

Prevalence Of Defilement In Uganda. A Case Study Of Nansana Municipality, Wakiso District

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to discover the prevalence of defilement on the learner's academic performance in Nansana municipality in Wakiso District. The study was based on the results from the 230 respondents who presented accurate data to be retrieved out of the sample size of over 310 respondents. The objectives of the study were to find out the level of knowledge the people have on when there is defilement, to find out the rate of defilement cases reported monthly, to assess the academic performance of students who are victims of defilement and finally to identify the main perpetrators of defilement in the community. Data was collected from the defilement victims, teachers, parents and finally police officers at Bufumbira Police station in Wakiso District. The results of the study in this report indicate that over 40% of the respondents stated that they understand defilement as the act of having sexual intercourse with a child who is below the age of 18 years, 80% of the most reported cases are always in the community, results also indicated most of the victims of defilement perform poorly and finally this report shows that the main perpetrators of defilement are the peer groups outside school. Key findings indicated that majority (196, 85%) of the respondents had knowledge about defilement compared to the minority that had no knowledge about defilement (30, 14.7%). Findings further revealed that majority of the defilement cases (80%) were reported at the police station compared to the 20% of the cases that were reported at the municipal council. The researcher concluded that there was a high prevalence of defilement in Nansana and therefore recommended that in regard to the maximum number of recorded cases coming from the community, the police should make plans to make sure that the people are aware about the dangers of defilement and the possible legal outcomes to the people who plead guilty of defilement.

Key words: Prevalence and Defilement.

Background of the study

The main causes of child pollution worldwide include poverty, war, natural disasters, economic injustices, conflicts between rich and poor, and large-scale migration and urbanization (Jackline et al., 2023). Other factors include insufficient education, breakdown of family and social values, social attitudes, inadequate protection of vulnerable children, and insufficient funding or failure to provide social services (Annor & Oudshoorn, 2019; Duffield, 2020). In addition, gender discrimination, gender gaps in education and information, and double standards for

men and women also contribute to the persistence of inequality and exploitation of girls and women (Zowena et al., 2023). This study is anchored on the four-factor gene theory of trauma as proposed by Finkelhor (1984), (Child et al., 2014). This theory tries to understand the dynamics of pollution. Through this theory, Finkelhor tries to explain the composition of men who sexually abuse children without relying on simple pathological personality traits. They argue that specific experiences such as childhood abuse, lack of relationship skills, and broader factors contribute to

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men's sexual orientation and socialization in general (M.H. et al., 2017). To bridge the gap between psychological and sociological interpretations of sexual abuse, Finkelhor (1984) proposed a multifactor model that has explanatory power at both levels. In reviewing all causal factors contributing to sexual abuse (Richard et al., 2022), Finkelhor developed a hierarchical model that included individual factors related to the victim, abuser, and family, as well as social and cultural factors (Moses & Matovu, 2023).). Defilement and violence are serious problems that transcend racial, economic, social and regional or even age and sexual boundaries (Ivan et al., 2023; Swahn et al., 2018). Violence is often directed against women, youth and children, especially girls (Aisha et al., 2023), all of whom lack the economic, social status

Problem Statement

All convicted child defilers received harsh sentences or sentences ranging from a minimum of 14 years to a maximum of life (Shina & Matovu, 2023; Tumusabe et al., 2022). The problem is that despite these harsh judgments, more and more children are being reported as defiled (Shamim et al., 2023). It follows that the environment in which children grow up is already safe. This leads to the fact that especially children, girl-child rent or believe in very difficult circumstances, which subsequently has a negative impact on their upbringing of girls (Jane & Isaac Kazaara, 2023; Martin & Matovu, 2023). Another source of concern is that there have been so many sensitization campaigns against child defilement. However, they do not seem to produce positive results, as evidenced by the significant increase in the number of reported pollution cases since 2000 (Aisha et al., n.d.; Joventa et al., 2023). spheres of life, at the hands of their biological fathers, stepfathers, relatives, friends, religious leaders, caregivers and strangers. Defilement has several consequences for the community, the government, and especially for the mental and physical well-being of the defiled (Ssanyu, 2007; World Health Organization, 2001). The consequences of defilement are too numerous to mention the state of mind of the defiled. Children go through a lot of emotional traumas to the point where they now do not trust anyone in society. All these cannot leave the defiled victim the same (Benham, 1972) and thus the researcher is entitled to assess the effect of the role of defilement on the education of girls among the students of Nansana village in Wakiso district.

