
**COMMUNITY PERCEPTION TOWARDS CHILD ABUSE IN UGANDA. A CASE STUDY OF BULOBA
SUB-COUNTY, WAKISO DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on community perception towards abuse in Uganda. A case study of Buloba sub-county, Wakiso District. The objectives of the study include; examining the community perception towards child abuse. To explain the types of child abuse in Uganda and the world at large. To analyse the factors that contribute to child abuse. To assess the consequences of child abuse to both children, parents, community, nation and the world at large. To search for recommendations from the public since as it is a collective responsibility to redress the problem.

In the view of the forgoing, the research was attempted to ascertain the main cause of the failure of the government to totally promote and protect the rights of children in Uganda. It attempted to elucidate the effectiveness of the existing laws and policies adopted to realize such protection in the country that has transcended most of African countries. The study was be conducted hoping that it was sensitize and amplify the perception of children's rights in Uganda provided for by the laws. Parents should maintain their marriages for the betterness of their children as no person can be a better caregiver than the biological parents. Therefore, in most cases parents should fore go their happiness to the expense of their children, if we are to groom beneficial future generation, otherwise the earth may become a doom to both children and parents, as some children may be influenced by other people or interests and at the same time parents may manipulate children due to their innocence.

Key words: community perception and child abuse

Background of the study

In keeping with Kempe, et al (The battered infant syndrome), child abuse has for a long term been recorded in literature, art and science in lots of elements of the arena. reviews of infanticide, mutilation, abandonment and other sorts of violence towards youngster's date lower back to historic civilization (Jac & Kazaara, 2023). In line with Benjamin Perks, UNICEF consultant (might also 2018), violence against kids is an international reality. In the sustainable improvement goals, all international locations devoted to eradicate it by using 2030. This is not simply because violence in opposition to kids is arbitrary or due to the fact it's far a human rights violation, however because as our understanding of human improvement has grown in current a long time, we've got learnt the biggest threat to humans accomplishing their capability is violence in youth. Economists conservatively estimate that the value in negative grownup consequences from negative formative years is ready eight% of GDP or US \$ 7 trillion globally every yrs (Lydia et al., 2023).

According to United country's Fund (UNICEF), NY, 2915, the yrs 2015 is a pivotal yrs wherein the global 'leaders and the humans at large form their vision for the world we need for the many years to return (Frank et al., 2023). A global freed from violence in opposition to youngsters is at the forefront of this imaginative and prescient. The 2030 schedule for sustainable development in its target 16.2 requires "finishing abuse, exploitation, trafficking an all varieties of violence; and torture towards youngsters" kids indeed, safety from violence, exploitation and abuse is a proper of all children as in line with the conference on the rights of the child, ratified via 195 country events globally name but South Sudan and the us (Mercy et al., 2023). there may be a huge international consensus that residing a life free from violence is the right of children everywhere and that violence in opposition to youngsters is in no way justifiable but every 12 months the lives of hundreds of thousands of children has many faces (Kalikula, 2023). A young person is killed through violent war each five mins; 6 in 10 children global are frequently subjected to bodily punishment by their husbands or companions over 1 in three students among the ages of thirteen and 15 global enjoy bullying on a normal basis. And the list goes on with devastating consequences. Violence and mal remedy can lead to lifelong achievements, and even have an effect on a child's mind improvement. tremendous quantities of country wide income as their investments in training, fitness and other human development spheres are compromised (Victoria et al., 2023). Consistent with African magazine of Emergency medicine, volume 7 dietary supplements, 2017, pages 532-535, child abuse in Africa is a main chance to the sustainable improvement desires at the continent and has become increasingly more topical with a dramatic boom in recognition and an appreciation of the lengthy-time period harmful consequences at the affected populace (Jackline et al., 2023).

In step with African community for the prevention and protection towards child abuse and forget (ANPPCAN) chapter in Uganda, scenario record 2019 suggests that infant forget about become ranked the highest violation of kids' rights, whilst sexual violence or defilement emerged the second one bodily violence, assets rights and children in war with regulation observed in that order. By using gender, the woman victims ruled fifty-three. 9% in opposition to forty-six (Isaac et al., 2023).

