya. It further shows that the respondents were knowledgeable and could therefore give valid and reliable information based on their high level of education.

4.2.4 Length of working in the organization

The study sought to establish the length of time the respondents had worked within their organizations and the findings are as shown in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Length of working in the organization

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 year	16	16
1-5 years	44	44
6-10 years	32	32
Over 10 years	8	8
Total	100	100

The findings established that most of the respondents (44%) had worked within their organizations for 1-5 years, 32% for 6-10 years, 16% for less than one year and 8% for over 10 years. This depicts that most of the respondents had worked in their organizations for a long time and were well conversant with matters of children adoption.

4.3 Agency factors and child adoption process

The first objective sought to establish the influence of agency factors on child adoption process in Kenya. The findings are presented in the subsequent sections.

4.3.1 The effectiveness of the agency in offering adoption services

The study sought to establish the effectiveness of the agencies in offering adoption services and the findings are as shown in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 The effectiveness of the agency in offering adoption services

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	6	6
Great extent	10	10
Moderate extent	66	66
Little extent	18	18
Total	100	100

The findings indicated that majority (66%) of the respondents indicated that agencies' effectiveness in offering adoption services was to a moderate extent, 18% to a little extent, 10% to a great extent while 6% indicated that agencies' effectiveness in offering adoption services was to a very great extent. This implies that most of the agencies were less effective in offering adoption services and thereby delaying the adoption process. Therefore, agency factors were critical factors limiting the fast tracking of the child adoption process in Kenya due to poor effectiveness.

The findings are in line with Reilly (2003) who established that fifty-three families (33 percent) said that the agency contributed nothing to the success of the adoption. This affects adversely the child adoption process.

4.3.2 Agency provision of moral support

The study sought to establish the extent to which the agency provides moral support including emotional support to the adopting parent and the findings are as shown in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Agency provision of moral support

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	8	8
Great extent	14	14
Moderate extent	56	56
Little extent	22	22
Total	100	100

The findings indicated that majority (56%) of the agencies' provided moral support including emotional support to adopting parents to a moderate extent, 22% to a little extent, 14% to a great extent while 8% indicated that they provided moral support including emotional support to adopting parents to a very great extent. This implies that most of the agencies were providing insufficient level of moral support as well as emotional support to the adopting parents.

The findings are in line with Reilly, 2003 who established that sixty families (37 percent) reported that the agency contributed by providing moral support, which included emotional support to the parents, a partnership approach, a willingness to advocate for the family, and timely communication with the parents.

4.3.3 Agency provision of training and thorough information

The study sought to establish the extent to which the agency offered the adopting parents training and thorough information about the focus of child adoption process and the findings are as shown in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9 Agency provision of training and thorough information

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	12	12
Great extent	15	15
Moderate extent	57	57
Little extent	16	16
Total	100	100

The findings indicated that majority (57%) of the agencies provided training and thorough information about the focus of child adoption process to the adopting parent to a moderate extent, 16% to a little extent, 15% to a great extent while 12% indicated that the agencies provided training and thorough information about the focus of child adoption process to the adopting parent to a very great extent. This implies that majority of the agencies were providing inadequate training and thorough information about the focus child adoption process to the adopting parents.

The findings are in line with Reilly, (2003) who established that only twenty-three families (14 percent) identified receiving good training and honest and thorough information about the focus child as important to the success of their adoption. Rycus, (2006) further noted that parents reported that knowing the problems up front helped them to identify the most appropriate therapist or medication right away. The services they appreciated receiving were special attachment therapies and respite cares.

4.3.4 Agency factors influence on child adoption process

In order to further assess the influence of agency factors on child adoption process, the respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on the extent to which a number of relevant statements on agency factors are reflected in the child adoption process in Kenya. The responses were rated on a five point Likert scale where: 1 - Strongly Disagree 2 - Disagree 3 - Neutral 4- Agree and 5- Strongly Agree. The mean and standard deviations were generated from SPSS and are as illustrated in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10 Agency factors influence on child adoption process

	Mean	Std Dev
Our agency has been in offering adoption services to our clients	4.4	0.714
Agency contribute to the success of adoption process by providing moral support, which included emotional support to the parents	4.6	0.647
As an agency we use a partnership approach in facilitating adoption process	4.1	0.121
Our agency advocate for the family, and offers timely communication with the parents on child adoption	3.9	0.655
Agency contributes nothing to the success of the adoption	1.5	0.813
Agency-provided resources and services which are important to the success of their adoption	4.6	0.647
Parents receive good training and honest and thorough information about the focus child towards the success of their adoption	4.8	0.224
The agency provides parents with the background of the child in-terms of status of their health, their upbringing problems	4.3	0.391
Agencies should increase their efforts at family recruitment.	3.7	0.129
The agencies offer their services to the clients in a simplified manner	3.8	0.812

From the findings majority of the respondents are in agreement that; parents receive good training and honest and thorough information about the focus child towards the success of their adoption (mean = 4.8), agency-provided resources and services which are important to the success of their adoption and agency contribute to the success of adoption process by providing moral support, which included emotional support to the parents (mean = 4.6), our agency has

been in offering adoption services to our clients (mean = 4.4), the agency provides parents with the background of the child in-terms of status of their health, their upbringing problems (mean = 4.3), as an agency we use a partnership approach in facilitating adoption process (mean = 4.1), our agency advocate for the family, and offers timely communication with the parents on child adoption (mean = 3.9), the agencies offer their services to the clients in a simplified manner (mean = 3.8), agencies should increase their efforts at family recruitment (mean = 3.7) while majority of the respondents are in disagreement that agency contributes nothing to the success of the adoption, respectively.