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the knowledge pupils, police and parents have about defilement.

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2. To examine the rate of defilement cases in Bufumbira Sub County in Wakiso District.
3. To assess the performance of children who have ever been defiled.

Research Questions

1. How knowledgeable are the pupils, teachers Police, parents about defilement in Nansana municipality?
2. On what rate are cases of defilement reported at Nansana municipality, community and the police?
3. How is the performance of children who were once defiled?

Methodology.

The Researcher used a Descriptive research design. The Study was conducted on Nansana municipality which is located in Wakiso District. The choice of the study area was because the researcher fluently speaks all the languages used in the study area and more so the researcher understood the study area properly which will make data collection easy and concrete. The researcher used primary sources of data through the use of Questionnaires. The researcher used secondary sources of data through use of Data, publications by re known authors in this field for example magazines, articles, books and News Papers. This source of data was used to get the empirical studies about the study and the review of the related literature. The researcher used purposive sampling technique which was very effective when carrying out research on small populations like this study area. The target population included 480 people and the sample size contained 310 respondents as shown in table 1 below. The validity of the questionnaire was determined by initially carrying out a pilot test. Reliability of research instruments was based on the consistency of responses that was presented by the respondents throughout the study. The researcher accorded due respect to the respondent's privacy and confidential treatment so that the names of the participants and their schools cannot be identified; the respondents remained anonymous. The researcher asked for permission from the Head master to gain access to the staff and this will be followed by officially writing to the disciplinary teacher requesting him to allow him access the bullying cases reported in his or her cases. Frequencies, percentages, correlations and regression analysis were considered for statistical data analysis. All analysis was carried out in STATA (Nelson et al., 2022).

Table 1: Sample Size

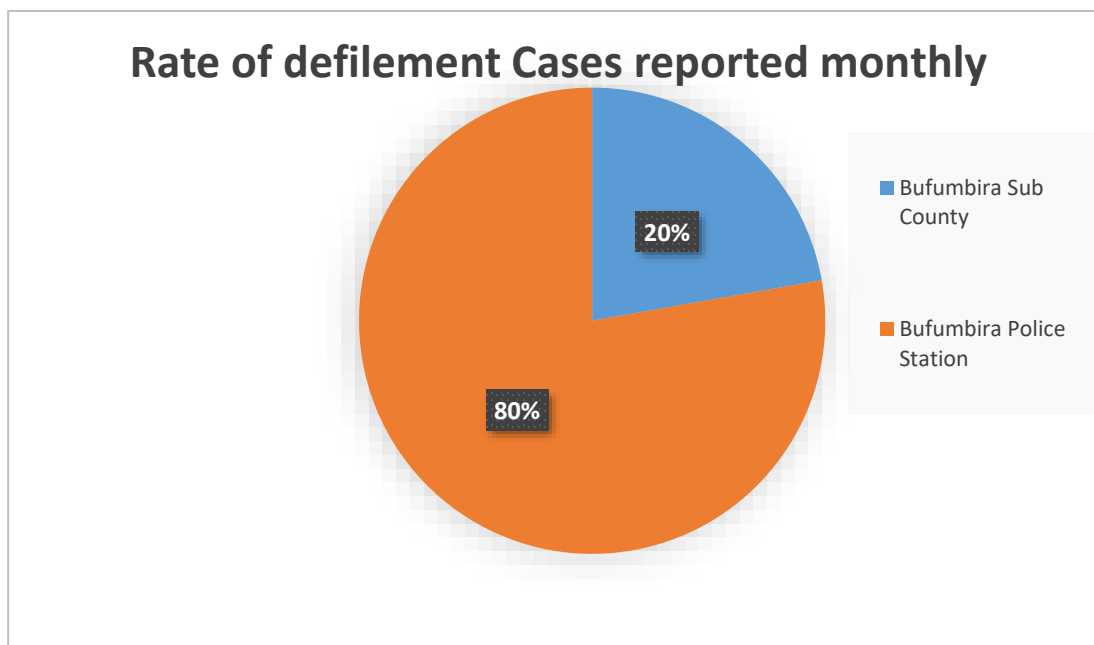
Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size	Percentage
Students	300	180	58 %
Teachers	70	60	19 %
Parents	80	50	16 %
Police	30	20	6%
Total	480	310	100

