

**ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF GENDER_BASED VIOLENCE ON THE
CHILDREN WELFARE:**

A CASE STUDY OF BUDUDA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT: A case study of the Bududa District was used to analyze the effects of gender-based violence on children's welfare. The study's particular goals were to evaluate the association among bride price customs (early marriage) and welfare of children in Uganda's Budduda District. to determine a connection among the makeup of LC courts and the welfare of kids in Budduda District, Uganda, and to investigate the connection between cultural norms and young people's welfare in that region. A review of the available research on violence against women was done. In addition to a case investigation study design, both quantitative and qualitative approaches were also utilised. A sample size of 175 responders was chosen from a readily available sample of 320 components. The response rate of 71% was recorded. The results show that the vast majority of participants, as evidenced by 28% completely agreeing and 28% agreed scores, along with an average rating of 3.21 agreed upon concurred with answer the issue of whether assault of girls was believed to be normal in Bududa rural areas. Nevertheless, 31% disapproved and 13% strongly disapproved, indicating that girls were more likely to experience severe or physical manifestations of gender violence within conventional or cultural environments as a result of their inferiority.

Fewer suggestions as well as findings were made. Women and girls who were beaten suffered psychological trauma, and men who beat their wives were rarely caught, according to girls and women who reported abuse in their homes.

Key words: gender-based violence and children welfare

Background to the study

Harmful customary behaviors are another form of assault based on gender that can occur (Keesbury, 2016). Women and children (boys and girls) tend to be at risk for assault, particularly sexual abuse. The United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) estimates that

nearly half of every sexual assault committed towards girls under the age of 15 occur worldwide. Under-18s were victims of forced sexual contact or additional types of violence against women in 150 million girls' and 73 million boys' experiences in 2018 (UNFPA, 2017). sex assault in particular, is frequently employed as a weapon of war during wars involving women and girls (UNFPA, 2017).

Violence against women and girls is pervasive in practically all communities and transcends boundaries of race, class, religion, level of education, and across borders. This can occur within the home and can involve intimate relationship brutality, marital rape, dowry-related aggression, and sexual abuse. Rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and assault are examples of violence that occurs outside of one's home (Sundby et al., 2014).

According to data from the Uganda Epidemiological and Health Survey (UDHS) 2016, 39% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 in the country had ever encountered sexual violence, compared to 11% of males, and 59.6% of harmonica had suffered assault during their lives, as opposed to 53% of men. According to the Ugandan Ministry of Development and the World Health Assembly of the United Nations (WHO), intimate partners are responsible for the bulk of the violence against women in Uganda.

Similar to this, a 2009 study by the International Centre for Investigation on Women (ICRW) found that over eighty percent the kids (girls) surveyed had been subjected to sexual, psychological, or physical abuse at some time in their marriages or romantic partnerships, which negatively impacted the psychological well-being of the children (ICRW, 2019). One third to two thirds of reported victims of sexual misconduct are minors or people under the age of 15 according to the 2011 Uganda National Report on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (MoGLSD, 2018).

Problem Statement

In every society, there is discrimination based on gender, which makes women and young girls disproportionately susceptible to all forms of violence committed by the men in their lives. With little assistance from the appropriate officials, children, particularly girls, live in incredibly dangerous situations and face discrimination based on their ethnicity, language, ethnic group, culture, age, viewpoint, religion, or participation in a minority group (WHO, 2018). Such violent acts have been linked to an assortment of social and cultural variables in the Ugandan information, which includes Budduda district, for example bride price, in which the boy or man's family is required to give the bride price, an exchange common to culture, to the grandparents of the girl as a sign of recognition or confirmation associated with traditional marriages.

Specific objectives of the study

1. To assess the relationship between bride price practices (Early marriage) and Children welfare in Budduda District Uganda.
2. To examine the relationship between cultural norms and Children welfare in Budduda District, Uganda
3. To establish the relationship between composition of LC courts and Children welfare in Budduda District, Uganda.

Research questions

1. To assess the relationship between (Early marriage) bride price practices and Children welfare in Budduda District Uganda.
2. To examine the relationship between cultural norms and Children welfare in Budduda District, Uganda.

3. To establish the relationship between composition of LC courts and Children welfare in Budduda District, Uganda.

Methodology

Research design

The study adopted a descriptive case study research design described as an umbrella for family research methods (Bell, 2014), this research design was deemed appropriate for this study. The data collected in case studies is normally a lot richer and of greater depth than can be found through other experimental designs.