This depicts that agency factors significantly influence child adoption process in Kenya. Through the child adoption agencies, the adopting parents were informed and trained to enhance the adoption process, and were provided with resources and relevant services as well as moral and emotional support.

These findings are collaborated by Smith (2005), who noted that the agencies provided at least one really helpful worker or that the agency did a really thorough job. He further noted that twelve families (seven percent) mentioned the financial support provided by the agency as contributing to the success of the adoption. The agency strives to place children into well-screened and suitable homes whilst also keeping within the ethos of the society and adhering to best practices and the best interests of the child.

The findings are also in line with the studies of Rycus (2006), who noted the child adoption agencies plays a strategic role in facilitation child adoption process through offering training to the adoptive parents, provision of information about the focus child. Knowing the problems up front helps the adoptive parents to identify the most appropriate therapist or medication right away.

4.4 Family factors and child adoption process

The second objective sought to establish the influence of family factors on child adoption process in Kenya. The findings are presented in the subsequent sections.

4.4.1 Family factors affecting child adoption process

The study sought to establish the various family factors that influence child adoption process in Kenya. The study revealed the following factors as some of the key family factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya; the economic status of the adopting parents, nature of relationship between the adopting spouses, level of educational background, a sound psychological well-being and the existence of an adoption history.

4.4.2 The economic status of the adopting family and the adoption process

The study sought to establish the extent to which the economic status of the adopting family affects the adoption process and the findings are as shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11 The economic status of the adopting family and the adoption process

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	46	46
Great extent	40	40
Moderate extent	11	11
Little extent	3	3
Total	100	100

The findings showed that most (46%) of the respondents agreed that; the economic status of the adopting family affects the child adoption process to a very great extent, 40% to a great extent, 11% to a moderate extent while 3% of the respondents agreed that the economic status of the adopting family affects the child adoption process to a little extent. This implies that the economic status of the adopting family is an essential factor that influences the child adoption process in Kenya.

These findings are line with studies by Smith (2005), Rycus (2006) and Selman (2010) who noted that among the most significant family factors associated with a successful adoptive process is sound economic background of adopting parents. These findings are also collaborated by the research by Rosenthal, Schmidt and Conner (1988) who stated that the majority of

parents who adopt internationally are middle class to upper middle class with high educational standards and achievement-oriented plans for raising children.

4.4.3 Family history of child adoption and adoption of other kids

The study sought to establish the extent to which the family history of child adoption encourages adoption of other kids and the findings are as shown in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Family history of child adoption and adoption of other kids

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	14	14
Great extent	44	44
Moderate extent	32	32
Little extent	10	10
Total	100	100

The findings indicate that most of the respondents (44%) are in agreement that family history is an important factor in child adoption, 32% agreed to a moderate extent, 14% agreed to a very great extent while 10% agreed to a little extent. This implies that existing family history of the clients is an influential factor in the child adoption process in Kenya.

These findings are in line with those of Smith (2005), Rycus (2006) and Selman (2010) who noted an existing adoption history as one of the most significant family factors associated with a successful adoptive process.

4.4.4 The relationship between the adopting partners and the adoption process

The study sought to establish the extent to which the relationship between the adopting partners influence the adoption process and the findings are as shown in Table 4.13.

Table 4.13 The relationship between the adopting partners and the adoption process

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	26	26
Great extent	36	36
Moderate extent	24	24
Little extent	14	14
Total	100	100

The findings indicate that most (36%) of the respondents are in agreement that the relationship between the adopting partners influence the child adoption process, 26% agreed to a very great extent, 24% agreed to a moderate extent while 14% agreed to a little extent. This implies that the relationship between the adopting partners significantly influence the child adoption process in Kenya.

These findings collaborate with those of Smith (2005), Rycus (2006) and Selman (2010) who noted that one of the most significant family factors associated with a successful adoptive process is a cordial relationship between the adopting spouses.

4.4.5 Influence of family factors on child adoption process in Kenya

In order to further assess the influence of family factors on child adoption process, the respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on the extent to which a number of relevant statements on family factors are reflected in the child adoption process in Kenya.

