

Impact Of Community Adult Education And The Prevention Of Children Abuse. A Case Study Of Kayunga

Town Council Kayunga District

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Abstract

The study aimed at impact of community adult education and the prevention of children abuse with a case study of kayunga town council kayunga district and it was guided by the following objectives; To find out the role of adult education programs on child abuse in kayunga town council kayunga district, to determine the effectiveness of adult education in the prevention of child abuse in kayunga town council kayunga district and to examine the relationship between adult education and child abuse in Kayunga district. These were used to collect data from teachers and workers of organizations. This is because these are literate and know how to read and write. This also gave them ample time to properly calmly answer the provided questions to help in the triangulation of data. Qualitative data was presented in form of narration and discussion to give a deeper analysis of the information collected. Qualitative data was edited, tabulated and further analyzed using SPSS & STATA. The study revealed that the study of child sexual abuse and exploitation such as, defilement, as revealed assault, rape, among others are rampant on the Kayunga town council, Kayunga District. The learning exposed those even children of 12 years, especially girls had already had sexual exposure with the opposite sex. Therefore, adult education programs were seen as a blessing towards addressing such concerns in the community. There is need to strengthen the policy to inhibit children under the age of 18 years not to involve in socialization. This should be done in collaboration with police and the ministries responsible to help children develop independent careers.

Keywords: Community, Adult Education And Children Abuse

Background of the study

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Child abuse can cause a range of emotional effects (Mercy et al., 2023). Children who are constantly ignored, shamed, terrorized, or humiliated suffer at least as much, if not more, than when they are physically assaulted (Aisha et al., 2023). According to the Joyful Heart Foundation, a child's brain development is significantly influenced and responsive to experiences with families, caregivers, and the community (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022). American Humane Association (2018). Abused children can grow up with insecurity, low self-esteem and lack of development. Many abused children have persistent difficulties with trust, social withdrawal, problems in school, and in forming relationships (Seth & Ntirandekura, 2022)

Babies and young children may be affected differently by abuse than their older counterparts. Infants and preschoolers who are emotionally abused or neglected may be overly affectionate toward strangers or people they have not known for a long time (Victor et al., 2023). They may lack self-confidence or be anxious, appear to not have a close relationship with their parents, exhibit aggressive behavior, or behave badly toward other children and animals. Older children may use profanity or behave significantly differently from other children of the same age, have trouble controlling strong emotions, seem isolated from their parents, lack social skills, or have few if any friends (Christopher, Moses, et al., 2022). Children may also experience Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). RAD is defined as markedly impaired and developmentally inappropriate social relatedness that typically begins before age 5, American Humane Association (2018). RAD can manifest as a persistent failure to initiate or respond in a developmentally appropriate manner to most social situations (Mark et al., 2023). Domestic violence also takes its toll on children; although the child is not abused, a child who witnesses domestic violence also has a big impact. Research studies conducted as "Longitudinal Study on the Effects of Child Abuse and Child Exposure to Domestic Violence" (Ninsiima et al., 2023) show that 36.8% of children are involved in aggravated assault compared to 47.5% of abused/assaulted children. Research has shown that children exposed to domestic violence increase the chances of experiencing behavioral and emotional problems.

Problem statement

Child abuse has continued unabated for a long time. Protectors, who should also be guardians, are primarily adults. The role of adult education in this responsibility and social development in general is undisputed (Victoria et al., 2023). Adult education helps communities address and resolve contextual issues related to child rights protection, social justice, equity, and education, among others (Anthony, Kazaara, Kazaara et al., 2023). The idea of adult education revolves around the concept of empowerment, participation and conscience (Indabawa & Mpafu 2016). These are perceived differently by different communities (Ntirandekura & Friday, 2022). There are many adult education programs throughout Kayunga City Council, Uganda, but many tend to focus only on the elderly with little emphasis on children's interests. Despite increasing support for adult education programs, many are concentrated in urban centers and few go to rural communities (Christopher, Komunda, et al., 2022). Vulnerable to all forms of sexual abuse, Kayunga's overburdened town council leaves a lot to be desired. It is necessary to pay increased attention to this in the proper upbringing of children. Thus, it gives one insight and an incentive to join forces with others to intervene and further understand the situation (Rashid et al., 2023). This will help inform policy-related guidelines to avoid an overwhelming situation. There is an urgent need for studies to determine the relevance of adult education for the socio-economic and political transformation of Ugandan children (Suzan & Kazaara, 2023).

Objectives of the Study

- 1. To find out the role of adult education programs on child abuse in kayunga town council kayunga district
- 2. To determine the effectiveness of adult education in the prevention of child abuse in kayunga town council kayunga district.
- 3. To examine the relationship between adult education and child abuse in Kayunga district.

