

# DETERMINANTS OF CHILD SEX EXPLOITATION BY TOURISTS IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF MOMBASA NORTH COAST

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## ABSTRACT

Kenya is synonymous with Safari destination in tourism circles internationally because of its main two products namely; wildlife and Coastal beach. However, cultural and sex tourism products are becoming prevalent to tourist, such that the tourism industry is facing different challenges towards child sex exploitation by tourists (CSET) in Kenya. The purpose of this research was to find the determinants of CSET in Mombasa North Coast, Kenya (MNCK). The research adopted descriptive design. The target population was 108,778 (County government of Kilifi and Mombasa, 2017) children involved in sex tourism industry and sample size of 384 children were selected using Krejcie and Morgan Table (1970). The study used both purposive sampling and stratification methods in sampling the children. Convenient method was used to select 22 tourist hotels out of 44 tourist hotels (KAHC, 2018) in MNCK. The study used both primary and secondary data which was collected by use of questionnaire survey and direct observation. The analyzing of qualitative data was done by using a presented format in thematic content analysis. The quantitative data was analyzed by use of descriptive and inferential statistics through the help of statistical packages for social sciences (SPSS) whereby chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ), ANOVA and descriptive tests were performed. The research found out that the growth of tourism sector in MNCK has no proper controls especially those affecting children aged between 6 and 18 who make up 96.8% majority, which revealed that CSET is widespread at the MNCK tourist circuit. The study concluded that poverty (47.2%) is the major factor leading to the widespread of CSET in MNCK followed by peer pressure, illiteracy, modern technology and finally culture. Since, the CSET affects both the community and the children through their socio-economic life, the government through the tourism ministry has to strengthen the legal framework to be strictly followed by all stakeholders in the tourism sector in order to curb such illegal practices in Kenya, MNCK tourist circuit.

**Keywords:** Children, Sex, Tourists, Tourism, Determinants, Mombasa North Coast

## INTRODUCTION

Tourism and travel industry is one of the largest sector in terms of revenue and people are involved in both occupation and participation (WTO, 2012), whereby people travel from one place to another to do different activities for business and leisure, but not consecutively year around. It is estimated by United Nations World Tourism Organisation that tourism and travelling sector will have created 107 million jobs and supported directly or indirectly 284 million jobs, equivalent to one job in every 11 jobs in the world (WTTC, 2015), therefore, linkages are connected between tourism organizations along the global value chain. The tourism and travelling sector in Kenya improved its performance in 2018 as compared to 2017. International visitor arrivals increased by 14.0 per cent from 1,778.4 thousand in 2017 to 2,027.7 in 2018. The number of hotel bed-nights increased by 20.1 per cent from 7,174.2 thousand in 2017 to 8,617.9 thousand in 2018. International conferences held expanded by 6.8 per cent to 204 in 2018 compared to 191 in 2017. Visitors to national parks and game

reserves rose by 20.3 per cent to 2,868.9 thousand in 2018. overall, total tourism earnings increased from KES 119.9 billion in 2017 to KES 157.4 billion in 2018 (Economic survey, 2019). This remarkable recovery was due to improved security, successful conference tourism, aggressive marketing in domestic and international markets (Economic survey, 2018) and also withdrawal of travel advisories from foreign countries which lead to investors' confidence.

According to Sindiga (1996), tourism in Kenya is partially concentrated in parts of the country. Wildlife tourism is based in the country's hinterland like national parks and game reserves while beach tourism at the coast which makes it the leading tourism regional attraction according to hotel bed- night occupancy indicators (43.1%) in the whole country (Economic survey, 2018). The orientation of tourism in Kenya is both international and domestic. However, of recent domestic tourism is doing well because most of the local people have started to embrace travelling to parts of the country to see the scenery and have relaxation.

International tourists come from Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Italy (Economic survey, 2018). Tourists are taken to urban towns due to tourism facilities and nightlife's, however, at the coast most of such areas are adjacent to rural communities who are extremely poor whereby the youth move to such areas in search of jobs as tour guides and other related tourism activities (Mwakisha, 1995). According to Mwakisha (1995), youths are employed in lowly and menial jobs leading to loitering around tourist facilities. Parents send their children to such areas and to meet tourists who start engaging them in sex. In return, they get something for their upkeep and for their parents who are old such that they cannot do any income generating activities. According to Mwakisha (1995), this is one way of introducing children to sex tourism at the coast. Therefore, there is migration of children from rural to urban areas who exhibits antisocial behaviours towards community's social behaviours. Children who are born out of wedlock some becomes street children who are subjected to sexual tourism. The result of this migration leads to more illegal structures or informal settlements are set up like more bars, nightclubs and hotel and restaurants which have no regard to social impacts in the community and attracts more tourism.

