

**THE CAUSES OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VOILENCE AMONG  
THE RURAL COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY OF PADYERE COUNTY,  
NEBBI DISTRICT**

**BY  
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AWARD OF BACHELOR OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES  
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UNIVERSITY**

**JULY 2005**

### DECLARATION

I ALITHUM BRUCE hereby declare that this work is truly the fruit of my own effort and has not been submitted for the award of any academic testimonial in this University or any other institution.

Signed.....

Date ..15/08/2025..

**ALITHUM BRUCE**

## APPROVAL

This dissertation on the “causes of Sexual Gender Based Violence in most rural communities”

A case for Nebbi has been submitted with my authority as the University.

Supervisor.....*Otanga Rusoke*

Signed.....*Otanga Rusoke* Date.....*15/08/2005*.

**Dr. Otanga Rusoke**

## **DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to my beloved sisters Emmilly Masendi, Winnie Parmu, Juliet Orwinya who deserves a better world to live in. I also dedicate it to my late parents Orwinya Naftale & Orwinya Joyce Acaye who did not live to see the fruit of their commitment and moral obligation exhibited to me.

## **ABSTRACT**

The revelation of this research has clearly shown the dynamics and the obsessive nature of the causes of Sexual Gender Based Violence in most rural communities of Nebbi district. Research also reveals that the dominant factors for the causes of sexual and gender based violence are centered around the aspects of cultural attributes, poverty, substance abuse and human nature among the core issues that perpetuate Sexual Gender Based Violence.

The vast illiteracy levels as revealed by findings in most rural communities tends to accelerate or condone Sexual Gender Based Violence. They also reveals that poverty provides a sense of vulnerability that leads to Sexual Gender Based Violence in that it propels the female gender to subdue to even the worst circumstance of infringement on the freedoms and rights. Further research findings reveal that Sexual Gender Based Violence is condoned and given ground by the attributes of culture.

Research findings also reveal that peer pressure especially, among the youth in most cases becomes an avenue of practice of Sexual Gender Based Violence.

It's also revealed that not only is violence as a result of the culture of local communities but, given more prevalence and ground by nature of humans, mainly the male gender. Therefore Sexual Gender Based Violence is a gross violation of human rights that denies human and dignity in most rural societies.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

WHO	World Health Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Education Fund
NO	Number
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
UN	United Nations
n	Sample size
STDs	Sexual Transmitted Diseases
%	Percentage
AAU	Action Aid Uganda
PEARL	Programme for Enhancing Adolescent Reproductive Literacy



# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is a violation of human rights. This kind of violence perpetrates the stereotyping of gender roles that denies human dignity of the individual and stymies human development. The overwhelming majority of victims/survivors of SGBV are women and girls.

SGBV includes much more than sexual assault and rape. Although it may occur in public context, it is largely rooted in individual attitudes that condone violence within the family, the community and the state, the root causes and consequences of SGBV must be understood before appropriate programs to present and respond to this violence can be planned.

It's against this background that the researcher was compelled to find the causes of SGBV in Nebbi District. According to district sources (local government) there has been an increasing case of SGBV especially among the poor populations.

According to the police officer in charge of Welfare at Nebbi police station, there were 50 reported cases of SGBV in the month of October 2004, representing an increase of 20 percent from the previous month. He commented that there have been similar cases.

A similar discussion with the Local Council 11 Chairperson of Opanu Village, Nebbi Sub county corroborated the police information of widespread causes of SGBV. However, he added that illiteracy seems to be a major contributing factor. People are ignorant of the existing laws. Many are ignorant of their rights as citizens.

According to the District Profile 2002 (Nebbi), the district has one of the highest illiteracy rates in West Nile, compared to other districts. The largest number being in the rural areas.

It must be noted that human rights are universal, indivisible, interconnected and interdependent. Only individual, without regard to the race, ethnicity, colour, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national or social organization, property, birth or status, is entitled to the respect, protection, exercise and enjoyment of all the fundamental human rights and freedoms.