The responses were rated on a five point Likert scale where: 1 - Strongly Disagree 2 - Disagree 3 - Neutral 4- Agree and 5- Strongly Agree. The mean and standard deviations were generated from SPSS and are as illustrated in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14 Influence of family factors on child adoption process in Kenya

Statements on Influence of family factors on child adoption process	Mean	Std Dev
The family economic background affect the adoption process	4.8	0.114
The family history of child adoption encourages adoption of other kinds	4.1	0.331
The relationship between the adopting partners influence the adoption process	3.7	0.649
stressors to the family puts adoptive families in jeopardy of adoption instability such as parental stress,	3.9	0.125
The majority of parents who adopt are middle class to upper middle class with high educational standards and achievement-oriented plans	4.2	0.142
The diminished capacity for adopting families to be flexible and allow change demean the adoption process	4.4	0.341
Psychological well-being of the parent contributes directly to the parent's ability to adopt	4.2	0.541
High levels of parental stress are correlated with disturbances of attachment in adopted children	4.3	0.122

From the findings majority of the respondents are in agreement that; the family economic background affect the adoption process (mean = 4.8), the diminished capacity for adopting families to be flexible and allow change demean the adoption process (mean = 4.4), high levels of parental stress are correlated with disturbances of attachment in adopted children (mean = 4.3), the majority of parents who adopt are middle class to upper middle class with high educational standards and achievement-oriented plans and the psychological well-being of the

parent contributes directly to the parent's ability to adopt (mean = 4.2), the family history of child adoption encourages adoption of other kids (mean = 4.1), stressors to the family puts adoptive families in jeopardy of adoption instability such as parental stress (mean = 3.9) and the relationship between the adopting partners influence the adoption process (mean = 3.7). This implies that family factors play an important part in the child adoption process in Kenya.

This illustrates that family factors are a critical factor that influences the child adoption process in Kenya. Aspects of family such as its economic status, its ability to be flexible and allow change as well as the levels of parental stress all influence the success of child adoption by the family.

These findings are collaborated by the research of Smith (2005), Rycus (2006) and Selman (2010) who noted that the most significant family factors associated with a successful adoptive process include; sound economic background of adopting parents, an existing adoption history, a cordial relationship between the adopting spouses, minimal stressors, a good educational background, and a sound psychological well-being.

4.5 Child factors and child adoption process in Kenya

The third objective sought to establish the influence of child factors on child adoption process in Kenya. The findings are presented in the subsequent sections.

4.5.1 The child factors that influence child adoption process

The study sought to establish the various child factors that influence child adoption process in Kenya. The study revealed the following factors as some of the key child factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya; the child's adoptive experience, the child's history, the age of the child, educational background of the child, the child's temperament and behaviour and the child's mental status health.

4.5.2 Child's age and educational background and adoption

The study sought to establish the extent to which the age and educational background of the children affect their adoption and the findings are as shown in Table 4.1.5.

Table 4.15 Child's age and educational background and adoption

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	10	10
Great extent	64	64
Moderate extent	22	22
Little extent	4	4
Total	100	100

The findings indicate that majority (64%) of the respondents are in agreement that; the age and educational background of the children affect their adoption to a great extent, 22% agreed to a moderate extent, 10% agreed to a very great extent while 4% agreed that the age and educational background of the children affect their adoption to a little extent. This implies that the age and educational background of the children is an important factor that affects the child adoption process.

These findings are in line with the studies of Rycus (2005) who noted that school-age children learn to describe and control their feelings. As they mature, their relationships deepen. They discover the ability to consider others' feelings and points of view. Therefore age of the child and the level of development determine the success of the adoption process. Children develop an identity based on who they are in relation to their family, classmates, ethnic group, and community members. This is a major developmental task, particularly in the upper age range of this group. These findings also agree with the work of Selman *et al* (2010) who noted that the age and educational background of the children, his/her temperament and behaviour and the status of mental health affect the adoption process significantly

4.5.3 Children’s temperament and behaviour and their adoption

The study sought to establish the extent to which the child’s temperament and behaviour affect their adoption and the findings are as shown in Table 4.16.

Table 4.16 Children’s temperament and behaviour and their adoption

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	16	16
Great extent	34	34
Moderate extent	38	38
Little extent	12	12
Total	100	100

The findings indicate that most of the respondents (38%) are in agreement that the child’s temperament and behaviour affect their adoption to a moderate extent, 34% agreed to a great extent, 16% agreed to a very great extent while 12% agreed that the child’s temperament and behaviour affect their adoption to a little extent. This implies that the child’s temperament and behaviour is an important factor in the child’s adoption.

These findings are in line with the studies of Selman *et al* 2010 who noted that child factors affect the child adoption process to a great extent. He noted that the age and educational background of the children, his/her temperament and behaviour and the status of mental health affect the adoption process significantly.

4.5.4 The child mental health and their adoption

The study sought to establish the extent to which the children’s mental health affect their adoption and the findings are as shown in Table 4.17.

Table 4.17 The child mental health and their adoption

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	35	35
Great extent	46	46
Moderate extent	12	12
Little extent	7	7
Total	100	100

The findings indicate that most of the respondents (46%) are in agreement that the child's mental health affect the child's adoption to a great extent, 35% agreed to a very great extent, 12% agreed to a moderate extent while 7% agreed that the child's mental health affect the child's adoption to a little extent. This implies that the child's mental health is a crucial factor that affects child adoption.

