

KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

CONTENT ANALYSIS OF MEDIA COVERAGE ON DEFILEMENT CASES.

**CASE STUDY OF THE DAILY MONITOR AND THE NEW VISION
NEWSPAPERS.**

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DECLARATION.

I, Chepkwony Jane Chebet do hereby, declare to the best of my knowledge that this research proposal is my own and has never been submitted for an award of any qualification in this or any other institution of higher learning.

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DEDICATION.

To my baby girl Briana Chelangat, my parents Mr. David Chepkwony and Mrs. Ruth Chepkwony who have seen me through the journey of my education. My brothers Daniel Omondi, Bernard Kibet, Robert Kipkorir. And Dennis Kipkoech. This work is whole heartedly dedicated to you.

ABSTRACT

Defilement cases are making headlines with each new day both at the international and national levels. All you have to do is just take a newspaper and you will absolutely find a defilement story. Although laws have been enacted to deal with defilement cases, the offence is still on the increase with some getting coverage by the press and legal institutions yet most of the cases go unreported.

This research covered a period of between 1996-1998, the choice of the media was only limited to the daily Monitor and the New Vision newspapers in Kampala district. This is because they are the most read newspapers,

Elements such as area of study, data collection methods, and sample size and selection procedures were critically described and analyzed. More so the length of the study, resources and composition of the respondents were limited to the choice of the methods used,

Data sources were both primary and secondary; a number of challenges were met especially during data collection process with defilement being a sensitive issue. This led to withholding of most of the information by respondents.

In conclusion content analysis of media coverage of defilement cases by the press should be intensified and more information should be given to the press starting from the grassroots level i.e. the local council officials to the judges to enhance coverage and uproot the issue of defilement. No compromise should be given to defilers whether of close relation or distant relation.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND

Defilement is a crime under section 123 of the Uganda Penal Code Act. The law was amended by the Penal Code 1990.unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl less than 18 years. Consent here is immaterial. Defilement is not only socially unacceptable but also a criminal offence. Though the laws and institutions dealing with the offence have in place a long time, the occurrence of the offence has been on the increase. Such times are usually reported by the press and legal institutions. Many other cases of defilement occur but go unreported. The cases that are reported by the press are a minute percentage of those that occur.

Many questions arise that justify the need to have a study on how the press covers defilement cases.

What impact has the press had on the readers as regards the topic?

These and other collateral questions will be dealt with in this research. The problem of defilement has legal, social, and psychological dimensions which need to be addressed. Also related to this problem are various institutions that handle defilement at different levels. These include the family, the community, the local councils, the police, the courts of law and the health institutions.

The study focuses on how the monitor and the new vision newspapers cover defilement cases.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study will try to examine the persistent reports of defilement, assess the validity and scope of the reports and the need for improved coverage.

This is aimed at coming up with some practical suggestions that will help improve coverage and reportage of defilement cases.

1.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study seeks to establish whether coverage of defilement cases by The Monitor and New Vision Newspapers is satisfactory.

1.2.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To establish the type and nature of defilement cases that is covered by the press.
- To establish the altitudinal, social and economic factors within the press that influence coverage of the topic.
- To establish how society perceives defilement

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The research will cover the period between 1996-1998 and will in particular consider The Daily Monitor and The New Vision Newspapers. The period will also be sufficient enough to enable the researcher make various comparisons.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.

Defilement having increased despite the increase in coverage hence there is a need to find out whether coverage has a positive impact on the people. Due to limited time and resources, the study will be limited only to two newspapers, The New Vision and The Daily Monitor and only solicited views of those readers of the two papers who are residents of Kampala District. Apart of the newspapers, court records and other research done on defilement will be reviewed. There is hardly any literature on the problem in Uganda, and this research is among the first of its kind on how the press covers defilement cases. It's hoped that the findings will help the press, community, non-governmental organization and the government to alleviate the problem.

1.5 DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS.

FOCA Friends Of the Children Association

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Defilement is a crime under section 123 of the Ugandan Penal Code. Any person who has sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 18 years is guilty of the offence of defilement and is liable to suffer death or long term imprisonment or conviction.

British Broadcasting Corporation report on sex markets attributed the increase of defilement to opening of new sex markets and AIDS scourge. The report further said that people believe young girls are free from the disease. Currently, America and Asia have 300,000 and 1,000,000 child prostitutes respectively.

Mr.Kasaija William – Department of Psychology in The Monitor of September 24, 1996, says the desire for one to derive sexual satisfaction through sexual contact with children is called pedophilia. It is a psychological disorder which takes different forms including actual sexual intercourse.Paedophile are predominantly men and their targets are girls between four and eleven years. In 90 percent of the cases, the offender is someone the child knows. It is actually sexual victimization, says Mr.Kasaija.