Methodology

The study used both qualitative and quantitative in nature. The questionnaires and interview schedules were designed with the aim of gathering information from stakeholders in Kayunga town council kayunga district. This is concerning the relationship of adult education and the prevention of children against child sexual abuse and exploitation. The major assumption was that individuals themselves constitute reality if they interact with their world. Kayunga is approximately 72 kilometers (45 mi) northeast of Kampala, Uganda's capital and largest city, on an all-weather tarmac highway. This is approximately 49 kilometers (30 mi), by road, northwest of the city of Jinja, Uganda's second industrial city, also on an all-weather tarmac highway. The regional headquarters of the municipality Kayunga Town Council (Kayunga Town Council) is located in Kayunga (Kayunga) with a population of 21,704 people. The study covered 90 respondents. These include parents, children, youths, opinion leaders, business persons, teachers and workers of organizations. These people are living in kayunga town council kayunga district.

Table 1: Summary of Study Population

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Respondents	Male	Female	Total
Parents	10	17	20
Opinion leaders	4	4	8
Teachers and workers CSOs	6	8	14
Business persons	3	4	16
FGDs	8	8	13
Children	8	20	28
Total	39	61	100

Stratified sampling was used to select 78 respondents who included 27 parents, 28 children, 7 business persons and 16 participants in focus group discussions. This was done to give an opportunity to various categories of people to be represented in the study. More females were preferred in the study than men because it is them who are mostly affected by the chronic practices of child sexual abuse and exploitation given their vulnerable status as defined by the societies they live in. The data collection instruments were reasonably be selected to suit the people and their literacy levels. Therefore, interviews, self-administered questionnaires, focus groups discussions, and reviewing available data/literature (poems, reports, parables and songs) were used within the study. These were used to collect data from teachers and workers of organizations. This is because these are literate and know how to read and write. This also gave them ample time to properly calmly answer the provided questions to help in the triangulation of data. Qualitative data was presented in form of narration and discussion to give a deeper analysis of the information collected. Qualitative data was edited, tabulated and further analyzed using SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022).

Results

The Effectiveness of Adult Education in the Prevention of Child Abuse in Kayunga town council

Communities around the shores of Kayunga town council expressed knowledge of adult education in form of the informal and non-formal interactions that take place in their communities. To this, community meetings, NGOs, LCs, churches, peer group discussions among others were singled out as some of the ways in which adult education is organized in the Kayunga town council, Kayunga District. This is in line with what UNESCO and other scholars like Atwaru and Mulumba (2004) take to the part of the forms in which individuals and communities acquire knowledge

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and skills to transform their societies. Ideally, the researcher concurs with the community's perception of adult education because such institutions organize and facilitate educational and development programs in many of the communities (Gracious, 2023). Institutions as the police, Local Councils, family, the church, NGOs, CBOs, media houses, have played a very vital role in the promotion of adult education programs in the world. In this case of child abuse, the family was looked at by many as the most fundamental institution if child abuse cases were to cease on the Kayunga town council.

The local communities argue that such institutions help them to organize their indigenous knowledge towards solution of their problems. Popular education as emphasized by scholars as Ewert (1989) in Merrian and Brockett (1996) is much more appropriate expert knowledge.

Table 2: Institutions providing Adult Education on Kayunga town council, Kayunga District

Institution	Frequency	No. of Respondents in %
Radio	25	27.8
Church	10	11
NGOs & CBOs	8	8.9
Police	6	6.7
Family	28	31.1
Local government	5	5.6
Others	8	8.9
Total	90	100

The diagrammatic expression reveals that most of the community members, 31.1% believe that the family plays a very important role in the proper upbringing of children on the Kayunga town council. Other institutions also work hand in hand with the family to inculcate morals among children. The researcher agrees with the saying that goes "*charity begins at home*". To this it is the parents who start the struggle to nature children and then other societal institutions join the system at a later stage (Anthony, Kazaara, Kazaara, et al., 2023). Therefore, it is imperative to note that the backbone of adult education is the family. Much as it is argued that adult education has a greater role in the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation, the study revealed that almost ¼ of the upbringing/nurturing children is done by formal and non-formal adult educational institutions. Through interactions with children themselves, responses were that; "*Much as we get non-formal education, the subjects and knowledge we get in schools have also helped us*