MNCK is congested by settlers which is unattractive to some tourists, furthermore is a gate way to Lamu and Tana River counties which have security challenges, therefore, in this regard more tourists are heading to the South Coast of Kenya (Economic survey, 2018). In such a situation, there is a conflict of resources between the locals and the tourists at the North Coast. Such scenario which was witnessed in 1839 during the famine (Spear, 1978), whereby daughters and wives were surrendered to Arabs for the exchange of foods, it is now still flourishing between the local community and the tourists. According to Wojcicki (2002), prostitution in Kenya dates back to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the 1930s, the Bahava women migrated to urban areas to practice such illegal trade and they benefited by buying and building houses and paying school fees. The Haya women migrated to Nairobi and Mombasa to practise prostitution in 1920s in Nairobi to help their fathers who had no finance and later they became household heads and property owners (White, 1991). Prostitution practiced in towns is seen as of economic value and the local community have no problem with it if practiced in urban areas (Wojcicki, 2002). According to Dzoro (2001), Christianity and Muslim which was introduced to Mijikenda by Kraft and Rebman and the Arabs respectively did not support child sex exploitation. Also, the Mijikenda would not propose to underage girl for marriage which was traditionally

wrong (Corat, 1993). The tourists at the coast are involved in child sex exploitation (UNICEF, 2001; Onyango, 2002). The first study on CSET in Kenya was conducted in 2004 and highlighted children's involvement in sex tourism (Onyango, 2004). According to Wong-grunwald (2005) the study on child sex exploitation by tourists was disturbing. The study revealed that by enforcing various laws and code of conduct, CST is regarded as anti-tourism and some government officials tolerated the vice, although they understand the effects of child sex tourism (CST) which is manifested as child sex exploitation by tourists (CSET) (world vision, 2004).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Kenya's tourism started from the colonial era when settlers travelled to Kenya to partition the country for their own economic reasons and also for the coastal strip for relaxation by enjoying sand, sea, sun and sex. However, the coast has continued to attract more tourists (43%) than any other region in the country and performed commendably well in 2018 with annual bed capacity of 43.1% countrywide, however, domestic tourists, Europeans and Asians are the major sources of tourists to the Coast (Economic survey, 2018). Despite growth of tourism sector, the coastal people still are among the poorest with the poverty index of 61% (CBS, 2015). Lack of employment opportunities for the community has led to children dropping out of school to assist make a living by engaging in sex with tourists.

Although tourism contributes positively to the economy, it impacts local community whereby it transforms the socio-economic set up of local culture, including sex exploitation of children by tourists increasingly being accepted by tourists (Kasati, 2003). According to Dzoro (2001), a study done at Kaloleni, Coastal beaches showed children are affected socially and they drop from schools to migrate to the Coastal towns. According to Amref (2006), girls aged between 12 and 14 years head to tourist hotels and villas whereby they get exploited sexually by tourists with the promise of economic benefits. UNDP report (2018) found that the overwhelming majority of Kenyans, almost 80%, are either income-poor or near the poverty line. It is therefore imperative to explore the determinants that contributes to tourists to exploit children sexually in Kenya at Mombasa North Coast tourist circuit, since the previous studies done did not come up with adequate factors leading to CSET.

### **Objective of the study**

The purpose of this research was to find the determinants of child sex exploitation (CSET) in Mombasa North Coast, Kenya (MNCK).

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Introduction

Child sex exploitation is rising in most developing countries which depends on tourism like the Caribbean, Thailand and Cambodia (UNICEF, 2017) offering this emerging product due to competitiveness in tourism industry. Tourism and travel is whereby people move from one place to another for a particular period for leisure among others. In leisure places tourists meet the locals and engage in anti-social behaviours (Schwab, 2005). According to Tepelus (2004), sex tourists are adult male from developed countries who moves to developing countries where laws and regulations on child sex are not enhanced by law enforcers. American worldwide contributes 25% of sex tourism (Tepelus, 2004). The tourism sector improved performance in 2018 by total earnings increasing by 31.3 per cent to 157.4 billion in 2018 (Economic survey, 2019).