These findings are in agreement with the studies of Selman *et al* (2010) who noted that child factors affect the child adoption process to a great extent. He noted that the age and educational background of the children, his/her temperament and behaviour and the status of mental health affect the adoption process significantly.

4.5.5 Influence of child factors on child adoption process in Kenya

In order to further assess the influence of child factors on child adoption process, the respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on the extent to which a number of relevant statements on child factors are reflected in the child adoption process in Kenya. The responses were rated on a five point Likert scale where: 1 - Strongly Disagree 2 - Disagree 3 - Neutral 4- Agree and 5- Strongly Agree. The mean and standard deviations were generated from SPSS and are as illustrated in Table 4.18.

Table 4.18 Influence of child factors on child adoption process in Kenya

	Mean	Std Dev
Children adopted from institutions have severe behavioral, emotional or developmental issues that challenge and deflate parental expectations	3.1	0.374
Children with more insecure attachment had more behavioral problems and parents experienced more stress as a result; high levels of parental stress negatively impact the quality of attachment	4.1	0.566
The age and education level of the children affect the adoption	3.8	0.173
The temperament levels of the children affect the adoption	3.4	0.853
The family background of the children affect their level of social interaction ultimately affecting the adoption process	4.4	0.112
Children who have been separated abruptly from previous caretakers or who have insecure attachment to their primary caregivers may be anxious with new adopting families	4.5	0.561
The child behaviour and health affect their adoption	4.6	0.285

From the findings majority of the respondents are in agreement that; the child behaviour and health affect their adoption (mean = 4.6), Children who have been separated abruptly from previous caretakers or who have insecure attachment to their primary caregivers may be anxious with new adopting families (mean = 4.5), the family background of the children affect their level of social interaction ultimately affecting the adoption process (mean = 4.4), Children with more insecure attachment had more behavioral problems and parents experienced more stress as a result; high levels of parental stress negatively impact the quality of attachment (mean = 4.1), the age and education level of the children affect the adoption (mean = 3.8), the temperament levels of the children affect the adoption (mean = 3.4) and children adopted from institutions

have severe behavioral, emotional or developmental issues that challenge and deflate parental expectations (mean = 3.1). This depicts that child factors are critical factors that influence child adoption process in Kenya.

This illustrates that child factors are a critical factor that influences the child adoption process in Kenya. Aspects such as the child's behaviour and health, children who have been separated abruptly from previous caretakers or who have insecure attachment to their primary caregivers may be anxious with new adopting families and the family background of the children affect their level of social interaction and these ultimately affects the child's adoption process.

These findings are collaborated by the research of Selman *et al* (2010) who noted that child factors affects the child adoption process to a great extent. He noted that the age and educational background of the children, his/her temperament and behaviour and the status of mental health affect the adoption process significantly.

4.6 Legal requirements factors and child adoption process in Kenya

The last objective sought to establish the influence of legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Kenya. The findings are presented in the subsequent sections.

4.6.1 The legal requirements factors that influence child adoption process

The study sought to establish the various legal requirements factors that influence child adoption process in Kenya. The study revealed the following legal factors as some of the key ones influencing child adoption process in Kenya; Children's Act 2001, inter country adoption laws as well as residency of the prospective adopting parent in Kenya for a defined time periods.

4.6.2 The legal requirements factors and child adoption

The study sought to establish the extent to which the legal requirements factors affect child adoption and the findings are as shown in Table 4.19.

Table 4.19 The legal requirements factors and child adoption

	Frequency	Percent
Very Great extent	40	40
Great extent	41	41
Moderate extent	10	10
Little extent	9	9
Total	100	100

The findings indicate that most of the respondents (41%) are in agreement that the legal requirements factors affect child adoption to a great extent, 40% agreed to a very great extent, 10% agreed to a moderate extent while 9% agreed that the legal requirements factors affect child adoption to a little extent. This implies that the legal requirements factors are a crucial factor that affects child adoption.

These findings collaborate with Inter-country Adoption Office (2009) requirements that state that prospective adoptive parents must reside in Kenya, in the capacity of foster parents, for three months prior to legally completing the adoption of their foster child. This also applies to citizen adoptions. While this is not an attempt by Kenya to limit inter-country adoption, the unintended result is in fact dampening the utilization of inter-country adoption in serving children and runs counter to the Hague Guide to Good Practice. These findings are also amplified by John (2008) who notes that ultimately it is most important that all actors work within the law, evaluate their motives and actions, and work toward a solution shaped not by international hands, but by Kenyans.

4.6.3 The effect of legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Kenya

In order to further assess the influence of legal requirements factors on child adoption process, the respondents were requested to indicate their level of agreement on the extent to which a number of relevant statements on legal requirements factors are reflected in the child adoption process in Kenya. The responses were rated on a five point Likert scale where: 1 - Strongly Disagree 2 - Disagree 3 - Neutral 4- Agree and 5- Strongly Agree. The mean and standard deviations were generated from SPSS and are as illustrated in Table 4.20.