Findings.**The level of knowledge of respondents about defilement****Table 2: Knowledge of respondents about defilement**

Awareness about defilement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No	30	14.3
Not sure	4	1.7
Yes	196	85.0
Total	N=230	100

Source: Field data (2021)

Findings from table 2 above indicated that the majority 196 (85.0%) of the respondents agreed that they had knowledge about defilement and that they were aware of it. Only 30 (14.3%) of the respondents agreed that they had no knowledge about defilement (Shamim et al., 2023).

Monthly rate of defilement cases received**Figure 1: Rate of defilement cases reported monthly**

In the figure

above, data that was collected from Nansana. from its teachers indicated that 20% of the reported cases of defilement are usually from their school with their students' becoming victims of defilement and finally according to Bujumbura Police station 80% of the reported cases are always from within the community which are always reported at the police station.

Performance of Children who undergo defilement**Figure 2: Opinions on the effect of defilement on the academic performance**

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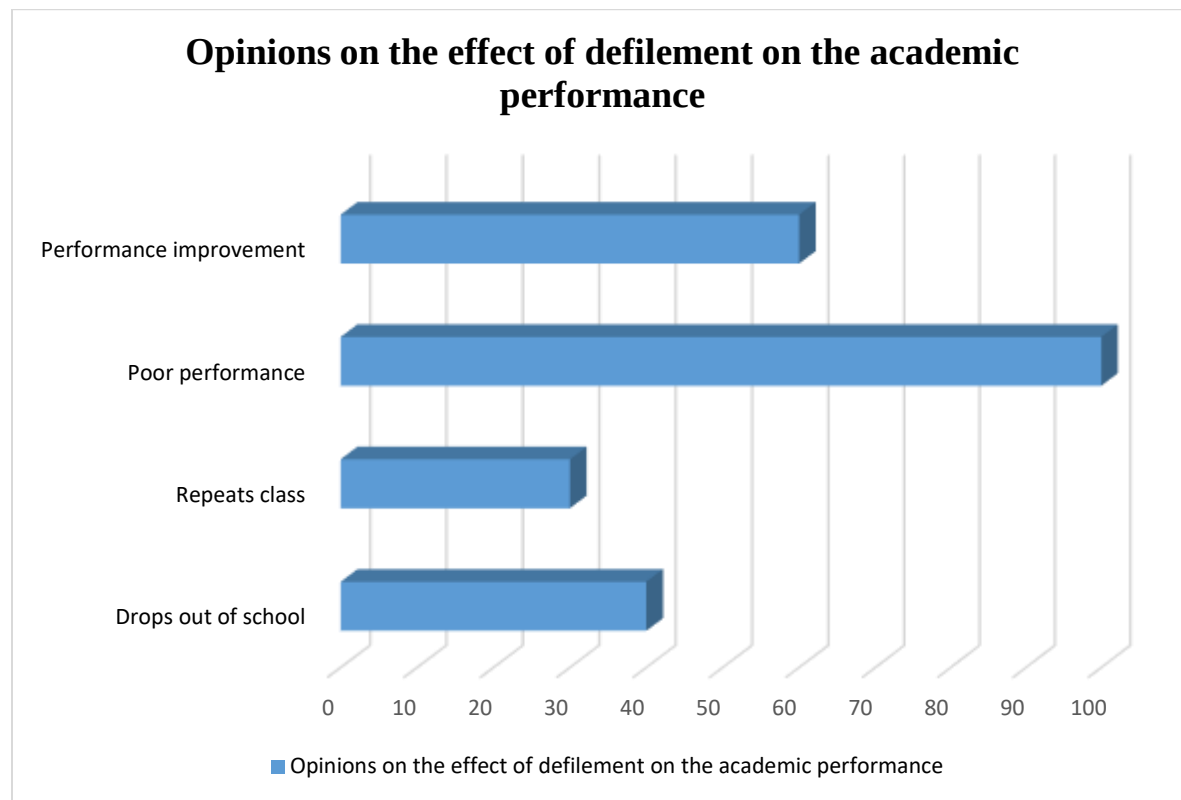