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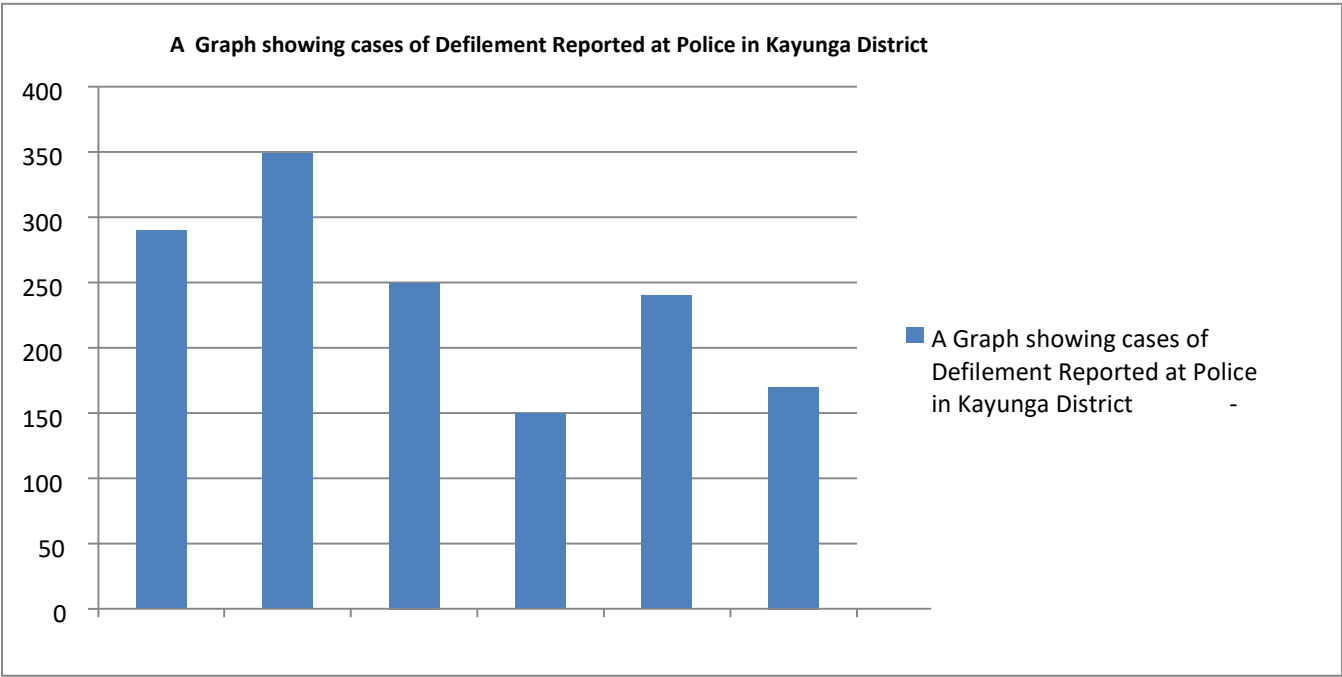
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to fight against child sexual abuse and exploitation”. (Child respondent). Therefore, with increased level of civilization, there has been an amalgamation of adult education programs to create a child sexual abuse and exploitation free environment.

Community Adult Education Programs in Place Empower People to Protect Children from

The study revealed that the study of child sexual abuse and exploitation such as, defilement, as revealed assault, rape, among others are rampant on the Kayunga town council, Kayunga District. The learning exposed that even children of 12 years, especially girls had already had sexual exposure with the opposite sex. Therefore, adult education programs were seen as a blessing towards addressing such concerns in the community (Brighton et al., 2023). Identified as most prevalent cases were; defilement, prostitution, pornography early marriages, and child motherhood. These vices affected mostly the girl-child living around the Kayunga town council Kayunga town council. A Graph Showing cases of Defilement Reported at Police in Kayunga District



The graph shows a tremendous reduction in the cases of defilement reported at police. Adult education working hand in hand with other agencies has been behind this reduction. However, it would be dangerous to rely wholesomely on cases reported as the gospel truth. Some of the victims do not report their victimization because of being ashamed or lack of money to pay at police. Nonetheless, adult education in its motive to empower and awaken the consciousness of communities, with time such fears will cease. In line with what MGLSD (2003) points out as the cause of child abuse, the above have been addressed by practitioners of community education through programs such this has contributed to the creation of an enabling environment for the children living around the lake shores. As noted by

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Mujuni (2008), appropriateness, relevancy and urgency of content take precedence to halt normal programming that contributes to flexibility. True, the urgency and appropriateness of relevant projects by Adult Education institutions and practitioners have done much to figure out cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation. A case in point has been the mass campaign as regards children concerns over many radio stations have much contributed to the reduction in rates of defilement, prostitution and improvement of girl child education worldwide.

The Relationship Between Adult Education and children abuse

Operation against owners of film/video show rooms that open before 4.00pm and go on beyond 10.00pm were mounted by police to eliminate cases of children being spoilt. With the technological advancement, practitioners urge for action against children would be found in show rooms, beyond 8.00pm. Practitioners in the departments of community education and children have strongly come up to stop children from going to such places beyond 8.00pm, as these are dangerous avenues for children. Concerning this, a film show attendant was arrested by police when over 50 children below the age of 15 years were found watching a blue movie (obscene) beyond 11.00pm at nearby villages. Such operations have drastically rolled down the prevalence of child abuse and related cases on Kayunga town council, Kayunga District.