Table 4.20 The effect of legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Kenya

	Mean	Std dev
Legal system interactions affect the child adoption process in Kenya	3.7	0.48795
Children’s Act 2001 greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya	4.4	0.51411
Inter-country adoption laws greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya	4.1	0.69007

From the findings majority of the respondents are in agreement that; Children’s Act 2001 greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya (mean = 4.4), Inter-country adoption laws greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya (mean = 4.1) and the legal system interactions affect the child adoption process in Kenya (mean = 3.7). This implies that the legal requirements factors are a critical factor that influences child adoption process in Kenya.

This illustrates that legal requirements factors are a significant factor that influences the child adoption process in Kenya. Legal aspects such as the Children’s Act 2001, legal system interactions and inter-country adoption laws these affect the child’s adoption process.

These findings collaborate with Inter-country Adoption Office (2009) requirements that state that prospective adoptive parents must reside in Kenya, in the capacity of foster parents, for three months prior to legally completing the adoption of their foster child. This also applies to citizen adoptions. While this is not an attempt by Kenya to limit inter-country adoption, the unintended result is in fact dampening the utilization of inter-country adoption in serving children and runs counter to the Hague Guide to Good Practice. These findings are also amplified by John (2008) who notes that ultimately it is most important that all actors work within the law, evaluate their motives and actions, and work toward a solution shaped not by international hands, but by Kenyans.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents summary of findings, discussion, conclusions and recommendations of the study in line with the objectives of the study. The research sought to establish factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya.

5.2 Summary of Findings

From the findings, it was established that there are a wide range of factors that influence child adoption process in Kenya. The study sought to establish the effect of the agency factors, family characteristics, child attributes and the legal requirements on child adoption.

The study found out that the agency factors involved; parents receive good training and honest and thorough information about the focus child towards the success of their adoption (mean = 4.8), agency-provided resources and services which are important to the success of their adoption and agency contribute to the success of adoption process by providing moral support, which included emotional support to the parents (mean = 4.6), our agency has been in offering adoption services to our clients (mean = 4.4), the agency provides parents with the background of the child in-terms of status of their health, their upbringing problems (mean = 4.3), as an agency we use a partnership approach in facilitating adoption process (mean = 4.1), our agency advocate for the family, and offers timely communication with the parents on child adoption (mean = 3.9), the agencies offer their services to the clients in a simplified manner (mean = 3.8), agencies should increase their efforts at family recruitment (mean = 3.7) while majority of the respondents are in disagreement that agency contributes nothing to the success of the adoption, respectively.

Therefore, for the child adoption process to become more efficient and effective in Kenya, the agencies needed to offer adequate training and thorough, honest and timely information to the

adopting parents, provide resources and services which are important to the success of the adoption and provide moral and emotional support to the adopting parents, provide adopting parents with background information of the child in-terms of status of their health and their upbringing problems, use a partnership approach in facilitating the adoption process, offer their services to the clients in a simplified manner and increase their efforts at family recruitment.

The study also revealed that the economic status of the adopting parents, nature of relationship between the adopting spouses, level of educational background, a sound psychological well-being and the existence of an adoption history are important family attributes that influence the child adoption process in Kenya.

From the study findings, it was established that; the family economic background affect the adoption process (mean = 4.8), the diminished capacity for adopting families to be flexible and allow change demean the adoption process (mean = 4.4), high levels of parental stress are correlated with disturbances of attachment in adopted children (mean = 4.3), the majority of parents who adopt are middle class to upper middle class with high educational standards and achievement-oriented plans and the psychological well-being of the parent contributes directly to the parent's ability to adopt (mean = 4.2), the family history of child adoption encourages adoption of other kids (mean = 4.1), stressors to the family puts adoptive families in jeopardy of adoption instability such as parental stress (mean = 3.9) and the relationship between the adopting partners influence the adoption process (mean = 3.7).

Thus family factors are a significant factor that influences child adoption process in Kenya. A positive family set-up is important for purposes of adoption to provide the adopted child with a place they can call and feel at home.

The study also revealed that a wide range of the child's attributes influence his/her adoption. The study found out that; the child behaviour and health affect their adoption (mean = 4.6), Children who have been separated abruptly from previous caretakers or who have insecure attachment to their primary caregivers may be anxious with new adopting families (mean = 4.5), the family background of the children affect their level of social interaction ultimately affecting the adoption process (mean = 4.4), Children with more insecure attachment had more behavioral

problems and parents experienced more stress as a result; high levels of parental stress negatively impact the quality of attachment (mean = 4.1), the age and education level of the children affect the adoption (mean = 3.8), the temperament levels of the children affect the adoption (mean = 3.4) and children adopted from institutions have severe behavioral, emotional or developmental issues that challenge and deflate parental expectations (mean = 3.1).

Therefore, the children's attributes greatly influence their adoption. Their age and education level, their temperament, their behavior, their health and attachment to their primary caregivers are all aspects of a child's attribute that affect the child adoption process.