Uganda has had a steady increase of defilement cases since 1990(child link 1994) you just need to pick any newspaper and you will almost be sure to find a story on defilement.

2.1 THE LEGAL SYSTEM AND DEFILEMENT.

The national System Analysis 1994 on equality and vulnerability of women, adolescents and children, looks at the legal system in Uganda. It was observed that a review by the “Child Law Review Committee” described the legal protection of children as inappropriate and inadequate, protection laws are obsolete and out of line with social and economic circumstances. The judicial system is expensive and complicated. Child cases are not separated from criminal cases in enforcement.

The law regulating procedure is very rigid in that it calls for very high standards which are sometimes very difficult to meet and satisfy. The law requires corroboration of

evidence in all sexual offences and in all cases where witnesses are children of tender age.

Regarding justification of the requirement for corroboration of evidence in sexual offences; “there is sound reason for this because sexual cases are particularly subject to the danger of deliberately false charges, resulting from sexual nervousness, fantasy, jealousy, spite or simply a girl’s refusal to admit that she consented to an act of which she is now ashamed. Of the various possibilities, the at most subtle are those connected with mental complexes”.

Because they do not understand the duty of speaking the truth and the nature of evidence, given unsworn evidence, it renders their evidence without oath unreliable. This weakens their cases of defilement.

English, a foreign language is the one mostly used in the courts. The fact that most of our society is illiterate, its becomes hard for the society to interpret the law. This kind of problem increases the incidence of defilement because most people do not know the legal implications attached to this criminal offence.

Commenting on the laws and by- laws, it was observed that the current process of law making does not sufficiently involve women or the youth. A doctor from Mulago Hospital said unless the law comes to the grassroots through civic education in the press, women aren’t likely to know what to do and will remain scared of going to the authorities and talking about defilement.

Talking about enforcement and prosecution, it is observed that; “cases involving defilement may be miss- handled favoring the interests of the victim. Sometimes, police or courts unduly favor the interests of the man whereas other cases are likely to come for prosecution.

CAUSES OF DEFILEMENT

2.2 SOCIAL FACTORS

In a recent case study of Kampala Urban Areas, Rogers Kasirye of Friends of the Children Association (FOCA) examined factors leading to and the nature of child abuse in Uganda. Kasirye’s research revealed that sexual abuse occurs in homes, schools and in the community.

He observes:

“Sexual abuse takes place in homes, occurring frequently at the hands of friends and relatives than at the hands of strangers. The perpetrators of this abuse are almost exclusively men, fathers, uncles, brothers and their relatives. Even babysitters may engage in such criminal behavior”.

The nature of these relationships renders it utmost impossible for victims to expose an offender who is senior to them in whatever respect. It follows therefore that the offenders take advantage of their position to intimidate the victims never to reveal the crime committed against them. Sometimes relatives try to suffocate the case to save a close relative from the sanctions of the law. This makes it even harder for the press to get any information about these cases because they are not revealed to either the police or any other authoritative officials. Defilers of children are therefore people who abuse their close relation and proximity to the child and its parents. Defilers use unsuspecting situations like sending children on errands, waylaying them on their routine activities such as fetching water, invading children plays such as hide and seek, and bribing children with toys, sweets and other nice little things to lure them to convenient places for sexual attack. It is observed that the victims are often silent on sex abuse and sometimes unwilling to contact the press for exposure of the offenders, making it difficult for the press to get first hand information about defilement cases. It is extremely hard for the press to persuade and convince the public that this behavior exists among our people.

2.3 ECONOMIC FACTORS.

In the situation analysis conducted in 1994, participants observed that “families that cannot afford to adequately provide for their daughters or wives because of financial stress are more vulnerable to the abuse”. In most cases where the press does not know about the case, out of court settlements are arrived at between the parties. This is a clear indication that economic gains prevail over the girl’s rights. This is especially the case where parents negotiate compensation for their daughters. Due to poverty, victims of defilement easily succumb to monetary compensation and they keep quiet about the crime. An increasing number of teenage girls are joining the sex markets for survival. It is therefore a social reality that poverty aggravates the incidence of defilement.

2.4 CULTURAL FACTORS.

Cultural factors disregard the status of women leading to a failure to appreciate the seriousness of sexual offenses by communities. As a result, parties try to resolve the offense secretly yet it constitutes a capital offense on the penal code. In some cases, the press will not get to know about the case, so no coverage is done.