Findings on Empowerment of Kayunga town council through Adult Community Education Programs

When respondents were tasked about the empowerment of their communities through Adult Community Education, it was found out that they were optimistic and open to the development. Community education programs have empowered parents to talk to their children on matters of sex education. This has helped build confidence in children to say no to abusers, refuse gifts from strangers, report cases of abuse others. These contribute to a morally upright child ready to light the candle to fight against stop. Adult education programs have provided knowledge, skills and attitude relevant to the development of children, parents and the entire community around the shores of Kayunga town council. Income Generating Activities (IGAs), for example, have been emphasized to help people remain occupied and shun away the stop cases in the communities.

Children have peer groups that emphasize music, dance and drama; parents do the knitting of nets, weaving, making baskets, chairs among others to earn a living.

However, given the situation today with technologies promoting pornographic literature, many children have remained victims of such circumstances. Most notably, it has proved hard for children to reveal all that happens to them because they at times enjoy some of the things. As reported by FIDA (2000) the boys in most cases are proud of early sexual encounter and such cases are not reported.

Findings on Perception of Adult Education by People Around Kayunga town council

The study found out that the idea of going back to school, was not new to the adult population. Community organizations and religious institutions often provide adult education classes on issues confronting families. There had been a global need for one in office to upgrade himself or herself in order to continue holding that office. Therefore,

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the research concluded, the people's perception of Adult Education was a grab-it opportunity. Given the situation of today with technologies promoting pornographic literature, many children have remained victims of such circumstances. Most notably, it has proved hard for children to reveal all that happens to them because they at times enjoy some of the things. As reported by FIDA (2000) the boys in most cases are proud of early sexual encounter and such cases are not reported.

However, a trend in adult education that emerged at the end of the twentieth century is the offering of classes, workshops, and seminars aimed at teaching skills and knowledge intended to better individuals emotionally, physically, or culturally. Kayunga town council yearn for such education. Adults can attend such classes at community colleges or universities, or community and religious centers. Adult education geared towards emotional betterment can include seminars and workshops on everything from self-esteem and self-image issues to psychological support group meetings. This type of education often is less classroom/lecture oriented, and is more focused upon creating a group space that is conducive to healing and therapy (Anthony, Kazaara, & Kazaara, 2023).

Adult physical education includes everything from health improvement to personal achievement. Yoga, aerobics, personal fitness lessons, sports activities, and martial arts are just a few of the examples.

Table 3: Table Showing Major Challenges to Adult Education Programs

Problem	Responses
Illiteracy	20
Congestion	39
Corruption	9
Poverty	21
Others	11

As organizations fight hard to deal with cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation, a number of challenges accrue. The Kayunga town council are illiterate where most of the citizens prefer to go community work than involve themselves in educational activities. In some cases, parents who should have encouraged the young children to go to school sometimes entice them to go working.

Nonetheless, strategies such as construction of schools and government program as universal primary education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) are working closely with local NGOs and CBOs to facilitate and enable children education.

The study revealed that congestion ranked highest with 39% compared to other problems contributing to the high rate of child sexual abuse and exploitation on the shores of Kayunga town council. However, poverty 21%, illiteracy 20%,

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corruption 9%, and other problems 11% contribute to cases of CSEA. This has been done through encouraging literacy classes, arresting culprits by police and other security organs among others.

Conclusions

The role of Community Adult Education in prevention of child abuse is significant on Kayunga town council. Many of the community members tend to learn informally on matters of people upbringing their children. The high rates child abuse on Kayunga town council, Kayunga District are inherently attributed to the high drug abuse, flimsy environments, which all combined perpetuate the exercise. Much as internal factors are to blame for influencing high rates of child abuse and exploitation on Kayunga town council, Kayunga District, the other factors are beyond control of the common people.

Formal education systems, however, have acted as complement and supplement to adult education programs on the Kayunga town council of Kayunga town council. Such a correlation has enhanced an environment conducive for development on some of the sites on Kayunga town council.

The study concluded that most of the children seem to have been abused and had had sexual encounter in their earlier life. This left a lot to be desired by the communities around Kayunga town council.

Recommendations

Parents and other community members should have a collective responsibility over children in the community. The issue of living child responsibility to only the parents should vanish if we were to have morally upright citizens tomorrow.

Child protection units should be established and strengthened at lower levels. Reasonable funds should be allocated to such units as facilitation of their activities in the community.

There is need to strengthen the policy to inhibit children under the age of 18 years not to involve in socialization. This should be done in collaboration with police and the ministries responsible to help children develop independent careers.

Revision of Ugandan laws on children is necessary. Tougher penalties should be inflicted on convicted abusers of children. This will serve deterrence to the potential abusers.

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