States are therefore obliged to ensure the equal enjoyment of all economic, social, cultural and political agents for women, men, girls and boys. Therefore all actions aimed at ensuring equal access to and enjoyment of the rights of women, men, girls and boys should be paramount concern to states, communities and individuals.

This study looked at the major causes of sexual and gender bases violence in Nebbi district. A report will be written and recommendations made to all stakeholders. A according available studies, SGBV has been a cause of deaths, family breakups, illiteracy in most communities where they are widely practiced, Nebbi District Profile 2002.

## **1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

In every community in the world there are people who have been affected by acts of brutality. Atrocities committed by organized groups are often well publicized, while abuses committed behind closed doors in confines of one's own home often remain very hidden. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence are some of the many cases the world over.

SGBV is most prevalent in rural areas where there is general lack of respect for human rights. SGBV is of-course, itself a human rights violation. Women and

Children, who are often most vulnerable to human rights abuses, are also the ones who suffer most from SGBV.

SGBV is serious problem and one, which we must tackle head-on.

According to UNHCR guidelines on SGBV (2003) Worldwide, an estimated 40-70 percent of homicides of women committed by intimate partners often in the context of an abusive environment. Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or at least abused in her lifetime. More than 90 million African women and girls are victims of female genital mutilation. At least 60 million girls who would otherwise be expected to be a wife are often missing.

At national levels there are high rates of wife battering, particularly from northern and eastern Uganda. According to locally available information there is high rate of defilement, rape and abuse and particularly geared towards women and the girl-child.

A woman has made great contributions to our societies and therefore deserves respect. In Uganda in particular, yearly UNEB (Uganda National Examinations' Board) records show women are often excelling at almost most levels. Many women are offering science courses. This study therefore intends to examine the disparity between the men and women, particularly finding out the major causes of violence and all forms of abuses targeting women as a vulnerable sex in the community.

## **1.2 GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

To examine the major causes of SGBV among the peoples of Nebbi district.

1. To examine the impact of educational levels in SGBV.
2. To examine the impact of culture in the perpetuation of SGBV.
3. To examine the impact of poverty in the perpetuation of SGBV.

4. To examine the impact of Substance abuse in perpetuating SGBV.
5. To examine the relationship between one's upbringing and SGBV.
6. To examine how environment determines an individual's participation in SGBV.

### **1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. Does one's level of education determine his/her participation in SGBV?
2. What role does culture play in the perpetuation of SGBV?
3. Does poverty play a big role in SGBV?
4. Does excessive substance abuse affect the relationship between a wife and a husband as well and vice versa?
5. Are children from violent families more likely to inherit similar habits?
6. What role does peer pressure play in the perpetuation of SGBV?

### **1.4 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS**

1. The lowly educated persons are more likely to engage in Sexual and Gender Based violence.
2. Certain cultural beliefs, attitudes and practice are a major cause of Sexual and Gender Based violence in rural areas.
3. Those who abuse substance are more likely to engage in Sexual and Gender based violence, compared to those who don't.
4. Low-income earners in rural areas are the major perpetrators of Sexual and Gender Based violence.
5. Children from violent families are more likely to acquire the same practice.
6. Peer pressure plays a big role in pushing one towards Gender Based violence.

### **1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The proposed study will be useful in providing SGBV prevalent in most rural areas where there is a general lack of respect for human rights. At national levels, women are lagging behind in almost all sectors.

According to Nebbi district profile (1994) women constitute 78 percent of the illiterate population. They have less access to health facilities. Girls are normally married at very tender age. According to the new vision of August 2004, a research found out that girls marry at a tender age of 14 in Nebbi district.

There are many cases of wife battering and all forms of abuses based on gender, according to information available at the local populace and office of the probation, Nebbi district local government.

According to UNHCR, Women and children are often vulnerable to abuses and also suffer most from SGBV. The results of this study will help the following.