Cultural expectations and beliefs affect the perception of what situations are called “abuse” – these cultural expectations tend to increase defilement. On the other hand cultural taboos prevent victims from readily describing to the press and authorities or relatives what has befallen them for fear of violating traditional ethics. Young ones cannot talk or discuss sexual matters and their details with or before adults. In the Kigisu culture, one of the ethnic groups found in Eastern Uganda, parents marry off their young daughters to get school fees for their boys and to get wives for their elder brothers.

Malinowsk, in his book, *An Introduction to Social Anthropology*, says that “The family is the institution within which the cultural traditions of society are handed on to the new generation through the process of socialization, (2nd Edition Oxford Press page 85). One has to remember that this is the family where a child is defiled and the offender is legalized as the husband or asked to bring little money Child marriages are particularly wide spread in rural areas, more especially in Northern Uganda.

The conflict arising out of these cultural practices which are backed by the Customary Marriage Decree of 1973 and the defilement law which stipulates that having sex with a girl below 18 years is a crime; makes press reportage of defilement cases difficult because some of the cases that might appear to be defilement are proper marriages which are legally provided for.

The need for a fixed age becomes even more urgent considering that having sexual intercourse and conceiving at an early age has both long and short term, mental, medical, social and economic effects which are detrimental to the young females.

2.5 THE PRESS AND DEFILEMENT

The dominant level of coverage of defilement stories has a source from the courts. Most of these are acquittals, convictions or mere hearing.

Defilement cases involve sexual assault of minors from babies to children. Intensive coverage of trial in a defilement case depends on the status of the accused and his

position in the society. Such coverage is not necessary due to the fact that a girl has been defiled, but rather the personality involved. Some headlines used in defilement stories give the impression that an achievement has been made either by the girl or man who defiled her. One cannot help suspecting that some headlines imply a kind of initiation from girlhood to womanhood on the girl's part.

The opposite is reflected in the way the press fails to emphasize that the fact that the girls defiled are very young and the negative consequences that await them in future.

Very few defilement stories appear in the newspapers compared to thousands committed everyday that go unreported. Various reasons account for this, which may be due to the nature of the offence, and the traditional stigma attached to it which makes it very difficult for the press to get information about the offence. The other explanation may be due to the fact that incidents of defilement are not considered newsworthy by newspaper gatekeepers.

2.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.

As a mirror of the society, the media both local and international has played and still continues to play a very crucial role in highlighting and drawing the world's attention to the abuse of human rights especially defilement which includes its causes, effects as well as the laid down methods dealing with the evils of defilement.

One of the most hotly debated subjects in the history of mass communication has been the effects of the print media. Among several hypothesis about the effects of the print media and one that has flourished in the recent years has held that the print media simply pays attention to some issues and in the long run neglecting others. This will have a big bearing on public opinion. This is the agenda setting theory. The theory argues that people will tend to know about those things which the mass media deal with and adopt to the order of priority assigned to the different issues.

Malcolm Mccombs and Donald Shaw are the most recent proponents of the agenda setting hypothesis and they argue; "audiences not only learn about public issues and other matters through the media, they also learn how much important to attach to an issue or topic from the emphasis the media places upon it..."

(Mc Quail and Windahi: 1993).

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This section describes and explains the methodology to be used in the study. In this section, various elements will be described as well as analyzed such as survey population, data collection instruments and key limitations to the study. It should be noted that the length of the study, resources available and the composition of the respondents will indicate the choice of methods to be used.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

All data collection will be done using standard guidelines for information collection, interviews and questionnaires.

Both qualitative and quantitative methods of research will be applied.

Available data on defilement cases will be reviewed. Data reviewed will include newspapers, journals, magazines and other research done on the topic plus court records on defilement.

3.2 AREA OF POPULATION OF STUDY

The population of the study will comprise of editors, reporters, local council officials, magistrates, judges and medical doctors. This survey population was best selected because they determine the basis of coverage of defilement cases from the grassroots level.

3.3 SAMPLE SIZE AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Key information interviews will be carried out with a total of fifty one (51) individuals which included

Six editors from The Daily Monitor and The New Vision Newspapers. These will be given questionnaire to answer.

Fifteen reporters from The Daily Monitor and The New Vision Newspapers, these will be interviewed.

Seven local council officials from Mulago, Namuwongo and Kamwokya parishes. These will be interviewed.

Questionnaires will be answered by eight magistrates from Mengo and Buganda Road Courts.

Five judges of the High Court of Uganda will answer questionnaires

Eleven medical doctors from Mulago, National Referral Hospital and Nsambya General Hospital will also answer the questionnaires

The study will involve simple random sampling of data collection to select the respondents who will participate in the study. Simple random selection identifies subgroups in the population hence making it easier to get information from a large population.