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Statement of the problem

Child abuse is an international problem with severe life -lengthy outcomes. In spite of new countrywide surveys in several low center income international locations, information from many nations one still missing. Child mal treatment is complex and tough to have a look at. Current estimates range widely relying at the United States and the approach of research used. Estimates depend on: the type of infant mal treatment studied, the coverage and excellent of surveys that request self-reports from sufferers, parents or caregivers (Racheal et al., 2023). Never the much less, global studies display that almost 3 in 4 children aged 2-4 years often go through physical punishment and care givers and 1 in five girls and 1 in thirteen men document having been sexually abused as an infant. each child beneath 18 years of age, some of which one in all likelihood due to toddler abuse (Mercy et al., 2023). This range almost genuinely underestimates the genuine extent of the problem. Each 12 months, there are on anticipated 40, one hundred fifty homicides deaths in due to toddler abuse (Mercy et al., 2023). This number almost without a doubt underestimates the actual volume of the trouble, considering the fact that an enormous proportion of deaths due to baby abuse are incorrectly attributed to fall, burns, drowning and different reasons. In armed conflicts and refugee setting, girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, exploitation an abuse through combatants, protection forces, participants in their groups are people and others (Paul & Kazaara, 2023).

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the community perception towards child abuse to both the children and the community at large in Uganda, particularly Buloba Sub- County, Wakiso district.
2. To explain the types of child abuse in Uganda and the world at large, a case of Buloba Sub- County Wakiso district.
3. To analyze the factors that contributes to child abuse in Uganda, a case of Buloba Sub- County, Wakiso District.
4. To assess the effects of child abuse in Uganda in Buloba Sub- County, Wakiso district.
5. To find possible solutions to the problem of child abuse in Uganda, Buloba Sub- County, Wakiso district.

Research questions

1. What are community perceptions towards child abuse in Uganda, Buloba sub-county, Wakiso district?
2. What are the types of child abuse in Uganda, a case of Buloba Sub- County, Wakiso district?
3. What are the factors contributing to child abuse in Uganda, a case of Buloba Sub- County, Wakiso district?
4. What are the effects of child abuse to both the children and the community at large in Uganda, Buloba sub-county, Wakiso district?
5. What are the possible solutions to the problem of child abuse in Uganda, a case of Buloba sub-county, Wakiso district?

Methodology

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Research design

The study was using a case study research design, which was employ qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The key benefits of using the case study design are their ability to capture what Hodkinson and Hadkins called “lived reality” (2001:3)

Qualitative research was be used in researching descriptions of the elements of the study in form which is not numerical and this helped in getting an in-depth analysis of the problem under investigating (Reswell, et al, 2003), qualitative research was further be applied in order to describe current conditions, it was help in answering questions concerning the current state of the subject under study. Quantitative research was used to capture details of the study which can be expressed in numerical terms like percentages, ratios, population and sample sizes, among others.

Study population

The study population was constituting the children, parents, males and females, married and unmarried in Buloba Sub County, Wakiso district.

Category	Male	Female	Married	Unmarried	Number	percentage
Children	10	20	20	10	60	50%
Parents	15	15	20	10	60	50%
Total					120	100%

This population was be chosen because it is assumed to have adequate knowledge of the subject under investigation and the research variables under investigation.

Sampling design

According to Ceswell, et al, 2003), a researcher can either use probabilistic and non-probabilistic sampling design depending on the nature of the population of the study. A simple random sampling was be employed in selecting the respondents.

Sample size and determination

Simple random sampling was be employed to avoid bias. The respondents were be categorized into children, parents who may either be male or female, married or unmarried. Simple random was be applied on individuals because it is very easy to analyze what someone is saying when you are one on one and it is believed that everyone has his or her understanding on what is child abuse, types, causes, effects and solutions their in.

The sample size was be 120 respondents of which 60 was be children and 60 parents, who was also be broken into male, female, married and unmarried in order to get information from different categories of people.

Data collection methods and instruments

The researcher was using primary data which be collected using self-administered questionnaires to get information from respondents and also guiding questions (interviews guide shall be employed.

Research instruments

The study utilized a number of researches, instruments including questionnaires, structured interview guides and a pen

Questionnaires

The researcher was using self-administered questionnaires for the respondents. These were distributed among the respondents. The justifications are easy to quantify and analyze. In addition, the questionnaires were used because the study was focus on opinions, attitudes, feelings and perceptions respondents.