Population of the study

The sample selected for the study consisted of 50 local leaders (including gender policemen, community improvement officers, clan leaders, residents of local government courts, religious leaders, and officials from the police child and safety unit) and an average of 25 residents. The investigator employed focus group talks as a form of data collecting, and at least 8–12 participants were required for each sub-county. The study participant conducted at least two focus group talks with the 25 participants in each Sub District.

Sample size and Sample selection

The quantitative table created by Krejcie & Morgan in 1970 to determine sample sizes for investigations yielded a total of 175 participants to serve as the sample size. 115 neighborhood adults including kids were randomly selected via cluster sampling. In addition, 20 clan leaders, 20 religious leaders, 10 local authority officials, and 10 members of the LC courts leaders were all purposefully recruited for the study, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Sample Population and Size of Study

Respondents' category	Target ppln	Sample size	Techniques
Clan leader s	10	10	Purposive sampling
Religious leaders	10	10	
Members of Local Council Courts	10	10	
District/Sub County LG personnel	10	10	

Civil Society Actors	10	10	
Law Enforcement Officers	10	10	
Community Members / Citizens	260	115	Stratified & Simple random sampling
Total	320	175	

Source: Budduda District Social Economic Demographic Data November (2022) and determined based on Krejcie & Morgan (1970)

Sampling techniques and procedure

The investigator chose a population size from residents of Budduda District using the straightforward random, categorized, and selective sampling approaches. They did this so they could serve as spokesman for that group of people.

The method of purposeful sampling, as defined by Patton (1990), is practical and permits the investigator to contact the population with specialist knowledge. Clan administrators, religious leaders, members of local the council courts, district and sub-county municipality employees, community actors, and criminal justice officers were among those who participated chosen using the method of intention sampling because they were thought to possess important knowledge on child welfare and assault based on gender.

Data Collection methods

The researcher was used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The methods include: questionnaire survey, interviews, focus group discussions and documentary review.

Questionnaire survey

This method allows the collection of data from a large number of study elements. (Amin, 2005). It entails designing a questionnaire with mainly closed ended questions and fewer open-ended questions on the gender-based violence affect children welfare. This method called for administering the questionnaires to a group of respondents identified in the study thus community members and children.

Interviews

With the aid of this technique, the investigator was able to speak with the respondents in person. It required the researcher to create an assortment of open-ended inquiries that served as the foundation for the discussion (Sekaran, 2003). The investigator was able to gather significant details on the background of a harmonica's encounter thanks to this qualitative way of data collecting. The person who conducts the interview can look into the subject in further detail. This was done based on a number of open-ended inquiries concerning the welfare of kids in Budduda District and violence against women.

Focus Group Discussion

A focus group is a type of qualitative research in which a group of people discuss their perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes towards a culture, policy, product, service, concept, advertisement, idea, or packaging (Institute of Consumer Studies, 2012). The research used this method to collect data from Girls and Boys volunteers in the area of the study. These categories were grouped into groups of 5 people to discuss about Gender based violence in rural communities in an unstructured and natural way.

Data Management and Analysis

Data was managed and analyzed using qualitative and quantitative means as explained below.

Qualitative data analysis

The approach of content analysis was used to examine the primary data that was gleaned from the FDGs and interview transcripts. As part of the approach, narrative data is analyzed, and inferences and inferences are drawn while connecting the results to the study's specific goals. This data was utilized to supplement the numerical data gathered through the questionnaire. The themes that made up this material were provided in quotes.

Analysis of numbers

Data was quantitatively examined using a variety of techniques or distinct methods. The completed surveys were collected, sorted, coded, and then entered into SPSS for analysis after being distributed and administered. Additionally, the acquired numerical data was verified for accuracy and examined on two levels, i.e., qualitatively and apparatus.

RESULTS

Response rate

The investigator made sure that forty questionnaires were sent, and of those, 29 had complete responses, or 73% of the total. A total of 25 groups of five participants each (75 total) were lined up for the focus conversations, but only 10 groups of 5 participants (50 total) actually participated in the discussion, making up just 67% of the 60 conversations that were intended. The percentage of individuals who responded for each of the tools used to collect the data—the SAQ, FGDs, and interviews—is shown in Table 4.1 below.

Table 2: Response rate

Instrument	Issued/planned	Returned/ held	Percentage realized
Interviews	60	45	75.00
FGDs	75	50	67.00
SAQ	40	29	73.00
Total	175	124	100.00

Source: **Primary Data**, 2022

Based on the results presented in the table above an overall response rate representing all the instruments was 72% was realized. The obtained result is above 50% as recommended by Amin (2005) who acknowledges that a 50% response rate is good enough to represent a survey population.