1. Give basic information to NGO's interested in handling SGBV what the causes are.
2. Help the district/local authorities in developing of positive policies towards women.
3. To help researchers develop more advanced studies in Gender issues
4. To bring to the attention of the local population/society the moral dilemma of the practice of sexual Gender based violence.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

In every community in the world there are people who have been affected by acts of brutality. Atrocities committed by armed groups in conflict situations are often well publicized while abuses committed behind closed doors in the confine of one's own home often remain completely hidden. Women are among those most vulnerable to acts of violence including SGBV UNHCR (2003).

According to UNHCR (2003) SGBV is most prevalent in environment where there is a general lack of respect for human rights; SGBV is itself a human rights violation. Women and children are often most vulnerable to human rights abuses, are also the ones who suffer most from SGBV.

Gender and sexual violence is a serious problem, and one, which we will find out the root, causes of SGBV amongst the people of Nebbi district, UNHCR (2003).

#### **SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND CULTURE**

SGBV is a violation of human rights. This kind of violence perpetuates the stereotyping of gender roles that denies human dignity of the individual and stymies human development. The overwhelming majority of victims/survivors of SGBV are women and girls.

SGBV and gender based violence includes much more than sexual assault and rape. Although it may occur in public contexts, it is largely rooted in individual attitudes that condone violence within the family, the community and the state. The root causes and the consequences of SGBV must be

understood before appropriate programmes to prevent and respond to this violence can be planned, UNHCR (2003).

World over, an estimated 40 – 70 percent of homicides of women are committed by intimate partners, often in the context of an abusive relationship.

According to UNICEF –Uganda (2004) Concept Paper note, one of the most common forms of violence against women is that performed by a husband or male partner. The private nature of this sort of violence often makes it invisible either literally, since it happens behind closed doors or effectively since cultural norms too often treat it not as a crime, but as a family matter/obligation or as normal part of life.

The result is that half of humanity is vulnerable to a risk factor with profound implications for the health, but which is nevertheless often ignored. This study will investigate the role of culture as one factor perpetuating SGBV.

### **SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND POVERTY**

SGBV is a major public health and human rights problem in the world. According to Nick Danziger (2003), Violence against women by an intimate male partner or

Ex-partner what is known as domestic violence against women? This category includes physically and sexual violence, emotional abusive, and a range of coercive and far controlling evidence abounds that the public sector and their society in general bears much of the economic burden.

Low and middle-income families, it's also probable that society absorbs much of the cost of violence through hired public expenditure and negative effects, WHO (2003).

Given the wide range of methodological references and extensive gaps in existing literature on the relations between poverty and gender violence there is need for a systematic research into cost of violence. This study intends to add on more to the existing literature.

Interpersonal sexual violence disproportionately affects middle-income families. The economic impacts are severe on poorer families, Denziger (2003).

Violence against women has been identified as a public health and human rights issue throughout the world, but lack reliable data on causes, magnitude and consequences of the problem has been a major obstacle in the search of solutions WHO (1997).

Women in abusive situations often feel shame, a desire to protect their families and divided loyalties, all of which make the subject very difficult for them to talk about, The sexual and violence Research 2002.

According to UNICEF (2004) physical and economic insecurity means that women and girls are vulnerable to gender exploitation in return for food, security and money. Soldiers and LDU take “temporary wives” and “girl-friends” when stationed in detachments near IDP camps.

Such are often abandoned when soldiers are re-assigned. Even married mothers face social stigma and exclusions and risks of falling into a downward spiral further sexual exploitation. Many women and girls move to urban areas and support themselves through transactional sex due to poverty.

SGBV is a notoriously difficult issue on which to establish accurate statistics or to collect good qualitative information is hard. In northern Uganda there is massive social and economic and cultural barriers to survivors; UNICEF (2004). However, various studies are pointers towards SGBV being a



common hazard, especially for women and girls in both rural and urban areas. A survey conducted by UNICEF in late 2003-recorded 13 percent of night commuters, reporting awareness of involuntary sexual activity and 7 percent reported feeling under sexual threat. A study in Gulu in 2001 found that rape, defilement was common.

