# **DETERMINING EFFECTS OF CORONA VIRUS AMONG FOOTSTEPS BENEFICIARIES IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENT**

# C:\Users\Cynthia\Desktop\image.jpg

# Conducted : April- May 2020

#  Problem and Rationale

Corona virus has had devastating effects globally. In Kenya, Specifically in Kiambio, kariobangi and other slums Corona virus has led to the closure of informal business and loss of employment which subsequently has resulted to increase in inadequate access to food in the slum area. Additionally, people in informal settlements have poor knowledge and are ignorant of what the virus is all about. Poverty in the slum has increased the inadequate access to sanitization products.

# Objective

Footsteps baseline survey objectives were:

1. To find out the effect of corona virus on informal jobs and business among footsteps beneficiaries
2. To find out the effect of corona virus on food security and access among Footsteps beneficiaries
3. To establish weather footstep’s beneficiaries have knowledge about Corona Virus prevention measures
4. To determine if footsteps beneficiaries have access to Sanitization products

The survey helped footsteps come up with a strategic intervention plan to mitigate the adverse effects of corona virus on girls and women enrolled in Footsteps Program.

The survey was limited to Footsteps beneficiaries living in informal settlements and limited to four variables i.e. effects on Food access, knowledge, sanitization product access and informal jobs. The study assumed that all respondents had basic mobile phones, and cooperated and provided accurate information.

# Methodology

A descriptive survey was employed on a target population of 200 households. A census was done for the 200 respondents who are beneficiaries of footsteps from Teachers, parents, girls and young women in business. The research instrument used was an SMS survey system that sent question prompts and collated the feedback. The instrument is cheaper, quicker and a great tool that adheres to social distancing. Data was analyzed through a Statistical package for social science (SPSS). All ethical consideration including treating the information from respondents as confidential was observed.

# 2.0 Data analysis. Presentation and interpretation

## Distribution of respondents by occupation

**Parents**

Table 1.0 shows distribution of respondents by their current occupation. 39.1% of the parents are currently jobless. 10.4% of the respondents are hawkers who sell clothes, household utensils and beads.13% are shopkeppers,11.3% are mama Mboga 6.1% are Saloonist and waitress respectively. 3,5% of the parents are housekeepers, 2.6% Nanny’s, 1.7% are tailors. 0.9% of the parents are security guards, curtain designer, cashier, assistant administrator, fish monger and carpenters respectively.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Frequency** | **Percent** |
| Saloonist | 7 | 6.1 |
| Housekeeping | 4 | 3.5 |
| Nanny | 3 | 2.6 |
| Tailoring | 2 | 1.7 |
| Security guard | 1 | .9 |
| curtain designer | 1 | .9 |
| Hawking | 12 | 10.4 |
| Cashier | 1 | .9 |
| Assistant administrator | 1 | .9 |
| Carpentry | 1 | .9 |
| Mama Mboga | 13 | 11.3 |
| Waitress | 7 | 6.1 |
| Shop attendant | 15 | 13.0 |
| fish monger | 1 | .9 |
| Jobless | 45 | 39.1 |
| **Total** | 114 | 100.0 |

## Dada Academy and Sisterhood Industrial Park Program

88.9% of the young women in Sisterhood industrial pack and Dada Academy currently have no jobs and business running. 11.1% have their business running and the business type include mama mboga (44.4%), Saloonist (33.3%) and housekeeping (22.2%) respectively.