3.4 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS AND ANALYSIS

All information gathered will be recorded verbatim and recorded in English.

Analysis will be done manually, based on key analysis questions developed from objectives.

Major themes in the data collected will be identified and coded according to the following;

The information to be compiled will be developed into sections of the report and key questions identified in the data and support reference will be made.

3.4.1 SOURCES OF DATA

There will be two sources of data collection that the researcher will use, the primary source and the secondary source. Primary data will be collected raw from the field while the secondary data will be collected from the internet libraries, reports and literature review (other books) written by previous researchers and other authors, journals, magazines and newspapers.

3.5 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- a) During the research some respondents could be left out and some appointments cancelled due to bad timing as the research will be done during working days.
- b) Many respondents could be too busy to be of help to the researcher.

- c) Locating respondents could be a difficult task due to nature of the research.
- d) Other respondents may not be cooperative especially the parents of the victims and may withhold information due to the provocative nature of the topic.
- e) Some respondents may not see defilement as a problem.
- f) Time is limited. The assignment is to be done over a couple of months although a year would be more desirable.
- g) Being almost a virgin topic, lack of related literature could make the researcher to rely more on primary information.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

The findings of the study respond to the major objective of the study which was to establish whether coverage of defilement cases in The New Vision and The Monitor Newspapers is satisfactory. Findings from the respondents and newspapers revealed that characteristics of defilement cases and the process of handling them had a direct bearing on coverage.

Although defilement is a criminal offence, coverage did not depict this fact since coverage was not given the seriousness it deserved. According to The New Vision and The Monitor Newspapers, ages of victims of defilement varied from seven- sixteen years. For most of the victims, defilement took places in secret places. For some girls it happened by force and they screamed for help which they got from the neighbors.

Some girls of less than ten years did not know what they were doing. They were either forced into sex or they were deceived with small gifts. They allowed the defilers to have sex with them, not that they enjoyed it but because they did not resist either.

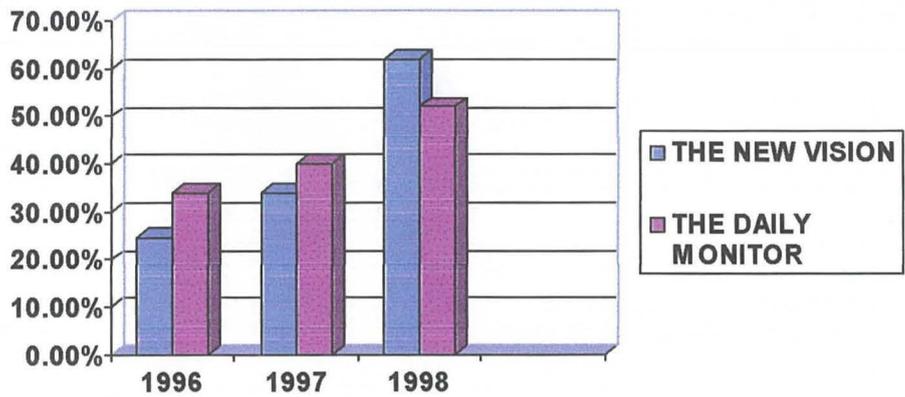
Although the two newspapers had stories on defilement, 87.8% of all issues of The New Vision had social, political and economic stories. New Vision of **January- December 1996 had 24.7%** defilement stories. So it was observed that 76.3% were social-political and economic stories. The New Vision **January- December 1997 had 34%** defilement stories, 96.6% were social-economic and political. **January- December 1998 had 62%** defilement stories which 93.8% were social-economic and political stories. These statistics show how The New Vision Newspaper covered defilement stories in three years (1996-1998). defilement constituted only 12.2% of all coverage during the three years reviewed.

On the other hand, The Monitor Newspaper had 16.4% coverage of defilement cases for the three years (1996-1998) with an average of six stories per year. **January- December 1996 had 34.7%**, **January- December 1997 had 40%** while **January- December 1998**