During research in district in 1997 and 1998, Amnesty International documented sufficient cases of rape to include that there was an extensive pattern of rape that has remained largely hidden. This study will investigate the relationship between poverty and SGBV.

SGBV is primarily a series of problems that hinge on power issues. In the context of the poverty economic dependency and extreme vulnerability that prevails in the war zones, the historically constituted social and economic power imbalance between men and women.

### **SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

According to Herse L. (1994) around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in some other way – most often by someone she knows including her husband or another male family member sometimes under the influence of drug or alcohol.

Violence to him also serves by intervention or affects to perpetuate male power, it is sustained by a culture of silence and denial of the seriousness of the health consequences of abuse. In addition to the harm it exacts on individuals levels these consequences also exact social toll and place a heavy and unnecessary burden on health services.

Most domestic violence involves male against the women, majority of which are a direct result of alcohol abuse Herse L. (1994) this gender difference is also note in the way boys and women are socialized.

According to UNFPA (2004) pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to violence some husbands become more violent during the wife's pregnancies even hitting the bellies. Cross-cultural studies of wife abuse have found that nearly 15 percent of peasants and small society's potentials of violence because of many factors; poverty, ignorance drug abuse etc. The prevalence of domestic violence in a given society therefore is the result of faint acceptance by that society.

According to Ralph Wader (2003) despite encouraging statistics about recent decline in substance abuse of drugs, alcohol remains one of the most serious and destructive problems to price in premature death and destroyed families. Girls are likely to have been physically or sexually abused. Such girls are at increased risks from substance abuse. He continued that almost all women aged 15 – 44 years have used drugs at least once in their lives of these nearly two million have used cocaine. Sexual abuse was more strongly associated with drug or alcohol dependence than any other psychiatric disorder, Kendler (National Institute of Drug abuse).

According to SAMSHA National Survey on drug use and family to be dependent on or abusing alcohol or an illicit drug. Where as there are believed to be many causes of SGBV, this study will focus on the key areas of poverty, ignorance, substance abuse, and educational levels among the people of Nebbi district.

The Nebbi district profile (2003) indicates a high degree of illiteracy among the people of Nebbi, especially in rural areas. It was highest among the women members who constitute almost 70 percent of the illiterates. The

report continues that resource distribution has been another disturbing factor among families with relative degree of illiteracy. Poverty was discovered to be wide spread in other sub counties. This research will investigate whether gender and domestic violence are related to these factors.

### **SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN NATURE**

At individual levels the degree of knowledge, personal security, access to and control of resources, services and social benefits and attitudes towards gender can influence whether a person will become a victim / survivor of SGBV (UNHCR (2003).

The second level of relationship, represents immediate context in abuse can occur; between individuals, even within families. At this level of existing power irregularities among individuals begin to re-enforce subordinate/privileged positions.

The community levels represents the arguments between and among people that are influenced by socialization with such local structures as schools, health care, institutions, peer groups and work relationships.

Society includes the culture and sound women and children. It is to see that changes in behavior and attitude in any one area can have an impact on all of them.

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report continues that resource distribution has been another disturbing factor among families with relative degree of illiteracy. Poverty was discovered to be wide spread in other sub counties. This research will investigate whether gender and domestic violence are related to these factors.

## **2.4 SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN NATURE**

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## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.01 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter shows how the researcher carried out the research on the topic. The causes of sexual and gender based violence among the rural communities- a case for Nebbi District.

The use of both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and carry out analysis of the information was employed by the researcher. Since one research methodology alone was not sufficient to produce an authentic report and a more balanced scientific report.

#### **3.0.2 POPULATION SAMPLE/SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This study was conducted among the people of Padyere County in Nebbi district. Padyere was chosen purposely and specifically because of a high level and incidences of sexual and gender based violence. District probation office report (2003) sixty respondents (60) were chosen to participate in the study using simple random sampling method.