Personal Information of respondents

Participants of this study were requested to provide valuable information about their sex, age, education level and employment status with details obtained in the field presented in the following sub sections below.

Sex of respondents

Sex is a key factor in the analysis of the effect of gender-based violence on the children welfare a case study of Bududa district. For this reason, the researcher identified a group of respondents whose facts on sex distribution obtained are presented in the Table 4.2 below.

Table 3: Sex distribution of respondents

Sex	SAQ		Interviews		FGD	
	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Male	19	65%	21	47%	19	38%
Female	10	35%	24	53%	31	62%
Total	29	100%	45	100%	50	100%

Source: **Primary Data**, 2022

Table 3 shows that out of the questionnaires administered, 65% constituted a majority male respondent and 35% were female respondents while 47% respondents who engaged in interviews were male and 53% were female. Additionally, 38% of the respondents who engaged in FGDs were male as compared with 62% female respondents.

Age of respondents

Respondents who answered the questionnaire, engaged in the interviews and participated in FGDs were of varying age categories. The reason for finding out such was to establish whether age was a contributing factor to the Gender based violence on the child. The results that were obtained are presented in Table 4.3 below;

Table 4: Age category of respondents

Age of respondents	SAQ		Interviews		FGDs	
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)
20 – 24 years	6	21	4	4	6	12
25 – 30 years	11	40	13	13	7	14
31 – 35 years	5	16	8	8	5	10
36 – 40 years	4	14	7	7	11	22
41 – 45 years	1	3	3	3	13	26

46 – 50 years	0	0	1	1	2	4
51 – 55 years	0	0	1	1	1	2
56 – 60 years	1	3	3	3	2	4
Above 61 years	1	3	5	5	3	6
Total	29	100.00	45	100.00	50	100.00

Source: **Field Data**, 2022

Table 4 lists respondents' ages who took part in the survey. According to the survey responses that were given out, the majority of those who participated (40%) were among the ages of 25 and 30; 21% were among the ages of 20 and 24; 16% were among the ages of 31 and 35; 14% were among the ages of 36 and 40; and 3% were each among the ages of 41 and 45; 56 to 60; and above 61. The majority of participants, according to the findings of the interviews, were aged from twenty-five to thirty years, 4% among 20 and 24, 8% among 31 and 35 years, 7% among 36 and 40 years, 1% between 41 and 45 years, and 3% among 56 and 60 years.

Education level of respondents

Respondents were requested to indicate their education levels. The reason for this was to establish whether respondent's education level had a bearing on the violence of girls in Bududa District. The results obtained are presented in the Table 4.4 below;

Table 5: Education distribution of respondents

Education level	S I Q		Interviews		FGDs	
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)
Bachelors' degree	7	24%	23	51%	0	0%
Diploma	6	21%	5	11%	11	22%
Certificate	10	35%	4	9%	15	30%
Primary education	5	17%	3	7%	5	10%
No education	1	3%	7	23%	19	38%
Other	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%
Total	29	100.00%	45	100.0%	50	100.0%

Source: **Field Data**, 2022

Table 5 displays the findings on participants' educational attainment from the SAQ, assessments, and focus groups. According to the harmonica's results, the majority of respondents—35%—had certificates, 24% had degrees, 21% had diplomas, 17% had just completed elementary school, and 3% had never been to school and were uneducated. In a comparable manner the results of the interviews with those who participated showed that 51% of them had degrees, 11% had diplomas, 9% had certificates, 7% were graduates of elementary school, and 23% had never gone to school and were uneducated. Findings as obtained from the FGD participants revealed that, 30% of the participants were certificate holders, 0% of the respondents were degree holders, 22% participants were diploma, while 10% had attended primary school education and 38% had never attended school and were illiterate. The general observation was that majority were literate, fully understood the GV questions that were asked. They were able to provide answers and their views on this topic under investigation.

Employment status of respondents

Respondents who participated in this study were requested to indicate their employment status. The reason to this request was to establish whether their employment status specifically the male had a bearing on the increased violence acts against the women in Bududa district with results presented in Table 4.5 below.