### Domestic tourists

Domestic tourists are Kenyan nationals and foreigners working or living in Kenya who visit tourist attraction destinations. According to Economic survey (2019), bed-night occupancy in hotels, lodges and other rooming houses by Kenyan residents occupied more than half of the total bed-nights in 2018. The hotel bed nights' capacity grew by 19.5 per cent to 26,500.6 thousand in 2018, showing the significance of domestic tourism (Economic survey, 2019).

### Tourism products and attractions in Kenya

Kenya is recognized in tourist products namely; wildlife tourism and beach tourism and of late cultural tourism like the Maasai culture. The most visited areas are the Coast, wildlife parks and reserve (Economic survey, 2019). In this regard most of investors have undertaken to develop tourism and hospitality facilities at the Mombasa North Coast which has long term effect in the socio-economic impacts to the local communities especially the child. Kenya is divided into tourism circuits to be visited by tourists (Wanyama, 2006), namely Coastal circuit which consists of north coast and south coast with various tourist products in the parks and reserves and beaches. Other tourist's circuits include; Western Kenya, Northern Kenya; South Rift: North Rift and Central Kenya, in in all these circuits, according to Wanyama (2006), children under age are involved in sex tourism and most of them are heading to the Coast for the vice.

### Global child sex exploitation

Child sex tourism is a global problem and it is difficult to ascertain the exact number of children and tourists involved in sex tourism (Raven, w.2009). The CSE is a global challenge to tourist stakeholders which has a big effect to the children. The most affected children are

from dysfunctional families and previous victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, children affected by migration, children with disabilities and children of sex workers (Eurochild, 2011). The USA military servicemen away from home are considered to get sexual services from local population especially from Asian countries (Alexis, 2009). Thailand, Cambodia, India, Brazil and Mexico have been identified as the leading countries in child sex tourism (Rogers, 1989).

In Thailand 90% are female while in Sri Lanka 90% are male, and in Philippines, young boys account for 60% of child prostitutes. In South East Asia women are subjected to become concubines and bonded according to the society. In North Africa, prostitution of children in Algeria, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia is argued to be due to temporary child marriages where offenders reportedly offers high prices for virgins as the culture values chastity and/ or purity highly, same applies to some parts of the Kenyan society (Hall, 1991).

### Kenya child sex exploitation

In Kenya the protection of children from sexual exploitation is found in the Children's Act 2001 and the sexual offence Act 2006, which criminalizes child prostitution. In a recent study by UNICEF, the Coastal towns of Malindi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Diani are reported to have 10,000 to 5,000 underage girls exploited by tourists and an estimated 30,000 girls aged from 2 to 4 are sexually exploited in beaches, hotels and private villas (UNICEF and GOK (2006). According to this study, the figures cited above have doubled due to poverty and immigration to towns. The UNICEF study ranks Italians, Germans, Swiss, Ugandans and Tanzanians as most involved in CSET, whereby 30% are residents and 70% are foreigners.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Mombasa North Coast tourism circuit from Nyali to Mtwapa in Mombasa and Kilifi Counties in Kenya (Appendix 1). The Coastal strip is a mixture of different ethnic communities: Mijikenda estimated to be 2.48 million (CBS, 2019) (the Wagiriama, Wadigo, Wachonyi, Wakauma, Wajibana, Waribe, Warabai, Waduruma And Wakambe) (Sindiga, 1996); Waswahili; Asians; Arabs; European residents and Kenyans from upcountry (Spear, 1978) who stays in urban areas. The other ethnic groups at the coast are Ormas, Pokomos, Bonis, Munyuyayas, Wailwanas, Malokotes, Sanyes, Watas, Bajunis and Taitas (Janmohamed, 1976)