The study also established that legal requirements are a crucial factor in the child adoption process in Kenya. The study found out that; Children's Act 2001 greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya (mean = 4.4), Inter-country adoption laws greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya (mean = 4.1) and the legal system interactions affect the child adoption process in Kenya (mean = 3.7). It is therefore important that both the agencies and the adopting parents adhere to the laid down laws regulating child adopting for the process to be legal and acceptable.

5.3 Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that for the child adoption process to become more efficient and effective in Kenya, the adopting agencies needed to offer adequate and thorough training, honest and timely information to the adopting parents, to provide resources and services which are important to the success of the adoption, to provide moral and emotional support to the adopting parents, to provide adopting parents with background information of the child in-terms of status of their health and their upbringing problems. The child adoption agencies required to use a partnership approach in facilitating the adoption process, to offer their services to the clients in a simplified manner and to increase their efforts at family recruitment.

The findings are similar to Reilly (2003) whose study illustrated that agency contributed by providing moral support, which included emotional support to the parents, a partnership approach, a willingness to advocate for the family, and timely communication with the parents.

The study established that the economic status of the adopting parents, nature of relationship between the adopting spouses, level of educational background, a sound psychological well-being and the existence of an adoption history were important family attributes that influenced the child adoption process in Kenya.

The findings agree with Smith (2005), Rycus (2006) and Selman (2010) who revealed that the most significant family factors associated with a successful adoptive process include; sound economic background of adopting parents, an existing adoption history, a cordial relationship between the adopting spouses, minimal stressors, a good educational background, and a sound psychological well-being.

The family factors were a significant factor that influenced child adoption process in Kenya. A positive family set-up was important for purposes of adoption to provide the adopted child with a place they feel at home. According to Rycus (2006) family factors were a significant factor that influenced child adoption process.

From the study findings, it was established that the children's attributes greatly influenced the success of the adoption process. Their age and education level, their temperament, their behavior, their health and attachment to their primary caregivers were all aspects of a child's attribute that affected the child adoption process.

The findings resonate with Selman *et al*, (2010) who argue that the age and educational background of the children, his/her temperament and behaviour and the status of mental health affect the adoption process significantly.

The study also revealed that both the agencies and the adopting parents adhered to the laid down laws regulating child adopting for the process to be legal and acceptable. According to Irene (2009) most of the agencies and the adopting parents adhered to the laid down laws regulating child adopting for the process in Kenya which were are child centered.

5.4 Conclusions

The study concludes that the agencies play an important role in the child adoption process in Kenya as they are the link between the children to be adopted and the desiring clients. This important role can be achieved by the agency providing parents with good training and honest and thorough information about the child focus, providing resources and services which are important to the success of their adoption, providing moral and emotional support to the adopting parents, offering adoption services to their clients, providing adopting parents with accurate background information of the child in-terms of status of their health and their upbringing problems, using a partnership approach in facilitating adoption process, providing their services to the clients in a simplified manner and agencies increasing their efforts at family recruitment.

The study concludes that family characteristics are an important factor that affects child adoption process in Kenya. The study concludes that family factors such as the family's economic background, the diminished capacity for adopting families to be flexible and allow change, high levels of parental stress and the psychological well-being of the parent, the family history of child adoption, stressors to the family and the relationship between the adopting partners all have a significant influence on the child adoption process.

The study also concludes that the child factors also influence the child adoption process in Kenya. The child's adoptive experience, the child's history, the age of the child, educational background of the child, the child's temperament and behaviour and the child's mental status health are all important child factors that greatly affect the child's adoption.

Further, the study concludes that the legal requirements factors have a great influence on Kenya's child adoption process. Legal aspects such as the Children's Act 2001, legal system interactions, inter-country adoption laws and residency of the prospective adopting parent in Kenya for a defined time periods affect the child's adoption process

5.5 Recommendations

- i. The study recommends that the agencies need to improve their adoption services to their clients by ensuring that they provide adopting parents with good training, timely, honest and thorough information about the child focus, other supportive resources and services which are important to the success of the adoption, moral and emotional support to the adopting parents, accurate background information of the child in-terms of status of their health and their upbringing problems. The agencies should adopt a partnership approach to facilitate the adoption process and need to provide their services to their clients in a simplified manner.
- ii. The study recommends that both the agencies and the adopting parents should abide by the existing legal framework in Kenya that regulates child adoption. The existing law should act as the reference/guide for all child adoption cases. This validates the process and makes it acceptable.
- iii. The study further recommends that before finalizing of the child adoption process, the agencies should undertake an in-depth examination (due diligence) of the adopting parents to ascertain their suitability to ensure best welfare of the adopted child. The agencies should further make follow-ups on the adopting parents, after the adoption, to ensure the safety and well-being of the adopted child

5.6 Suggestion for Further Studies

Since this study explored factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya, the following area of study should be conducted on the effect of country adoption laws on the child adoption process in Kenya.