Ten (10) key informants where chosen using purposive sampling strategies. These were the government officials that handle domestic issues on regular basis. These were from the police, 4 people from the LC members at the levels of LC three (3) and two (2), probation and district community development officer. Because of the documented evidences and other personal experiences of SGBV, which was useful to the researcher?

The researcher selected/choose 10 people to constitute a focus group discussion. This helped in understanding people's perceptions of SGBV and verified with those given using self administered questionnaires.

Quantitative data was analyzed and results presented according to themes for example poverty, ignorance, substance abuse, education levels. The researcher analyzed qualitative and quantitative data carefully to make sure respondent's opinions and views were not misrepresented during the report writing. The researcher did this by reviewing the notes written during the discussion and full time research assistant was employed in the due process of the research.

### **3.0.6 LIMITATIONS**

As anticipated the following were the problems encountered during data collection.

There was a problem of non-response where by many respondents frankly said that they had no time to read through and answer the questions due to the tight work schedules, which they had. This was experienced mostly in the police stations and the Court offices of Nebbi district.

There was also lack of adequate funds to finance the entire research study and make follow ups of none response, and provision of logistics also limited.

There was also culture limitations in that some of the questions' in the focused group discussions were not offered answers as most women felt it was reminding them of their past ordeal of violence and also some of the issues made the women ashamed.

There was also passive as a result of limited time accorded for the study as the semester was on the verge of ending.

Unavailability of some of the officials whom I had scheduled the time for meeting (interview/questionnaires) with the excuse of having commitments elsewhere.

### **3.0.3 AREA OF STUDY**

The research was conducted in Padyere county, Nebbi district, West Nile Northern Uganda. It is a semi arid climate with relatively dense population in the upper part owing to cool climate and fertile soils and relatively scarce population as you move towards River Nile because of the Semi Arid nature. Besides poverty predominates the districts of the entire region

### **3.0.4 SELECTION OF STUDY PARTICIPANTS**

#### **Sampling Method**

#### **Population**

The researcher used random sample to choose 60 participants often obtained from households from the area local councils. This was done because of the large population of the study area. Not every body was included.

Purposive sampling strategy was used to choose 10 respondents each for every key informants and focus group discussion members. This was done purposely because the researcher believed those people automatically by the nature of their work had sufficient knowledge of SGBV.

A research guide was developed with enough sufficient room for probing, clarification. The researcher therefore guided and controlled the discussion to avoid quarrelling or misunderstanding, use of abusive language and directing the good flow of the discussion.

### **3.0.5 DATA ANALYSIS**

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used. Data collected was continually transcribed and analyzed right from data collection to presentation stage.

Qualitative data was presented by use of statistical method graphs, charts. This was to make the results easy and simple to understand.

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Another pertinent problem was of brought about by men, since some felt they had better knowledge than the women on the female Gender.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF FUNDINGS**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter gives presentations, analysis, and interpretation and discussion of the research findings on the topic “The causes of sexual and gender based violence among the rural communities (a case for Nebbi district)”.

The presentation reflects the relationship between variables of interest and characteristics of respondents.

From each presentation, the researcher subsequently gives the analysis, interprets and discusses the data presented based on the back ground to the topic, other studies conducted on the subject, general held views, books written on the subject, expectations of the target group and other respondents.

#### **4.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE**

The study was conducted in Padyere county Nebbi district. Four divisions in two Sub Counties were covered. Thirty people were reached through interviews that included local people, local leaders. Then in the interest of time twenty people were selected and given questionnaires to fill in (these are government officials, NGOs and division officials and some few local educated ones like teachers).

Two focused group discussion were held. Each group comprised three (3) women and two (2) men per group totaling to ten (10).

The over all total number of respondents in the sample was sixty (60), that is 30 through interviews, 20 through questionnaires and 10 in the focused group discussions.

**4.2 Table (1) showing wide spread ignorance as a perpetrator of sexual gender based violence.**

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	39	65
FEMALE	21	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

**n = 60**

**NB.** In each characteristic, frequency = 60 respondents n = sample size, percentage 100%

Table 1 illustrates the data collected were from a cross section of people in the community of the four divisions covered by the research. But men and women were sampled. Almost all the targeted groups of respondents of diverse age groups were reached, implying that balanced views were instilled in the process of data collection.