### Economical activities

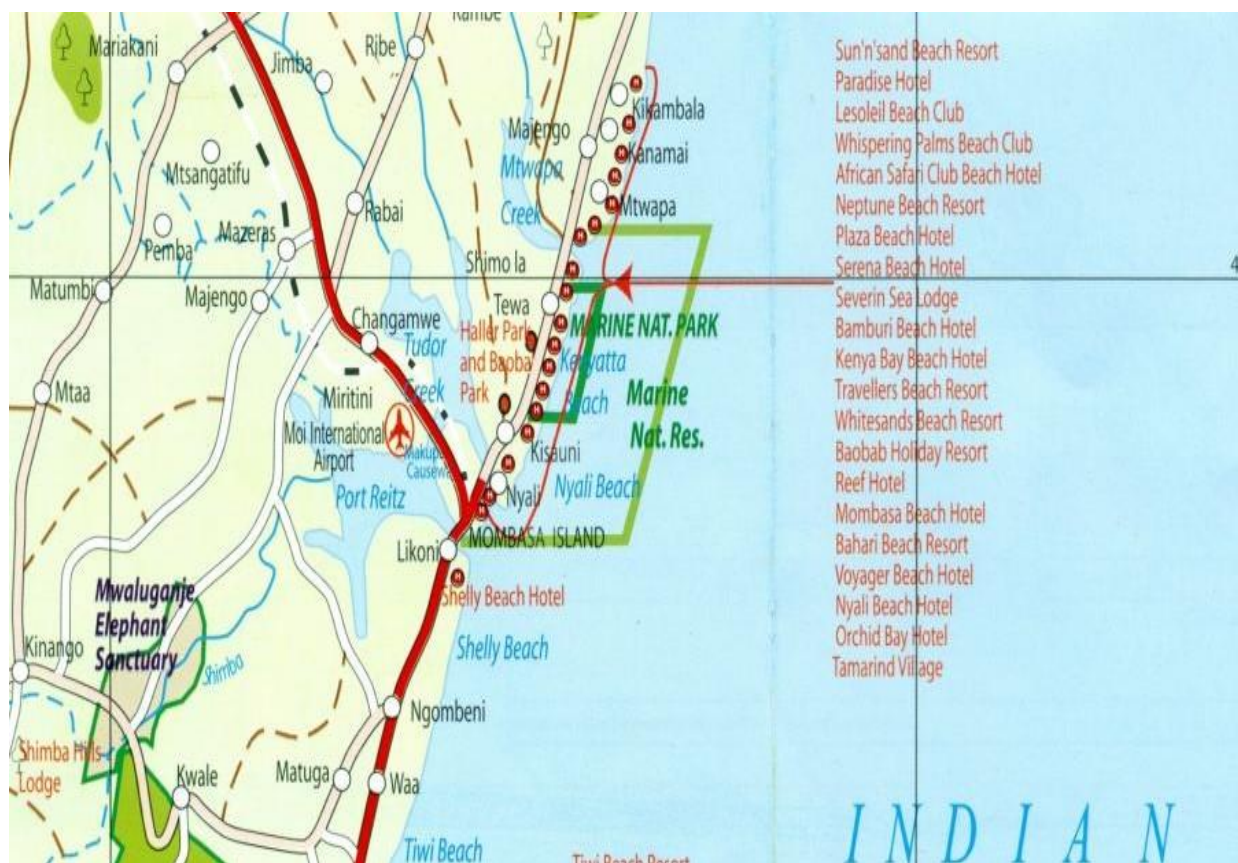
The Coastal strip of Kenya, the national poverty index stands at 57.6% and the socio-economic indicators reveal that more than half of the population lives in

absolute poverty for example, Kilifi and Malindi poverty level is more than 65%, furthermore, less than 13% of the population is in wage labour (Kilifi district development plan, 2002).

The major economic activities at the coastal strip are tourism and its related activities with few formal employments at Bamburi and Vipingo industries and in the government circles. In such a case unemployment and poverty may lead children to engage in child sex tourism. Therefore, children have adopted the foreign lifestyle affecting and influencing their behaviours, although, elders have tried to keep their identity without success (Mwakisha, 1995).

#### **Popular tourist areas at the coast**

The coastal strip of Kenya is popular to tourists because of its proximity to various attractions which include: National parks and Game reserves, the Tsavo East and Tsavo West national parks, tropical forests in Africa “the Arabuko Sokoke, and the Shimba Hills game reserve; Marine parks include Watamu, Malindi, Mombasa and Kisite Mpunguti; Museums, fort Jesus Museum, Gede ruins, Shimoni slave caves and Vasco da Gama’s pillar. This has increased the number of tourists to the coastal strip and making children to become beach boys and girls and also tour guides. In such situation, children are involved in anti-social activities including CSET (Jacobson, 1995).