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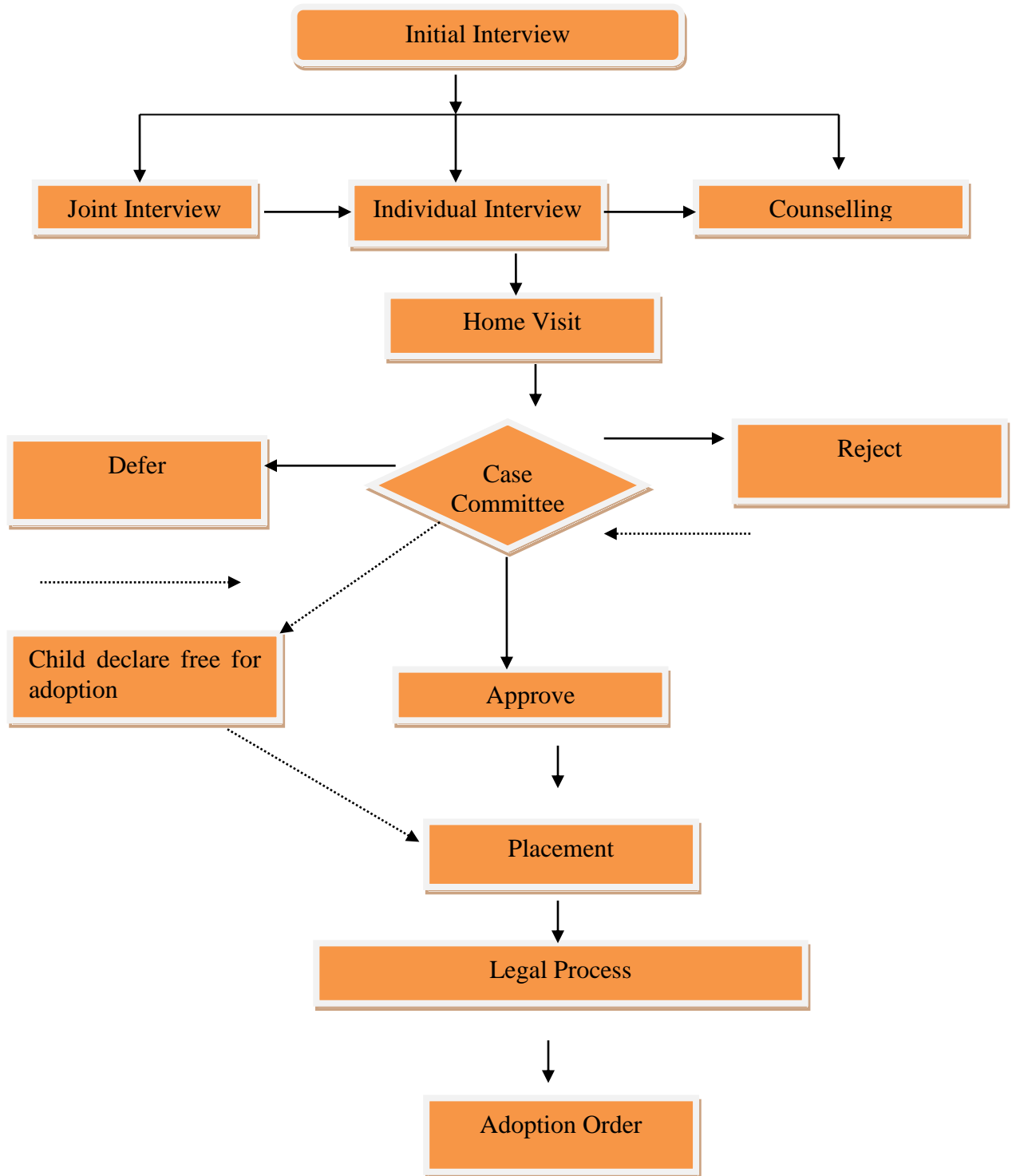
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Figure 1: Adoption Process in Kenya



Source: Little Angels Network (2010). Adoption flier

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CHILD ADOPTION AGENCIES, CHILD SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY AND PARENTS

FACTORS INFLUENCING CHILD ADOPTION PROCESS IN KENYA

I am Jacquei Wahu Ngugi, a student at the University of Nairobi taking a Master in Project Planning and Management. As a requirement for the fulfillment of the Masters degree, I intend to carry out research on “Factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya.” This questionnaire is therefore for the purpose of the academic research only and the information gathered will be treated confidentially. Please answer all the questions provided as honestly as possible, to the best of your knowledge.

Do I have your consent to proceed? Yes [] No []

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Sex Male [] Female []

2. What is your age in complete years?

3. What is your highest level of education?

a) P1 [] b) Diploma [] c) Certificate [] d) Graduate []

f) Masters [] g) Others (specify

4. For how long have you been working for this organization?

Less than 1 year [] 1-5 years []

6-10 years [] Over 10 years []

Section B: Agency factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya

5. How effective have your agency been in offering adoption services?

Very effective [] effective [] Moderately effective []

Less effective []

6. To what extent does your agency provide moral support including emotional support to the adopting parents?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

7. To what extent does your agency offer the adopting parents training and thorough information about the focus child adoption process?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

8. What is your level of agreement with the following statements on agency factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya? Use a scale of 1-5 where 1= Strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-moderately agree, 4-agree and 5= Strongly agree.