Table 6: Employment status of the respondents

	SAQ		Interviews		FGDs	
Employee status	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)
Unemployed	2	6	9	20	17	34
Peasant	13	45	25	56	11	22
Employed	14	49	11	24	21	34
Total	29	100.00	45	100.00	50	100.00

Source: **Field Data**, 2022

Table 6 displays the results of the participants' employment level as determined by the Self-Administered Questionnaire, in-person interviews, and focus group discussions. According to the harmonica's results, 49% of the participants were in employment, compared to 45% of landowners and 6% of jobless people. Results of the questionnaires conducted showed that 24% of the people interviewed had job opportunities and 20% were jobless, with 56% of the participants being peasants. Further, the results of the FGDs showed that the majority of participants—34 percent—were in the workforce, while 2 percent were farmers and 3 percent were unemployed, making up a fairly accurate the cross-section of society that reflected the demographics of the Bududa District's residents.

Bride price practices and child welfare

Objective one of the studies was to assess the extent to which bride price practices affect child welfare in Bududa District. Bride price practices questions were based on a five item Likert scale that included SA (5), A (4), U (3), D (2) and SD (1).

Table 7: Statements on Bride Price practices

Statement on Bride Price Practices	Percentage Scores (%)					Mean
	SA (5)	A (4)	U (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	
Bride price paid in Bududa District often serves to limit girl's control over their bodies both sexually and in terms of their labor.	28% (8)	46% (13)	3% (1)	17% (5)	6% (2)	3.69
Bride price in this area has long been linked to domestic violence, owing to girls and women's fear of returning to their natal home without being able to repay the bride price	24% (7)	64% (18)	3% (1)	0% (0)	9% (3)	3.55

Bride price limits girls from reporting their men to Local Councils and Community members when they are beaten.	24% (7)	35% (10)	0% (0)	24% (7)	17% (5)	3.21
Bride price is also considered as a payment for reproductive capabilities hence causing conflicts when a woman fails to reproduce.	38% (11)	40% (12)	0% (0)	22% (6)	0% (0)	3.93
Payment of bride price causes intimidation and isolation of girls in Bududa society	22% (6)	55% (16)	0% (0)	14% (4)	9% (3)	3.59

Source: **Field Data**,2022

For the purposes of mathematical comprehension, it should be emphasized that a mean score over three (>3.00) indicates replies that were agreed upon, whereas a mean score below three (3.00) indicated disagreement. Furthermore, the unresolved scores are not categorized; the agree (A) and very strongly concur (SA) replies signify agreement, while the disapprove (D) and severely disagree (SD) answers show disagreement. The key witnesses for qualitative analysis are represented by the names that follow: CL stands for clan administrators, RL for religious leaders, MLCC for local council court participants, DSSLGP for district and sub county local government employees, CSA for civil society actors, and LEO for the law officers of the law.

The assertion that bride prices provided in the Bududa District served to restrict adolescent, especially girls, control over their bodies both sex-wise and in terms of their labor was supported by a percentage of respondents—28% strongly agreed and 46% agreed—but only 17% agreed, 6% disapproved, and 3% were undecided. According to the findings, the majority of the population in the Bududa District appear to believe that girls have a financial dependency on them in the form of the bride's price that has been paid. As consequently, males continue to have the idea that since they toil to raise the necessary bridal price, they must take control of these teenagers.

Cultural norms and Child welfare

Table 8: Statements on Cultural norms

Statement on Cultural norms	Percentage Scores (%)					Mean
	SA (5)	A (4)	U D (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	
In Bududa rural areas, violence against girl child is culturally considered to be normal	28% (8)	28% (8)	0% (0)	31% (9)	13% (4)	3.21
Girl are always considered to be subordinate to men hence men are not apprehended when they beat their wives	28% (8)	38% (11)	0% (0)	21% (6)	13% (4)	3.38
In rural Bududa District, it is traditionally believed that men have a right to control or discipline women through physical means	0 (0)	64% (19)	0% (0)	21% (6)	13% (4)	3.37
Families in Bududa District try as much as possible to keep violence against Girls to themselves as private as possible hence interfering with outside intervention	24% (7)	58% (16)	0% (0)	12% (4)	6% (2)	3.69
Survivors of sexual gender-based violence are not afraid of societal humiliation when they report cases of sexual violence.	17% (5)	45% (13)	0% (0)	21% (6)	17% (5)	3.21
Girls in Bududa District are usually supported by their families and community in case of sexual and gender-based violence.	21% (6)	45% (13)	0% (0)	21% (6)	8% (3)	3.45

Source: **Field Data**, 2022

According to Table 8 above, more than half of respondents—28% strongly concurred, 28% concurred and a mean score of synthesizer.21—agreed that assault toward girls was generally accepted in Bududa rural areas. However, 31% disapproved and 13% strongly disapproved, indicating that girls were more frequently exposed to severe or physical displays involving sexual violence within conventional or social environments because of their social standing.