The level of ignorance in the cause of sexual and gender based violence was realized by first of all, the fact that most rural women did not know their rights in a marriage situation in that 35% compared to 65% for the male gender. This therefore is the clear indication of how the female gender is likely to suffer from aspects of sexual gender based violence.

Better still, most women especially those in rural areas at times tends to be aware of the excessive violence in their homestead or society but are inhibited by the fear and consequences of whatever action they intend to make in terms of losing their marriage, being labeled as uncultured lot of personalities. In a focused discussion with women of Patek village- a woman had this to say;

*“Kadi nyarac-rac de para ya”*

Meaning however bad the man is, he shall always remain her husband.

Confirmed by observation technique most cases of violence are never reported to even the LC's and rarely police station because its ascribed to as a societal value, most people accept some aspects of gender based violence most especially wife battering as a way of soliciting for love or a fresh start of a love relationship in marriage and such cases can only be sorted out without intervention.

To the contrary men who seemed aware of the consequences of sexual gender based violence are not willing to be at the fore front of sensitizing community on moral values, most especially in a marriage relationships because they believe that, it would be like inciting indiscipline among their wives. Even the most educated man would behave to the contrary because of maintance of status quo. To the men its better for the women to remain ignorant as possible, so that it's even easier to strengthen their grip in matters of authority in a home.

Therefore cases of defilement, rape and abuse particularly geared towards women and girl child has got a subjective force that is condoned by the society. Thus it's likely to be an on going process not until the society begins to value the female gender and change of attitudes of approaching issues of sexual and gender based violence.

#### **4.3 Table (II) showing the levels of education and its role in sexual gender based violence.**

**n = 60**

<b>Levels of Education</b>	<b>frequency</b>	<b>percentages</b>
Illiterate	34	56.6
Semi Educated	14	23.33
Educated	12	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Nebbi District profile report 2002



Table (II) indicates that most of the population of Kucwiny sub county are illiterate with 56.6%, semi educated at 23.3% and the educated at 20%. Thus there signify a horrifying specter of a society in that its vulnerability to cases of sexual and gender based violence.

In Kucwiny Sub County research showed that of the 56.5% of the illiterates, majority were women. The most surprising thing is they were not aware of the basic aspects of gender, to the extent that some of the questions asked during focused group discussion did not make sense to them. It therefore becomes prudent to assert that the fact that they are not educated they are not aware of some basic rights, most especially right to freedom of torture.

The semi educated and the educated both at 23.3% and 20% respectively in most cases never stay. In their rural settings because of their nature of jobs, besides are not interested in their societal norms thus living of the society in a doom spell of sexual gender and violence.

It's worth noting that education has the capacity to transform the society to something better; it also improves the level of rationality in matters of decision that would be a driving force for change, short of it, promote abuse of fundamental human rights.

Given the illiterate nature of the society as illustrated in the above table. It was noted in the observation that even capital cases of defilement and others like wife battering, marital rape are ignored. Most astonishing is that most parents' approve marriage of their daughters below the agreed age of 18 years, which is an offence.

It was noted by observation technique that most young people because of the low level of education attained always have got no better options but to marry and since the marriage is entered into at a tender age its prone to a variety of

sexual gender based violence because of lack of understanding brought about as a result of lack of tolerance and lack of experience in marriage.

Educated and semi illiterate are not allowed the formal respect due to them, because the

society believes in its values and in most cases the very literate or the so called educated persons are mocked by the society or are not adhered to as they are considered to be of another class and the society does not really need their guidance since they rarely stay at home.