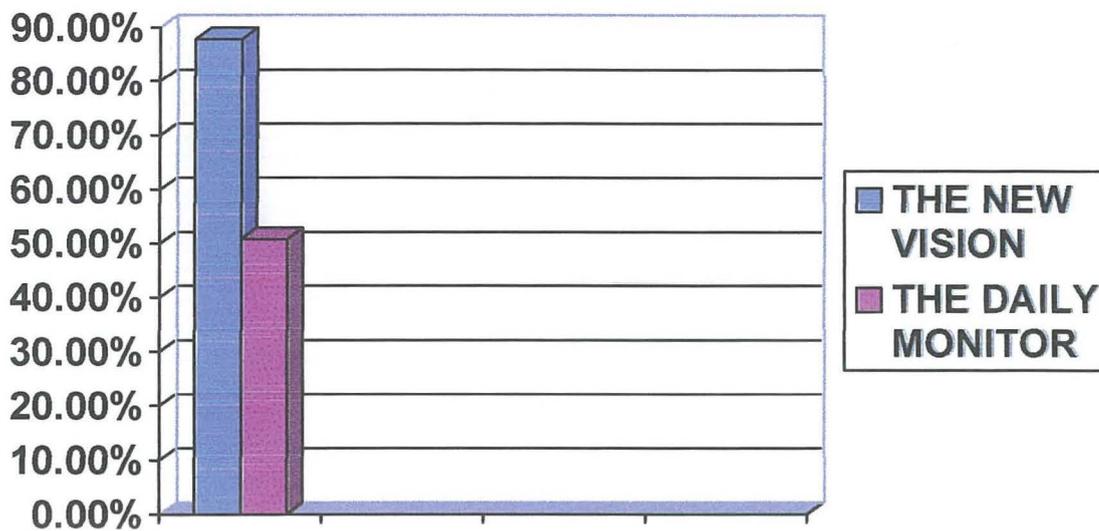
had 52% .The Daily Monitor had more stories on defilement than the New Vision. It had 49.2% coverage of defilement stories in the three year coverage. The other 50.8%were social, economic and political stories.

See percentage coverage attached.

PERCENTAGE COVERAGE OF DEFILEMENT STORIES IN THE NEW VISION AND THE DAILY MONITOR NEWSPAPERS.



PERCENTAGE COVERAGE OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STORIES COVERED IN THE NEW VISION AND THE DAILY MONITOR IN THE THREE YEARS (1996- 1998).



4.1 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEFILER AND THE DEFILED.

In most stories, it was discovered that the defiler and the victim were well known to each other and were socially acquainted or biologically related. A January edition of the New Vision carried a story of a father who defiled his daughter .the Monitor of March 15-18, 1996, similarly carried a story of a teacher who defiled his step-daughter.

It was observed that most common defiler victim relationship published in newspapers consisted mainly of neighbors, boyfriends, girlfriends, playmates and teachers his is inclusive of both house boys and maids as well as those who pretend to be insane and hence in the long run carrying out the act of defilement.

4.2 CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH DEFILEMENT OCCURRED.

It was observed that in the case of very young girls of age 7-9 years, they were defiled from the playing fields by playmates and others were got by force as they went about running errands on which they had been sent. The New Vision of January 10, 1996 carried a story of a juvenile who defiled his two playmates.

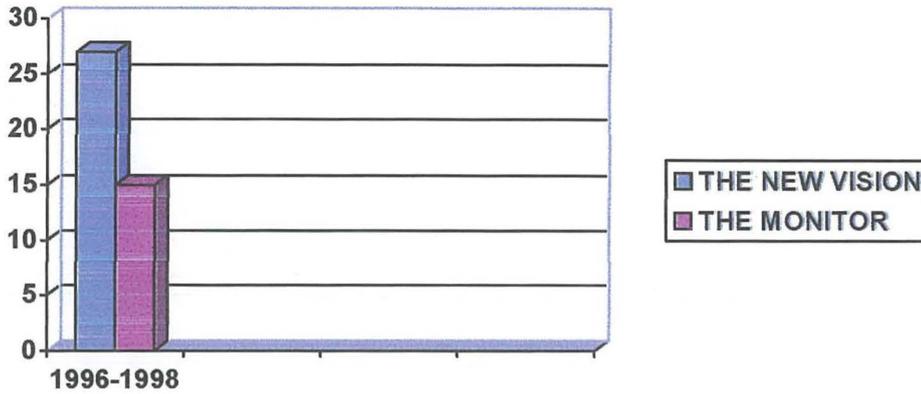
Meanwhile, older girls consented to or developed girlfriend-boyfriend relationships while others were forced into the act according to the reports in the Monitor and New Vision published between January and March 1996. The Monitor of January 31-02 February had a story of a sixteen year old who cried as she was forced to marry a sixty year old man.

Only thirty-seven stories on defilement were carried in The New Vision and Monitor in the three years January- December 1996- 1998, twenty-seven were in the New Vision while fifteen appeared in the Monitor. the New Vision carried eleven defilement stories on pages 10,13,5,8 and 11. Five of the articles published by The New Vision were court proceedings, one was a letter to the editor, another feature in a weekly women's selection of the paper and the last one was a hard news story. Only one of the stories was written by a woman, seven of the stories were written by men. On average, all the stories put together filled two pages of the tabloid size newspaper.