	1	2	3	4	5
Our agency has been in offering adoption services to our clients					
Agency contribute to the success of adoption process by providing moral support, which included emotional support to the parents					
As an agency we use a partnership approach in facilitating adoption process					

Our agency advocate for the family, and offers timely communication with the parents on child adoption					
Agency contributes nothing to the success of the adoption					
Agency-provided resources and services were important to the success of their adoption					
Parents receive good training and honest and thorough information about the focus child towards the success of their adoption					
The agency provides parents with the background of the child in-terms of status of their health, their upbringing problems					
Agencies should increase their efforts at family recruitment.					
The agencies offer their services to the clients in a simplified manner					

Section C: Family factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya

9. What are the family factors that affect the adopting family in the adoption process?

.....

.....

10. To what extent does the economic status of the adopting family affect the adoption process?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

11. To what extent does the family history of child adoption encourages adoption of other kinds?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

12. To what extent does the relationship between the adopting partners influence the adoption process?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

13. What is your level of agreement with the following statements on family factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya? Use a scale of 1-5 where 1= Strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-moderately agree, 4-agree and 5= Strongly agree.

	1	2	3	4	5
The family economic background affect the adoption process					
The family history of child adoption encourages adoption of other kinds					
The relationship between the adopting partners influence the adoption process					
stressors to the family puts adoptive families in jeopardy of adoption instability such as parental stress,					
The majority of parents who adopt are middle class to upper middle class with high educational standards and achievement-oriented plans					
The diminished capacity for adopting families to be flexible and allow change demean the adoption process					
Psychological well-being of the parent contributes directly to the parent's ability to adopt					
High levels of parental stress are correlated with disturbances of					

attachment in adopted children					
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Section D: Child factors on child adoption process in Kenya

14. What are the child factors that influence child adoption process that you are aware of?

.....

15. To what extent does the age and educational background of the children affect their adoption?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

16. To what extent does the child’s temperament and behaviour affect their adoption?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

17. To what extent does the child mental health affect their adoption?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent []

Little extent []

18. What is your level of agreement with the following statements on child factors on child adoption process in Kenya? Use a scale of 1-5 where 1= Strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-moderately agree, 4-agree and 5= Strongly agree.

	1	2	3	4	5
Children adopted from institutions have severe behavioral, emotional or developmental issues that challenge and deflate parental expectations					
Children with more insecure attachment had more behavioral problems and parents experienced more stress as a result; high levels of parental					

stress negatively impacted the quality of attachment					
The age and education level of the children affect the adoption					
The temperament levels of the children affect the adoption					
The family background of the children affect their level of social interaction ultimately affecting the adoption process					
Children who have been separated abruptly from previous caretakers or who have insecure attachment to their primary caregivers may be anxious with new adopting families					
The child behaviour and health affect their adoption					

Section E: Legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Kenya

19. What are the legal requirements factors that influence child adoption process that you are aware of?

20. To what extent do the legal requirements factors affect child adoption?

Very Great extent [] Great extent [] Moderate extent [] Little extent []

21. What is your level of agreement with the following statements on effect of legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Kenya? Use a scale of 1-5 where 1= Strongly disagree, 2-disagree, 3-moderately agree, 4-agree and 5= Strongly agree.

	1	2	3	4	5
Legal system interactions affect the child adoption process in Kenya					
Children’s Act 2001 greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya					
Inter-country adoption laws greatly affect the child adoption process in Kenya					

Thank you for your time and co-operation

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

I am Jacquei Wahu Ngugi, a student at the University of Nairobi taking a Master in Project Planning and Management. As a requirement for the fulfillment of the Masters degree, I intend to carry out research on “**Factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya.**”

Do I have your consent to proceed?

Section A: Agency factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya

1. What are the agency factors that affect the adopting family in the adoption process?

.....
.....

2. How effective have your agency been in offering adoption services?

.....
.....

3. Does your agency provide moral support including emotional support to the adopting parents?

4. Does your agency offer the adopting parents training and thorough information about the focus child adoption process?

Section B: Family factors influencing child adoption process in Kenya

5. What are the family factors that affect the adopting family in the adoption process?

.....

6. Does the economic status of the adopting family affect the adoption process?

7. Does the family history of child adoption encourage adoption of other kinds?

8. Does the relationship between the adopting partners influence the adoption process?

Section E: Child factors on child adoption process in Kenya

9. What are the child factors that influence child adoption process that you are aware of?

.....

10. Do you think that the age and educational background of the children affect their adoption?

11. Do you think that the child's temperament and behaviour affect their adoption?

12. Does the child mental health affect their adoption?

Section E: Legal requirements factors on child adoption process in Kenya

13. What are the legal requirements factors that influence child adoption process that you are aware of?

14. To what extent do the legal requirements factors affect child adoption in Kenya?

.....

Thank you for your time and co-operation