**Tourist map of Kenya: Mombasa North Coast, Kenya**

Source: Tourist map of Kenya

#### **Research Design**

Descriptive research design was applied for both quantitative and qualitative approaches to determine associations between the variables used in the study (Chissim, 1996). The descriptive survey research was utilized to allow the researcher to undertake the insight of the phenomenon under study and also provides accurate descriptive analysis of the characteristics of a

sample which can be used to make inferences about populations (Kerlinger, 1973). The target population of the children consisted of 271 for the study from 22 tourist hotels (KAHC, 2016). The area was selected due to its rapid growth in tourism and hospitality infrastructure put in place (Economic survey, 2018). Purposive sampling method was used for the study.

According to Maxwell (1996) purposive sampling is a strategy in which particular persons or events are selected intentionally in order to provide vital information that cannot be received from other choices. The method was used to recruit key informants for the interviews and where all possible samples have same probability of being selected, free of biasness. The approach was used since there was no list of the children of the study population (Fowler, 2013). In this case, targeting children's who had the desired information about sex tourism and who were willing to share with the researcher. The targeted population was all the 102,712 children (CBS 2004) who had the knowledge of CSET activities. A sample size of 271 was selected using convenient sampling to 115 male and 156 female children, since even using a 10% representation was high to select the sample. Majority of the children came to hotels to look for tourist's other places like beaches. 10% of employees in tourist hotels, 20 females and 15 males were selected using purposive sampling method to assist in identifying the children who comes to the hotels. According to KAHC (2018) Coastal region has 44 registered tourist's hotels. Of these, 22 hotels were selected for the study by using convenient sampling.

Descriptive analysis test was used which includes means, percentages and frequency distributions. Inferential analyses comprise of chi-square, exploratory factor analysis, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (kmo) and Bartlett's test of Sphericity and ANOVA test. However, quantitative data were entered and analysed using SPSS (version 21.0). Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) and ANOVA tests were performed at 95% confidence limit and the p-value of statistical significance set at  $p < 0.05$  ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ), which is the accepted level of confidence. Qualitative data were organized into various headings like summarizing, consolidating, merging and harmonizing information.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Educational Level of Children**

Out of the 271 children respondents, 54.2% (n=147) had secondary education. Those with primary education accounted for 17.3% (n=47), A-level holders of education accounted for 22.1% (n=60), while those with no education at all accounted for 6.3%. Specifically, 42.4% (n=115) children interviewed in the present study were male and 57.6% (n=156) were female (Figure 6.3). However, there was no significant difference in the levels of education by gender ( $\chi^2 = 3.546$ ;  $df = 3$ ;  $p = 0.019$ ) (Table. 1).

**Table 1. Children's background information and determining factors for CSET**

Children's background and sex exploitation		Gender				$\chi^2$	df	p-value
		Male		Female				
		f	%	f	%			
Citizenship	Kenya	41	35.7	152	97.4	3.098	1	0.001
	Non-Kenyan	74	64.3	4	2.6			
	None	13	11.3	4	2.6			
Education Level	Primary	15	13.1	32	20.5	3.546	3	0.019
	Secondary	59	51.3	88	56.4			
	A level	28	24.3	32	20.5			
Age in years	1-5	2	1.7	5	3.2	7.164	3	0.017
	6 – 10	25	21.8	36	23.1			
	11 – 15	30	26.1	35	22.5			
	16 – 18	58	50.5	80	51.2			
Determinants of tourists' exploit children sexually	Poverty	58	50.5	70	44.9	7.342	4	0.012
	Illiteracy	17	14.8	23	14.7			
	Culture	6	5.2	11	7.0			
	Modern technology	8	7.0	15	9.6			
	Peer pressure	22	19.1	32	20.6			
	Other, specify	4	3.4	5	3.2			