The New Vision carried only one defilement story in February 1996. It was a feature story written by a male author that appeared on a page 16 of the Women Vision that appeared as a magazine once a week in the regular edition of the paper. It covered almost 2/3 of one page. The story highlighted the girl-child prostitutes in a Kampala suburb and the hopes the Slum Aid Project had for them. During March 1996, The New Vision had only two stories on defilement both of the stories were court proceedings. They were both published on the inside pages 12 and 9. On the average the two stories occupied space equivalent to 1 1/4 page of a tabloid newspaper.

See graph

GRAPHS RELATING THE NUMBER OF STORIES IN THE NEW VISION.



4.3 THE DAILY MONITOR NEWSPAPER.

The Monitor newspaper had six stories in six issues from January- December 1996. Each month had two issues with defilement stories. In January, out of twelve issues published, two had on defilement. The stories were basically reporting incidents without deriving into any analysis. Both were written by male authors so on average they occupied space equivalent to 1\5 of the newspaper page.

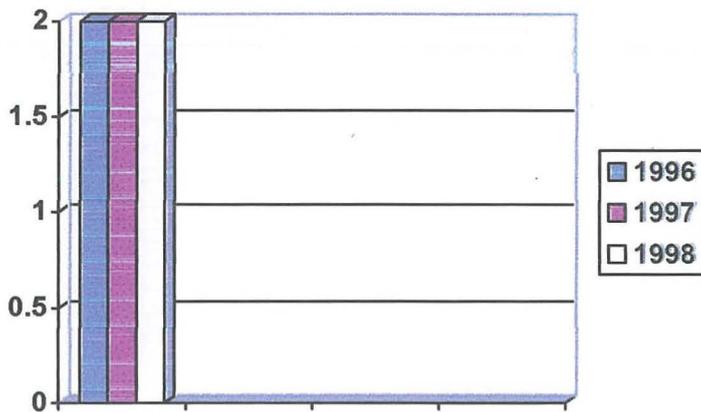
During February The Monitor also carried two stories with one of them narrating the circumstances around a sixty year old man's marriage to a sixteen year old girl. The story was long, occupying an entire two columns or 2\3 of the newspaper's page written by a male author. The story was given prominence appearing in the Monitor Special Report slot and had an accusing tone about it. In February 1997 another story was published, occupying 1\5 of page five, written by a female author and the story simply reported the incidence of defilement.

The Monitor also carried two defilement related stories ding March 1998 which appeared inside the paper on pages five but in different editions. Like a number of previous stories, these two also dwell on the same event but did not engage in analysis and interpretation for the reader what the crime was for the victim and society at large. No solution to the crime was suggested in the two stories.

A common feature of the stories carried by the Monitor were sensational like “teacher defiles step daughter, fine.”

Attached is a graph showing defilement appearing in the Monitor Newspaper 1996-1998.

GRAPH ILLUSTRATING THE NUMBER OF STORIES.



4.4 FINDINGS FROM RESPONDENTS.

Respondents interviewed included editors, reporters, doctors, local council leaders and police officers, magistrates and judges.

Reporters from New Vision said they rarely write about defilement stories because of difficulties in getting information. They said that most of the time court proceedings offered the most reliable information on record.” it is hard to go out and investigate a defilement story because people do not want to discuss the subject”, one respondent from the New Vision said.

An editor at the same paper said newsworthiness is a counting factor in determining what defilement stories should be carried. This tallied with the assertion by

one reporter who said” it was unlikely to have a defilement story carried on the paper’s front page, these stories do not sale”, he said.

Respondents from both papers, the editors, said that although most of the defilement stories published are written by both men and women, men are more interested in the defilement beat.

An editor at the Monitor said defilement stories were given limited space because eve the facts are limited.

A feature editor from the New Vision said that sometimes, they published a feature story in response to a big event about defilement or when advocacy groups and organizations dealing with the girl-child had something to say.

A respondent from the Monitor newspaper also observed that lack of sufficient funds leads to poor investigation of defilement stories because most times reporters are logistically in capacitated to carry out meaning full investigations.

Some respondents interviewed about how they viewed defilement asked, “why shouldn’t I marry a girl of 14 years yet she has had already menstruated, when Prophet Mohammed married a girl who was less than 11 years?”

A magistrate from Buganda Road Court said the law was largely non-functional because it conflicts with local tradition and the Customary Marriage Decree of 1973, which sanctions marriages at 16 years. She suggested that the legislators had better find a way of harmonizing the legal regime to remove such contradictions or else, the entire law fails.