**2.2 Challenges Facing Footsteps beneficiaries during the corona virus pandemic**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **Parents** |  |  | **Teacher** |  |  | **Young women** |  |  |
| **Challenges** |  | **Mentioned** | **# Mentioned** |  | **Mention** | **# mention** |  | **Mention** | **# mention** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lack of food** | F | 81 | 33 | F | 14 |  | F | 3 | 12 |
|  | % | 70.4 | 28.7 | % | 100 |  | % | 33.3 | 66.7 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Loss of job** | F | 46 | 68 | F | 12 | 2 | F | 8 | 1 |
|  | % | 40 | 59.1 | % | 85.7 | 14.3 | % | 88.9 | 11.1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **rent payment** | F | 16 | 98 | F | 6 | 8 | F |  |  |
|  | % | 13.9 | 85.2 | % | 42.9 | 57.1 | % |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Poor & inadequate access to healthcare** | F | 12 | 102 | F | 1 | 13 | F |  |  |
|  | % | 10.4 | 88.6 | % | 7.1 | 92.9 | % |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Inadequate access to water** | F | 15 | 99 | F | 4 | 10 | F |  |  |
|  | % | 13 | 86.1 | % | 28.6 | 71.4 | % |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **inadequate access to sanitization products** | F | 2 | 112 | F | 2 | 12 | F |  |  |
|  | % | 1.7 | 97.4 | % | 14.3 | 85.7 | % |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Insecurity** | F | 1 | 111 | F |  |  | F | 1 | 8 |
|  | % | 0.9 | 98.3 | % |  |  | % | 11.1 | 88.9 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mental health** | F | 1 | 113 | F |  |  | F |  |  |
|  | % | 0.9 | 98.3 | % |  |  | % |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cessation of movement** | F | 1 | 99 | F |  |  | F |  |  |
|  | % | 0.9 | 86.1 | % |   |   | % |   |   |

**Table 1.1** depicts the challenges Footsteps beneficiaries are facing during the corona pandemic. Parents (70.4%), teachers (100%) and young women (33.6%) have mentioned food scarcity as a problem.

Teachers (85.7%), young women (88.9%) and parents (40%) have mentioned losing their informal jobs and business during this pandemic. This has led to difficulties in paying rent as mentioned by teachers (42.9%) and Parents (13.9%).

Inadequate access to water was a challenge that was mentioned by teachers (28.6%) and parents (13%). In addition to this, (10.4%) Parents and (7.1%) teachers mentioned they faced a challenge of poor health and accessing health care services. Other challenges mentioned by respondents included insecurity, cessation of movement and mental health (depression).

## Challenges Facing young Girls during the corona period



53.51% of respondents claimed that children are not finding time to read at home whereas 46.49% stated that young girls find time to read at home.

Table 1.2 outlines the challenges young girls are facing when at home during the period of corona pandemic. 31.3% of parents mentioned that their young girls were not going to school. 35.7% mentioned that their girls lacked access to e-learning tools. 17.4% of the parents were fearful that their girls might be raped during their stay out of school. 13.8% of parents mentioned that their girls were lacking food in the household. 3.5% mentioned their girls were susceptible to child labor, 2.6% to drug abuse, 13% to premature sex and early pregnancy and 2.6% were facing the challenge of being idle. As seen in the table 1.2

**Table 1.2 Challenges facing girls during the corona pandemic**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Challenges** |  | **Parents** |  |
|  |  | **Mentioned** | **# Mentioned** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  | F | 36 | 78 |
| **Not going to school** | **%** | 31.3 | 67.8 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Inadequate access to Sanitary pads** | **F** | 16 | 98 |
|  | **%** | 13.8 | 85.2 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Lack of food** | **F** | 16 | 98 |
|  | **%** | 13.8 | 85.2 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Lack of access to e-learning tool** | **F** | 41 | 73 |
|  | **%** | 35.7 | 63.5 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **fear of being raped** | **F** | 20 | 94 |
|  | **%** | 17.4 | 81.7 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **child labor** | **F** | 4 | 110 |
|  | **%** | 3.5 | 95.7 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Drug Abuse** | **F** | 3 | 111 |
|  | **%** | 2.6 | 96.5 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Early pregnancy** | **F** | 15 | 99 |
|  | **%** | 13 | 86.1 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **idleness** | **F** | 3 | 111 |
|  | **%** | 2.6 | 96.5 |

