

**Assessing whether Demographic factors  
influence peer pressure among secondary  
school adolescents in Nyahururu, Laikipia  
County.**

**By Gikonyo R.W. Laikipia University, Njagi K.,  
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# Introduction

- Research has shown that adolescents do yield to peer pressure while under certain demographic factors.



# Demographic factors

- Age
- Class
- Gender.





## What the experts say;

- Hall (1904) – adolescence – a period of storm and stress.
- Erickson – a time of identity crisis.
- Freud and Erickson – aid the researcher in establishing that adolescent seeks to form own identity by associating with a peer group.
- Jessor and Jessor (1977) – opinion of peers surpasses that of parents.





## Introduction, cont.

- Demographic factors e.g. age are vital as they influence peer pressure among adolescence.
- Peer groups are based on good looks, athletic ability, social class, academic performance, future goals, affiliation with religion, racial or ethnic group, sexual orientation, special talents, involvement in drugs and substance abuse and delinquency.
- Riesher, et al (2002)- argue- adolescents who bond with deviant peers play a significant role in delinquency. Such peers are behind school fires, strikes and drug peddling hence the above study.



# Methodology

- Survey research design involving description of the phenomenon under study. Gay (1992) – descriptive surveys are carried out to establish the status of the existing condition.
- Since events have already taken place or existed the researcher just selects the variables for analysis of their relationships (Best and Khan, 1993).
- IV-peer pressure
- DV – Demographic factors





## Methodology cont.

- 10 Secondary schools out of 13 (with a population of 2855) were selected.
- Stratified random sampling
- Provincial and district schools (2 strata)
- 1 out of 2 provincial schools (Randomly
- 9 out of 11 district schools sampled)
  
- **NB:** The 10 sample schools – 77% of the total 13.  
8 students – randomly selected – Fs 1, 2, 3 & 4  
= 32 students from each school = 320 sample  
10 teacher- counsellors



# Research instrument

- A questionnaire (one for students and one for teacher-counsellor).

## **Advantage of a questionnaire (Peil 1993)**

- Ensures anonymity of respondents
- More time to reflect on questions
- Suitable when dealing with a large population
- Confidentiality due to sensitive issue





# Pilot study

- 2 schools
- Validity of the instrument – Gay 1992 – degree to which an instrument measures what it purports to measure.
- Reliability – Gay 1992 – consistency of the instrument



# Data analysis

- Quantitative and qualitative.
- raw data – 1<sup>st</sup> scanned
- Coding – categories of responses
  
- **Quantitative analysis – used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS); descriptive statistics e.g. frequency counts and percentages.**





## Findings: Key finding

- The responses downplayed the effect of peer pressure on the adolescent but peer pressure vulnerability score was obtained:-
  - 26.6% - highly susceptible
  - 57.7% - low vulnerability – could become more vulnerable



# Kaplan (1996)

- **Age:** 4 – 9 yrs – low conformity to peer pressure  
11 – 13 yrs . most conformity  
after 13 yrs – decrease in sensitivity to peer pressure
- **Gender**
  - 85 (26.6%) – High vulnerability – 41 (29.7%) boys 44 (24.2%) girls.
  - 185 – Low vulnerability to peer pressure  
82 – boys (59.4%) & 103 (56.6%) girls.
  - 50 - Very low vulnerability  
15 (10.9%) boys; 35 (19.2%) girls
- This indicates that more boys than girls had high levels of vulnerability to peer pressure.





## Cont.

### **Social class**

- High levels of vulnerability – form two boys (32%) followed by form three (24%), then form four (23%) & least in form one (6%).
- ∴ Form 2 & 3 students appear to be most volatile; they highly experiment on risky behavior such as smoking, alcohol and drug abuse. This is partly due to their vulnerability to peer pressure.
- Teacher counselors use different methods to address the problems of negative peer pressure such as individual counseling which they rated as the most effective one (50%).



# Recommendation

- More training to teacher – counselors on how to deal with peer pressure among adolescents.



**Does peer pressure influence irresponsible sexual behaviours among secondary school adolescents in Nyahururu Division, Laikipia County, Kenya.**

- **By Gikonyo R.W., Laikipia University, Njagi K., Kabarak University**

# Introduction

- Adolescence – human growth & development 10 to 13 yrs – 18 to 22 yrs (Pritt 2000). A period of spurts of growth.
- Identity and independence, hence susceptible to peer pressure.
- Peer pressure: people of the same age urge one to do something or to keep from doing something else whether one wants to do it or not (Ryan 2000). Peer pressure encourages conformity to group norms.
- Adolescents rely on the peers for information on sexuality yet they are all uninformed and ignorant, hence leading to triple tragedy of HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancy, and unsafe induced, abortion (Kelly 2001).





## Introduction cont.

- Kaaya et al. (2002) – Sexually active adolescents in Kenya: 48% - boys; 17% - girls. Other sources give higher figures – AMREF and the centre for the study of Adolescents (SA) – over 80% of youth in Kenya are sexually active by age 24.
- Risky sexual behaviours among adolescents is of great concern. Hence the study.
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# Methodology

- Descriptive survey research design.
- WHY: - Gay (1992) – descriptive surveys used to establish the status of the existing condition of a phenomenon.
- Events already taken place or existed.
- Researcher just selects the relevant variables for analysis.
- 10 secondary schools out of 13 with population of 2855 were selected.
- Stratified random sampling – Provincial and district schools (two strata).
- Then 1 out of 2 provincial schools (randomly
- 9 out of 11 district schools sampled)
  
- **NB:** The 10 sample schools – 77% of the 13 (total)
- 8 students were randomly selected – Fs 1, 2, 3, 4.
- 32 students – total sample – 320  
10 teacher – counselors.





# Research instrument – a questionnaire

- one for students and one for teacher – counselor.
- Advantage of a questionnaire – (Peil 1993)
- Ensures anonymity of respondents
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- Suitable when dealing with a large population
- Level of confidentiality when issue is sensitive
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# Pilot study – 2 schools

- Validity of the instrument – Gay 1992 – degree to which an instrument measures what it purports to measure.
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# Data analysis

- Quantitative and qualitative
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# Findings

- Key finding – all the responses down played the effect of peer pressure on the adolescent.
- However, an overall peer pressure vulnerability score for the students was obtained.





# Conclusion

- Peer pressure plays a significant role in irresponsible sexual behavior among secondary school students in Nyahururu, Laikipia County.



# Recommendations

- Need to strengthen guidance and counseling in our secondary schools.