

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Care Institutions: Exploring Their Possible Damage to Children in a Few Countries of the Developing World

S. M Kang'ethe¹ and Abigail Makuyana²

*University of Fort Hare, Department of Social Work and Social Development, Private Bag
X1314, ALICE. 5700, South Africa*

E-mail: ¹<skangethe@ufh.ac.za>, ²<200909479@ufh.ac.za>

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ABSTRACT The aim of the paper, adopting a desk review of literature, debates, critics, reviews, reflects and discusses the various types of damages to children in OVC's care institutions with the hope of coming with different perspectives to strengthen the already known solutions, or shed new or newer light to tackle the state of children in institutionalized care: Findings reveal the following facets of psychosocial-emotional damage inherent in OVC care institutions: They present growth challenges that negatively affects the childrens' cognitive development, future and behaviour; Children are denied capacity to make social networks that could be useful in their future; OVCs are prone to delinquency and other socially ill behaviours; Provides an environment that does not ground children in a particular desirable culture; and offers poor attachment to children that kills their emotionality. The paper recommends to governments and child care organizations to conduct a cost benefit analysis (CBA) of having children in OVC institutions and being integrated into communities; and advocates for de- institutionalization.