SELECTED HUMAN RIGHTS AGENCIES AND CHILD PROTECTION IN GAROWE, PUNTLAND, SOMALIA

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to examine the relationship between selected human rights agencies and child protection in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia. The study objectives were; to establish the role of Child rights advocacy on child protection in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia, to establish the effect of Child rights monitoring on child protection in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia and to assess the effect of child rights promotion on child protection in Garowe, Puntland, Somalia. Descriptive correlation design was used because the study was intended to establish if there was a relationship between selected human rights agencies and child protection in Garowe, Puntland Somalia. The study was carried out from three human rights agencies and these include UNICEF, Save the Children and UNHCR in Garowe-Puntland, Somalia. Garowe is the capital of Nugaal region and administrative capital of Puntland state in northeastern Somalia. The city is one of the large cities in Somalia with a population of about 190,000 residents. However, the study population was 168 community members in Garowe. Data was collected from primary and secondary sources using questionnaires and interviews. After collecting data, the researcher organized wellanswered questionnaire, data was edited and sorted for the next stage. The data was presented in tabular form with frequencies and percentages. The researcher used Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to analyze the relationship between the variables under study. The study concludes that children's inexperience and lack of development makes them both physically and emotionally vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Consequently, the law seeks to protect the child in this valnerable state. The study recommends that there is need to educate the Somali population about the benefits and protection of children and families that the Body of Ethical Principles against abuse of child rights. Mass awareness and advocacy campaigning programmes should target employers, community leaders, policy makers and civil society. Children working for instance in the urban informal sector as domestic servants are not readily 'visible' but 'invisible'.