Figure 2 above shows how 60 respondents out of the 230 respondents showed that with enough counseling and concentration, a child who has been defiled can perform higher than before. However 100 respondents discussed that a defiled child cannot perform better than before because of trauma, loneliness, physical torture among others which cannot make him or her to concentrate while in class and hence this can exactly lead to poor performance (Ntirandekura, Ainebyoona, et al., 2022), once again the figure indicates that 30 respondents informed the researcher that defiled children in most cases repeat classes because they always take time to recover from the healthy problems that have been put unto them by the defilers and also to make their minds settle and reduce the trauma of defilement which clearly affects his or her performance (Ntirandekura, Friday, et al., 2022) and finally 40 respondents argued that defilement leads to school dropout because of healthy problems, early pregnancy and fear of being ashamed at school which also affects the academic performance (Vincent & Peter, 2023).

Discussion of findings

Among the objectives of the study, the researcher was to assess the knowledge that the respondents had about defilement, the rate of defilement cases, how defilement can affect the students' academic performance and finally to identify the perpetrators of defilement in the community. According to the data that was collected throughout the study (Ntirandekura, Friday, et al., 2022), 40% of the respondents knew that defilement can be applied to children who are below the age of 18 years, 26% suggested that it can be applied to children who haven't reached in their consent age,

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17% of the respondents however knew defilement as having affairs with children before reaching to their puberty stage and finally 4% of the respondents argued that any child who is too valuable to his or her parents no matter the age once forced sex it is also defilement (Anthony et al., 2023). Data that was collected also indicated 80% of the reported cases of defilement are always from the community and thus reported at the police station and its only 20% of the reported cases that are always from Nansana on the students. Furthermore basing on the objectives, the study highlighted how defilement victims get affected and the investigation found out that 60 of the respondents admitted that the academic performance of defilement victims can improve basing on the way they have been counseled and treated while at school (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023), 100 respondents however argued that defilement victims cannot manage to maintain their academic performance due to physical torture, trauma, health complications and fear of being ashamed at school which cannot allow them to excel in academics, 30 respondents agreed that in most cases defilement victims repeat classes due to the period that is always spent while treating and counseling the victims which can clearly have a negative impact on their academic performance, 40 respondents admitted that defilement victims always drop out of school due to health complications, trauma and fear to be laughed at by the fellow students (Richard et al., 2022).

Conclusions

From the findings of the study, it revealed that many of the people understand defilement as having sex affairs with children under the age of 18 years while others consider children who are not yet in their consent age. Findings of the study also revealed that out of the defilement cases that are always reported at the police station in the community, 80% of the cases are always from the community and its only 20% of the cases reported that have victims from Nansana. Findings also revealed that majority of the respondents believed that victims of defilement cannot maintain their academic performance because they are always traumatized and that can allow them to perform to their expectations however some respondents argued that defilement victims can perform even better than before as long as they have been properly counseled. In conclusion the findings of the study also revealed that peer groups of people who stay outside school are the main perpetrators of defilement followed by the adults outside school (Godfrey et al., 2023).

Recommendations

People should be sensitized effectively about defilement in order to make them gain more knowledge and proper understanding of defilement such that they know ways how it can be avoided.

The schools and police stations should continue giving free access to researchers who approach them in need to make research about the children and people in the community in order to help come out with solutions.

In regard to the maximum number of recorded cases coming from the community, the police should make plans to make sure that the people are aware about the dangers of defilement and the possible legal outcomes to the people who plead guilty of defilement.

In relation to the findings of the on whether defilement affects the academic performance of students, schools should recruit professional counsellors in order to deal with the victims of defilement accordingly since results reveal that only those that receive proper counselling have high chances of improving academically.

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