A respondent from old Kampala road in Kampala said, he did not see any reason why he should not marry a girl of 17 years when his mother got married at 15. He further argued that the Customary Marriage Decree recognized 16 years and above as competent ages of consent.

A doctor at Mulago Hospital blamed increased defilement cases on the legislators who pushed the age of consent to 18 years. At 16 years, most girls are already actively engaged in sex. Sometimes they are having sex with boys much younger than themselves. He wondered whether such cases should also be called defilement.

Another doctor from Mengo hospital said she supported legislator Miria Matembe's idea that males who defiled girls of tender age should be castrated.

A priest from Mulago Parish Church said it was illegal to indulge in sex before marriage and marriage should be legal when the couple is above 18 years.

4.5 SOCIAL ANALYSIS.

The need for a fixed age becomes even more urgent considering that having sexual intercourse and conceiving at an early age has both long term and short term medical effects which are detrimental to young females.

Punishment scares the people from talking to the press about the offence and revealing the culprits who are in most cases known to the people. This is reflected in the fact that most of the stories written in papers about defilement are got from courts.

However, considering the effects of the crime on the victims, such considerations should not dictate the decision whether to talk to the press or not.

4.6 THE PRESS.

It is presumed that all the journalists know the law and effects of defilement on victims. Hence the need for reporting analytical stories is of great importance in stories of defilement. The need for reporting the crime in the press should be emphasized once the press gets the tip on defilement and also it should start investigation. Reports are the key players in investigating stories and bad investigators can lead to poor reporting of a defilement story.

However it was observed that the press does not carry out investigations because they are not facilitated. The Monitor newspaper has only a couple of vehicles for the staff reporters hence the impossibility of getting to the crime scenes which sometimes may be miles out of Kampala.

Although some journalists have gone through training, they need specialized skills to handle defilement cases, most of the victims are young children who need careful handling as they became traumatized by the experience. It would be preferable to have more female reporters with special training to handle defilement cases.

4.7 LEGAL AND TRADITIONAL.

The accused has a right not to say anything. The victims who are usually children have to labour to prove their case which shows too much indulgence to the criminals. Early marriages are a common phenomenon in this society. Parents sometimes marry off their daughters at an early age for economic gains hence the need for the press to educate the people about the law.

The attitudes of the victims, the society and law enforcements are very important if the cases of defilement are to be covered effectively. Even if the victim reports to her parents, their attitudes towards the whole incidence matters a lot. They may want to settle the matter with compensation or they may not want to see the press write about their daughter or see some one known to them persecuted or rather defilement may be a normal occurrence in their society.

The parent's decision to take matters to court or not may also depend on the opinions of the people in society. This is reflected in cultural and social factors in the study. Hence a need for people to change their attitudes and values which can be done through education in the press about the law, the procedure to get the press know about such stories.

A part from changing the attitudes of the victims, the society should be sensitized on women's fundamental human rights to bodily integrity.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS.

During the research, the researcher was able to talk to different classes of people about the topic. Although there is limited literature in the topic, books and other research done on the topic and newspapers were reviewed. The researcher was able to get different views from people talked to and books reviewed. Causes of defilement and unsatisfactory coverage are identified and solutions suggested. Actions to be taken by society were identified.

This included, facilitating the press, restricting the powers of the local council members in defilement cases. The researcher also emphasized further research into certain customs which perpetuate defilement.

Recommendations suggested should be implemented by the media especially in the Daily Monitor and the New Vision newspapers plus the society and institutions in charge of children, women and human rights.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PRESS ESPECIALLY IN THE DAILY MONITOR AND THE NEW VISION NEWSPAPERS.

The press should be given specialized training to handle defilement stories. Media organizations should form an anti-defilement squad which should comprise of reporters, editors, correspondents and free lancers who should lead the crusade against defilement.

The newspapers should be properly facilitated with transport in order to help handle and follow up defilement. More correspondents from the New Vision and the Daily Monitor should be posted to rural areas so that interviewing and investigations of the stories are made easy.

The press should also observe the role of confidentiality strictly in order not to have the informers disclosed and to encourage other informers to give them information.

Networking should be encouraged between newspapers and organizations involved in programmes at the grass root level in order to address the root causes of defilement and implement the strategies. An approach to reporting should be revolutionalised leading to stories which are more analytical and educational.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COURTS OF LAW.

The judiciary should be fats to implement the penalties provided for offences in order to deter potential defilers. The courts should consider the circumstances under which the offense was committed and the judge should regulate the questions put to the victims.

