

57. Psycho-social support to children infested by jigger in Kisii county: social work perspective

Amadi, Orucho Justine¹; Olita, Faith Inyele¹; Otieno, Kimberly Miser¹ and Njeru, Esther Njoki¹

¹Maasai Mara University
Corresponding author email: orucho@mmarau.ac.ke

Subtheme: Social Science Research in the Innovation Ecosystem

Abstract

Social workers are key professionals in assessing social care need and providing psychosocial support. Nonetheless the needs in jigger infiltration containment and control are not well managed. Tungiasis is both a social and public health concern worldwide. It affects the victim's quality of life through localization in the foot causing walking difficulties that reduce the normalcy of the infested child. Both social and psychological problems such as low self-esteem and stigma has been identified among the children infested with jiggers. The purpose of this study therefore was to investigate the role of a social worker in the prevention of jigger infestation among children in Kisii County. The study utilized descriptive survey design. The sample size was 50 pupils, 50 parents, 20 Key Informants and 20 practicing Social workers. The findings of the study reveal that in order to mitigate Tungiasis, the risk factors that contribute to their spread such as poverty, poor hygiene conditions, area sanitization, inadequate health facilities, sharing houses with domesticated animals, political negligence and controlled number of children in families should be addressed. social work practitioners should engage with children to assess challenges in social functioning, process information in ways that enhance their ability to maintain body hygiene, develop skills to curb tungiasis and create support for change. The study recommends a change of behaviour in the community and the superstitions perception on the causes of Tungiasis.

Key Words: Tungiasis, Social worker, Psychological problem, Stigma, Low self-esteem