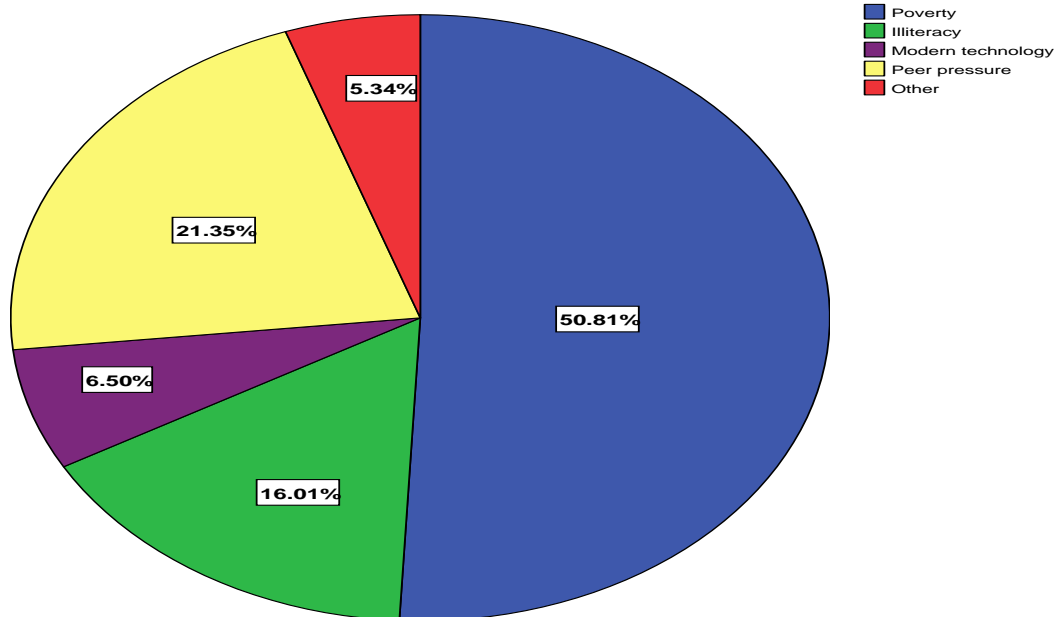
**Factors Contributing to CSET**

Majority of children respondents the factors that contribute to tourists exploiting children sexually are poverty (47.2%, n=128) followed by peer pressure, illiteracy, modern technology, culture and other factors who accounted for 19.9%(n=54), 14.8%(n=40),

8.5%(n=23), 7.0%(n=19) and 3.3%(n=9), respectively (Figure 1). Female gender contributed more to poverty factor (54.7%, n=70) than male gender which contribute only 45.3% (n=58) for poverty factor ( $\chi^2 = 12.7$ ;  $df = 5$ ;  $p = 0.04$ ). Peer pressure for sexual exploitation accounted for 59.3% and 40.7% by female and male

gender, respectively ( $\chi^2 = 2.782$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p = 0.671$ ). Illiteracy factor accounted for 54.5% ( $n=23$ ) for female gender and 42.5% ( $n=17$ ) male gender ( $\chi^2 = 6.125$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p = 0.02$ ). As for modern technology factor, constituted 65.2% ( $n=15$ ) and 34.8% ( $n=8$ ) of children respondents by female and male gender respectively ( $\chi^2$

$= 5.981$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p = 0.028$ ). While, culture factor accounted for 64.7% ( $n=11$ ) for female gender and 35.3% ( $n=6$ ) for male gender ( $\chi^2 = 11.562$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p = 0.672$ ). Five respondent (55.6%) by female and 44.4% ( $n=4$ ) by male gender contributed other factors ( $\chi^2 = 1.641$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p = 0.041$ ) (Table 1; Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Factors contributing to CSET**

### Inferential Statistics

**Correlation Analysis:** The study conducted a correlation analysis to investigate the existence and nature of relationship on the factors that contribute to tourists exploiting children sexually and CSET (Table 2). There was a positive relationship between CSET and poverty illiteracy as indicated by a Pearson correlation of  $0.726^{**}$ . This relationship was found to be statistically significant as the significant value was 0.000. Moreover, a Pearson correlation coefficient of  $.731^{**}$  and  $.611^{**}$  indicate a strong and positive relationship between CSET and culture and modern technology respectively. This relationship was found to be statistically significant as the significant value was 0.001 which is less than 0.05. There is a positive relationship between CSET and peer pressure as indicated by a Pearson correlation coefficient of  $.648^{**}$ . This relationship was found to be statistically significant as the significant value was 0.000 which is less than 0.05 (Table 2).