The courts should also give lower sentence where the victim is said to be “willing” and of above 16 years.

5.2.1 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Negotiations with defilement suspects should be discouraged and outlawed. Being a crime, they should take procedure before civil makers. Local councils should therefore not be allowed to handle cases of making girls less than 18 years pregnant as they arise from defilement. Their jurisdiction over such cases often makes them arbitrate between the victims and the offenders.

The defilement age should be lowered from the age of 18 years to about 13 years due to the fact that at 16 years and above, a girl of physically and psychologically ready for sex and can consent to having sex or not. And besides at this age 16-18 years, most girls are already sexually active before they are caught and allege defilement.

The government should financially facilitate any organization which wants to undertake anti-defilement crusades to different levels and change the society’s perception of defilement.

Customs which are repugnant to natural justice and which perpetuate early child marriages should be researched on; solutions raised and if possible are outlawed by the statute.

5.2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

The police, paralegals and institutions should mount a vigorous education campaign for the community to educate people about the law, the dangers of the defilement and the need to report and where to report such cases. The campaign can be done through the New Vision and The Daily Monitor newspapers.

The community should be educated on how to change their attitudes and customs so that they do not give away their children in exchange for material gains. They should give their children a change to be better people in future and not to trade in them.

While realizing that victims of defilement suffer physically and mentally and need community support, parents and the community should not isolate defilement victims as they need rehabilitation. Hence the need and necessity to take defilement victims to rehabilitation centers.

Everyone in the community should make it their responsibility to monitor and report defilement cases to the press.

In addition to the above, is the fact that precautions should be taken by women and society to minimize defilement cases. For example moving alone in the dark, isolated places and being close to any male been it a relative. Training in self defense tactics is a necessity hence a recommendation too.

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QUESTIONNAIRE TO MEN AND WOMEN.

1. (A) Gender (B) Age

2. Marital status

Married single divorced

3. Occupation.....

4. How many sexual partners do you have?.....

5. If married in (No. 2), how old is your wife/husband?

.....

6. How old is / are your sexual partners?

.....

7. How old was your wife/ husband when you just married?

.....

8. What is your sexual partner's occupation?

9. For how long have you been married?

10.If your sexual partner/s is/are below 18 years, why did you choose her?

.....

.....

11.Did your wife/wives/girls friend's parents agree to your marriage / relationships with her (if she is below 18 years)

YES

NO

12.Where do you stay?

13.How did you meet your wife / husband / sexual partners?

.....

.....

14.Where is/ was your sexual partner/ wife/ husband staying?

QUESTIONNAIRE TO EDITORS

1) (A) Gender (B) Age

2) Which newspaper are you working for?.....

3) What criteria do you consider when deciding on what articles to publish?

.....
.....

4) How often does your paper carry defilement stories?

.....

5) Do you assign reporters to do defilement cases?

.....
.....

6) Do you think there is room for improvement in the coverage of defilement stories?

YES

NO

7) Give a reason for your answer in (NO. 6)

8) If yes in (NO.6), how would you improve coverage?

.....
.....
.....

9) What is the circulation capacity of your papers

.....
.....

APPENDIX 1

INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO RESPONDENTS.

Dear Respondent,

I am a mass communication student at Kampala International University conducting a study on “Content analysis of media coverage of defilement cases” as a partial requirement for the fulfillment of the award of a degree in mass communication.

The information you will give is strictly confidential and is only intended for academic work and will be of paramount importance in making recommendations that may be used by policy makers. The success of this study depends on your unreserved contribution and co- operation.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

CHEPKWONY JANE CHEBET

RESEARCH STUDENT.

APPENDIX 2

ESTIMATED GENERAL BUDGET.

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Amount
Stationary			
Pens	5	1,000	5,000
Rubber	1	500	500
Floppy disks	2	1,000	2,000
Pencils	2	600	1,200
Subtotal			8,700
Travel and communication			
Airtime cards	3	5,000	15,000
Local travel			25,000
Subtotal			40,000
Data collection items			
Tape recorder (hire)	1	10,000	10,000
Cells (pair)	1	800	800
Subtotal			10,800
Typing and photocopying			
Questionnaires (typing)	5 pages	1,000	5,000
Research proposal (typing)	24 pages	1,000	24,000
Questionnaire (photocopying)	60 pages	500	30,000
Proposal photocopying	24 pages	500	12,000
Research report (photocopying)	50 pages	500	25,000
Binding research report	3 copies	2,000	6,000
Subtotal			172,300
Research assistants	2	10,000	20,000
Miscellaneous		25,000	25,000
GRAND TOTAL			217,300