Data analysis

Qualitative data analysis was done using research instruments such as interview guides, questionnaires and research surveys using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). Also, narratives were recorded during face to face interview and through observation. The researcher was using a quick impressionist summary in analyzing qualitative data; she was summarizing key findings by noting down the responses of the respondents during the interview on various issues relating to child abuse. This technique of qualitative data analysis has been chosen because it saves time and it's not very expensive. Interview was attended to keenly, in order to identify the emerging themes alongside sorting, recording, reflection and interpretation of the meaning of data (Amin et al, 2005). Quantitative data was analyzed using mean and standard deviation to analyze the relationship between the two variables and this shall be presented and interpreted by the use of tables.

RESULTS**Responses from Kalambi residents aged 18 and above, both married and unmarried, literate and illiterate, male and female.**

According to **Nalwanga Mary** (female) increased street kids, criticism from the community and in some cases they report to police. **Nakate Cissy** gave high rate of school dropouts, impairment, disabilities and death are the results of child abuse. **Milly Mutamba** stated that unhealthy children (diseases and barrenness), running to streets, discrimination among the children and loss of self-esteem/ self-love. **Senkubuge Denis** contends that increased dropouts, hatred to parents and increased criminality are the consequences.

Responses from Kiwumu residents aged 18 and above married and unmarried, literate and illiterate, female and male.

According to **Kimuli John** (male), running of children to street, revenge among children, suicide and loss of important children for future. **Senyojo Levi** stated that high level of drop outs early marriages, prolonged poverty and criminality like robbery are the consequences **Okello John** answered that stranded growth/ poor growth, psychological torture among children and parents, for example when government deny access to better schools, lack of infrastructures and learning materials, unhealthy (diseases) due to poor feeding and divorce due to violence in the family. **Nakalawa Hindu** answered that consequences include school dropout and mental illness. **Nkulu Joseph** provided that consequences included stealing and early pregnancies. **Florence Ziwa** answered that death of parents

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increased street children and becoming hooligans are the results. **Nabwiso Grace** (female) gave mental illness as the impact. **Byamukama Zilaba Muzaale** indicated early marriages and pregnancies as the impacts. **Kajobe Marriam** stated that death, diseases and stunted growth are the consequences.

Responses from Kiwumu residents aged 17 and below both female and male.

According to **Namale Topista** (female), loss of self-esteem is the impact. **Mugiranya Timothy** stated death of children, body disability and acquisition of HIV as the consequences. **Nanono Fatumah** stated that death, leaving homes and drug abuse as the consequences. **Nakato Eva** stated that death and leaving home for good are the results. **Babirye Ruth** contends that death, leaving home and dropping out of school are the impacts. **Nakato Nansukusa. A** gave consequences as joining bad peer groups, leaving home and lack of freedom. **Mugerwa Musa** answered that death and diseases are the results. **Nalukenge Amina Shirat** contended that stunted growth is the impact. **Kyokusima Mercy** provided impacts as death of children and body disability. **Nabunya Madrine** (female) said that death fracturing of children and growth of hatred among children. **Nakacwa Mercy** provided mental illness and body disability. **Abdul Kawungeezi** stated that committing suicide is the impact. **Gerald** (male) gave contracting HIV and death of children. **Nayiga Christine** answered that malnutrition is the impact.

Responses from the Kirinda residents aged 17 and below both male and female.

According to **Galabuzi Shon** (male), crying and hatred are the impacts of child abuse. **Nabunya Violah** responded that running to streets and death. **Masiira Isiah** responded that death, physical damage and loss of self-love are the consequences.

Conclusions

Children are advised to be obedient to their parents, as this can strengthen the relationship between the two and hence limitation or total avoidance of child abuse.

Recommendation

Parents should maintain their marriages for the betterness of their children as no person can be a better caregiver than the biological parents. Therefore, in most cases parents should fore go their happiness to the expense of their children, if we are to groom beneficial future generation, otherwise the earth may become a doom to both children and parents, as some children may be influenced by other people or interests and at the same time parents may manipulate children due to their innocence.

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