Additionally, there were some surprising responses, such as 28% completely agreeing, 38% believing that girls and women were always seen as inferior to men and that harmonica were therefore not caught when they assaulted them, while 21% disapproved

The findings indicated that male family domination in Bududa District environments seemed to support tradition, which is a source of gender-sexual aggression and a factor in instability in families as well as the welfare of children.

In rural Bududa District, it was historically considered that males had the right to chastise or control females physically, according to 64% of participants, while 36% disapproved. These results imply that some of the men, who were the family's head, used the connection or circumstance to inflict injury or cause pain to their women and girls as a means of communicating their resentment and anger over internal conflicts that had not been simultaneously resolved within one another, ultimately fueling more harmonica-gender-based violence.

Composition of LC courts and child welfare

Table 9: Statements on Composition of LC Courts

Statement on Composition of LC Courts	Percentage Scores (%)					Mean
	SA (5)	A (4)	UD (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	
The LC courts have a mechanism of addressing sexual and gender-based violence in Bududa District	28 % (8)	48 % (14)	0% (0)	21% (6)	3% (1)	3.72
The Gender composition of LC courts helps to handle sexual and gender-based violence without discrimination against girl child	13 % (4)	24 % (7)	0% (0)	28% (8)	35% (10)	2.55
Girls and women trust in the LC courts in handling gender-based violence issues	21 % (8)	21 % (8)	0% (0)	30% (9)	28% (8)	2.83

	(6)	(6)				
The LCs courts are effective in making justice more accessible to SGBV victims	3 % (1)	35 % (10)	0% (0)	45% (13)	17% (5)	2.76
The LCs courts in Bududa District emphasize the principles of natural justice (fair hearing) when handling SGBV cases	10 % (3)	21 % (6)	0% (0)	41% (12)	28% (8)	2.97
The LCs in the area have the Bududa to enforce punishment to perpetrators of gender-based violence in the society	9 % (3)	42 % (12)	3% (1)	25% (7)	21% (6)	3.17
LCs officials are quick in responding to complaints of SGBV in the society	13 % (4)	48 % (14)	0% (0)	28% (8)	11% (3)	2.66
The community members have trust in the LCs to handle gender-based violence	10 % (3)	24 % (7)	6% (2)	35% (10)	25% (7)	2.62
LC courts are very sensitive and responsive to the needs and constraints of females in their society	3 % (1)	27 % (8)	14% (4)	38% (11)	18% (5)	2.60
LC Court members are trained to handle SGBV cases	0 % (0)	6 % (2)	18% (5)	41% (12)	35% (10)	1.97

Source: **Field Data**,2022

The key witnesses for qualitative classification are represented by the names that follow: CL stands for clan leaders, RL for religious leaders, MLCC for local the council court individuals, DSSLGP for district and sub county local government employees, CSA for members of civil

society actors, and LEO for law enforcement officers. First, findings show that 28% of the people polled firmly concurred, 48% agreed upon, and 21% disapproved and 3% were strongly dissatisfied with the statement stating that the LC courts have an approach of dealing with gender- and sexual-based violence in Bududa District. This means that the local governing bodies had well-specified local official regulations in place upon which all violent home or family case assessments had their foundation, adhered to, and followed repeatedly.

Second, when asked about the demographic's gender substance, 35% of those surveyed highly disapproved, 28% disapproved, 24% agreed, and 13% severely disapproved. The outcomes could imply that LC courts responded to sexual and gender-based abuse without discriminating against women and girls because of their gender arrangement, but 37% of the participants disapproved, suggesting an untenable circumstance for women, especially girls, in families.

Similar to this, 30% disapproved, 28% strongly disapproved, and 42% disapproved that women in the area trusted the LC courts to handle cases of gender-based violence. The outcomes point to weaknesses in the makeup of the LC courts

Conclusions of the study

It was found out that the community perception that a man has powers over his wife would only increase gender violence. It was found out that men in Bududa District are rarely apprehended when they beat their wives and were found to over control their women with the perception that they are “disciplining” their wives. Some women eloped/divorced citing domestic violence by men in Bududa communities.

Recommendations of the study

The investigation suggests that instances of sexual and gender-based assault can be dealt with by including clan elders and local leadership in creating more local household bride price norms that should serve as the foundation for these kinds of behaviors. This will promote stability in such households by ensuring equal household justice, including rights for both men and women.

The investigation suggests that clan chiefs and judges in LC Courts in Bududa District receive training on how to manage all forms of gender-based and sexual assault involving

women and girls. This is so that perpetrators of gender- and sexual-based assault can quickly access resources that are highly valued by community members.

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