### Regression Analysis

To establish individual effects, the study conducted a regression analysis. The results are summarized in Tables 3, 4 and 5. Table 3 shows the coefficient of the constants and regression equation. Holding other factors constant then CSET would be 0.106. A unit increase in poverty results to a 0.487 unit increase in CSET, holding other factors constant. A unit increase in illiteracy leads to a 0.591 increase in CSET, a unit increase in culture results in a 0.395-unit increase in CSET. A unit increase in modern technology results to a 0.487-unit increase in CSET, holding other factors constant. A unit increase in peer pressure results in 0.487-unit increase in CSET. All predictors are statistically significant at  $\alpha=0.05$  since p-values were less than 0.05 (Table 3).

From Table 3, the study established the following regression equation:  $y = 0.106 + 0.487x_1 + 0.591x_2 + 0.395x_3 + 0.423x_4 + 0.37290 + e$



**Table 2. Summary of the findings**

		CSET	Poverty	Illiteracy	Culture	Modern technol.	Peer Pressure
CSET	Pearson correlation	1	.726**	.431**	.611**	.748**	.444**
	sig. (2-tailed)	-	0.000	0.001	0.002	0.001	0.003
	n	271	271	271	271	271	271
Poverty	Pearson correlation	.726**	1	.321**	.352**	.324**	.324**
	sig. (2-tailed)	.000	-	0.003	0.002	0.001	0.001
	n	271	271	271	271	271	271
Illiteracy	Pearson correlation	.431**	.321**	1	.343**	.223**	.223**
	sig. (2-tailed)	.001	0.003	-	0.004	0.003	0.001
	n	271	271	271	271	271	271
Culture	Pearson correlation	.611**	.352**	.343**	1	.312**	.312**
	sig. (2-tailed)	.000	0.002	.004	-	0.015	0.001
	n	271	271	271	271	271	271
Modern Technology	Pearson correlation	.648**	.324**	.223**	.312**	1	.342**
	sig. (2-tailed)	.000	0.001	.003	0.000	-	0.000
	n	271	271	271	271	271	271
Peer Pressure	Pearson correlation	.648**	.324**	.223**	.312**	.342**	1
	sig. (2-tailed)	.000	0.001	.003	0.001	0.002	0.00
	n	271	271	271	271	271	271

Source: researchers' data (2018)

**Table 3. The Coefficients of the constants and regression equation. Source: research data (2018)**

Coefficients model	unstandardized coefficients		standardized coefficients	t	sig.
	b	std. error	beta		
1 (constant)	.106	.117	-	-0.555	.002
Poverty (x1)	.487	.087	.211	4.480	.001
Illiteracy (x2)	.591	.143	.196	4.116	.000
Culture (x3)	.395	.118	.211	3.001	.003
Modern technology	.423	.099	.261	4.222	.004
Peer pressure					

**Model Summary**

The model summary indicates  $r^2 = 0.669$ . This implies that 66.9% of the variations are explained by the variations in the independent variables x1, x2, x3 and x4. This means that they can be used to predict CSET, and therefore a multiple regression model is an efficient predictor. The study further tested the significance of the model by use of analysis of variance

(ANOVA). From the ANOVA statistics, the review set up the relapse demonstrate had a significance level of 0.2% which means that the population parameters as the estimation of significance level was fewer than 5%. The ANOVA show an f-value = 78.333 which is significant at p-value 0.002. This is an indication that poverty, illiteracy, culture, modern technology and peer pressure have a significant effect on CSET.

**Table 4. Model summary**

Model	r	r square	adjusted r square	std. error of the estimate
1	.818a	.669	.652	.37290

a. predictors: (constant) CSET, poverty, illiteracy, culture, modern technology, peer pressure

Source: research data (2018)

**Table 5. ANOVA of factors contributing to CSET**

Model		sum of squares	df	mean square	f	sig.
1	Regression	18.861	6	3.14352	58.213	.002b
	Residual	14.31	265	.054		
	Total	12.0952	271			

a. dependent variable: CSET

b. predictors: (constant), poverty, illiteracy, culture, modern technology, peer pressure