## Footsteps role in helping women and girls in informal settlements in Nairobi Kenya

Table 1.3 outlines the suggestions from beneficiaries of what they would like Footsteps to cushion them with during this corona virus pandemic.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Challenges** |  | **Parents** |  |   | **Teachers** |  |  | **Young women** |   |
|  |  | **Mentioned** | **# Mentioned** |  | **Mentioned** | **# Mentioned** |  | **Mentioned** | **# Mentioned** |
|  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Provide relief food** | F | 79 | 35 | F | 13 | 1 | F |  |  |
|  | **%** | 68.7 | 30.4 | **%** | 92.9 | 7.1 | **%** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Funds to boost business** | **F** | 50 | 64 | **F** | 13 | 1 | **F** | 7 |  |
|  | **%** | 43.5 | 55.7 | **%** | 92.9. | 7.1 | **%** | 100 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Provide income generating opportunities** | **F** | 21 | 93 | **F** | 12 | 2 | **F** | 7 |  |
|  | **%** | 18.3 | 80.9 | **%** | 85.7 | 14.3 | **%** | 100 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Provide access to sanitary towels** | **F** | 10 | 104 | **F** |  |  | **F** |  |  |
|  | **%** | 8.7 | 90.4 | **%** |  |  | **%** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Assist in business Development** | **F** | 5 | 1.9 | **F** |  |  | **F** | 7 |  |
|  | **%** | 4.3 | 78.3 | **%** |  |  | **%** | 100 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Promote home learningactivities** | **F** | 24 | 90 | **F** | 12 | 2 | **F** |  |  |
|  | **%** | 20.9 | 78.3 | **%** | 85.7 | 14.3 | **%** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Provide mentorship to girls** | **F** | 12 | 102 | **F** |  |  | **F** |  |  |
|  | **%** | 10.4 | 88.7 | **%** |  |  | **%** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Provide access to water** | **F** | 1 | 113 | **F** |  |  | **F** |  |  |
|  | **%** | 0.9 | 98.3 | **%** |  |  | **%** |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Provision of Sanitization products** | **F** | 12 | 102 |  | 9 | 5 |  |  |  |
|  | **%** | 10.4 | 88.7 |  | 64.3 | 35.7 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Paying rent** | **F** | 3 | 111 | **F** | 12 | 2 | **F** |  |  |
|  | **%** | 2.6 | 96.5 | **%** | 85.7 | 14.3 | **%** |   |   |

Provision of relief food was mentioned by parents (68.7%) and teachers (92.9%). 100% of young women and 43.5% of parents mentioned they wanted funds to boost their businesses. 92.9% of teachers wanted capital to start business. Parents (18.3%), teachers (85.7%) and SIP young women (100%) wanted an income generating opportunity. Only (8.7%) of parents mentioned they needed sanitary towels for their girls. (100%) of young women wanted assistance in business development. (85.7%) teachers and (20.9%) parents wanted footsteps to promote home learning and schooling activities. (10.4%) of parents mentioned that they would like their girls to get mentorship session from footsteps. (10.4%) parents and 64.3%) teachers wanted footsteps to provide sanitization products to protect against the virus. (85.7%) of teachers and only (2.6%) of parents wanted footsteps to help them in paying rent and other bills.

## Participation in Footsteps digital activities.

All respondents agreed to the fact that they would like to participate in footsteps digital activities.

# Conclusion

Corona Virus in Kenya has impacted negatively on the economic and social welfare of young girls and women living in the informal settlements of Nairobi Area, Kenya. The women have lost their formal and informal jobs and business, they have received few customers leading to low income and eventually unable to pay their rents and monthly utilities and bills. The cessation of movement has made them to find it difficult to access healthcare services. The informal settlements are faced with shortage of water supply leaving them vulnerable to the virus. The women and girls lack proper sanitization products

The girls are out of school and they are facing numerous challenges such as not being able to access online learning materials, their parents fear that them being idle will expose them to negative peer pressure which may lead to unwarranted drug abuse, sex and early pregnancies. Other girls may be forced to do hard labor for food.