**Source: Research data (2018)**

## DISCUSSION

### Factors contributing to children's involvement in CSET

It became necessary to identify the factors that influence child sex exploitation by tourists in Mombasa North Coast tourism circuit. The children were therefore asked to state the factors that they considered as contributors to child sex tourism. In this regard interaction with tourists was considered contributors to CSET activities alongside other factors that were mentioned by the children as discussed below. The findings revealed that poverty is the main factor of CSET. Literature reviewed revealed by the poverty index estimates that the proportion of people living in poverty in Mombasa North Coast has increased rapidly resulting in worsening of key social indicators including child sexual exploitation. The community members consider the school environment as the place where the children learn about CSET activities from their pressure as second contributor to CSET.

Illiteracy was also mentioned as a factor that contributes to CSET. A majority of the respondents had achieved primary level of education and above, this seems to suggest that the children of Mombasa North Coast do not have illiteracy problem, or that the type of illiteracy mentioned as a factor in CSET is not a matter of attaining basic education in primary and post primary levels of education. Another possibility is that since only 15% of the interviewed acknowledged being direct participants in CSET, probably most of CSET victims are uneducated. However, Deb (2006) is of the opinion that considering illiteracy as a cause of child sex abuse is a myth but he argues that all children from all backgrounds are equally vulnerable to child sex exploiters. His opinion can however be contested by arguing that parental illiteracy plays a great role in a child's predicaments. Herath and Sharma (2007) contend that most children who have been reported to experience child abuse and exploitation are found to experience acute poverty, low literacy among parents, inadequate education facilities, and non-enforcement of child protection and criminal laws. This shows that the initial cause of child sex exploitation is parental illiteracy rather than the child's literacy levels. This can be supported by the fact that the interaction between

the children and the tourists becomes more likely for children with upper primary and secondary levels of education, that is, between tourists and children who have some basic level of education rather than children who have not gone to school or are in lower primary.

Another important factor that is modern technology. When one of the children who acknowledged being active in CSET was asked to provide the research enumerators with her contacts, she instead gave them her names and requested them to find her details in 'Facebook'. Discussions with children revealed that modern smart phones with internet are avenues by which tourists get in touch with the children. Most children with phones communicate with tourists via cellphone chat features such as to go and safari chats in addition to the normal sms chat services. Thus, the contribution of modern technology to activities such as CSET cannot be over emphasized. A few children also mentioned culture as a factors contributing to CSET.

In summary, the study revealed the fundamental factor influencing CSET is poverty followed by illiteracy and peer pressure. The government officials also not enforcing the laws in place due to corruptions and no political goodwill to eradicate the CSET in Mombasa North Coast. Consequences of CSET include school drop-out, unwanted pregnancies, diseases like HIV/AIDS and child drug abuse. This continued trend makes the region lag behind in development and increase in poverty level among the local community.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussions, the following has been concluded; first, the local community at Mombasa North Coast often tolerates inappropriate or even illegal tourist behaviour because of the 'hand-outs' they receive from tourists. Children involved in CSET are victims of circumstances including poverty which stakeholders take advantage to promote CSET. However, there are many children at Mombasa North Coast who are in vulnerable to CSET who are readily available for cheap sexual activities and also they can be used to an illegal activity like drug abuse among others. In such circumstances tourists have no respect to the cultural and traditional values of the local



community. On the other hand, since tourists are positioned to spend relatively large amount of money, their motives are rather based on acquaintance and leisure. Finally, the government officials fail to enforce laws to prohibit the CSET at Mombasa North Coast as required by the law. However, to formulate the child sex policy strategy the government should invite professional body in tourism to inject professionalism in tourism like Tourism Professional Association.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to eradicate CSET at Mombasa North Coast, there is need to adopt deterrent measures apart from curative measures and may be adopted at different levels. The government should have a tourism policy on sustainable tourism to local community focusing on children which is tourism sustainability and intendeds to involve and improve the living standard of the children by generating and retaining revenue in the local community through employment. There should be skills training and entrepreneurship activities within the community to the children by assisting them to go back to learning schools/institutions and have programs to retain them for future life. For further research, there is need to conduct research in the relationship between child drug abuse and child sex exploitation; entrepreneurship opportunities for children at Mombasa North Coast; and, development of tourist education/learning programmes for the children at Mombasa North Coast.

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