#### **4.4 Table III showing the aspect of poverty and its relationship to sexual gender based violence.**

<b>Income brackets</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages %</b>
Less than 30.000 per month	36	60
30.000 – 40.000 per month	12	20
100.000 – 200.000 per month	9	15
Abuse 200.000	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Adopted from the field

From table (III) above 36 of the people, that is over (60) of the total respondents interviewed were frank to say that, they were not concerned about any other issue apart from seeking for survival or looking for what to eat given the low levels of income. And very few of the people in that particular community were above the poverty line; 3 people that is (5%) of the entire respondents. Therefore poverty seemed to make them pay less attention to cases of sexual and gender based violence.

In Uganda for example there are high poverty levels in that 35 percent of Ugandans live below the poverty line exacerbate the problem of sexual and gender based violence in most rural areas.

From the survey data 60% of the responses showed that poverty is the most immediate related cause of gender violence. Focused group discussions also support the above finding that poverty is a major cause of gender violence particularly sexual violence as shown by the following voices.

*“My two friends have dropped out of school because the parents have no money. Even us, our parents can not even afford to buy us sanitary pads. This is why girls go to men.”*

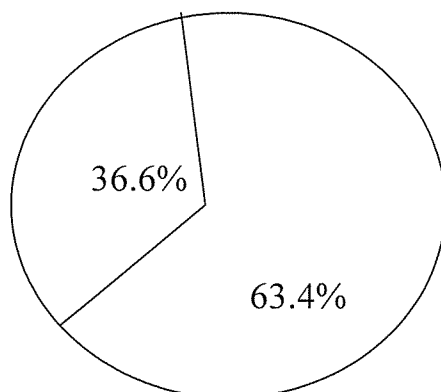
Girls are sexually exploited in exchange for money and other necessities such as school fees, pants, and food. Although some girls enter into sexual relationship by choice, poverty pushes others to exchange sex for basic necessities. Such dependant and exploitative relationships put girls at serious risks of pregnancy and HIV/STD infection.

In a focused group discussion with teenage females, they unanimously agreed that, due to the massive poverty. Girls are more vulnerable to sexual violence than boys because of their lover status in society and the fact that they are perceived as a source of wealth by their parents and future wives and mothers. Some parents marry off their daughters at a tender age to get dowry, which is used for the well being of the family or pay fees for male children. Some parents send their female children into prostitution in trading centers to earn a living for the family.

Secondary sources (reproductive health report on Nebbi district, ministry of gender labour and social development) also identified poverty as a major cause of gender violence resulting into numerous cases of sexual and gender based violence.

#### 4.5 Pie-chart showing the consumption or use of substance abuse, a comparatively between men and women.

Men	women	Total
38	22	60



$$\frac{38}{60} \times 360 = 228^{\circ} \qquad \frac{38}{60} \times 100 = 63.4$$

$$\frac{22}{60} \times 360 = 132^{\circ} \qquad \frac{22}{60} \times 100 = 36.6$$

In the illustration above, by use of structured questionnaires. It was unanimously agreed that men take more alcohol than women. This is because it's the only means of leisure in most rural societies, alcohol in terms of spirits like "Kasese" "Enguli", "liralira" and "malwa" are the local booze preferred. Given the above figures of 38 men this is over 63.3% and women 22 which over 36.6%. This shows how great the consumption of alcohol by the male gender compared to females.

The implication here is that since men drink alot, in the same circumstance women are likely to be victims of abuses as it was agreed that, the person who does not drink is the most affected in terms of the violence from mostly their husband.

Women also agreed that men always drink with an intention to cause a problem; their drinking is an excuse of portraying the worst character as being influenced by alcohol or booze. The men also subscribed to the fact that, some women also drink themselves senseless, with the pretext of selling the alcohol at drinking points and in most cases come home late.

Some men also dismissed that alcohol is the soul causer of sexual gender based violence, but individual's character and drinking habits are the soul reasons that makes it amounts to violence. Some people also linked alcohol to embarrassment and disturbances that eventually causes havoc in most families, most people agreed that alcohol has got the capacity to twist and reduce peoples thinking capacity to the point of aggression, that stimulates them into potential items for sexual and gender based violence.

#### **4.6 Peer pressure as a tool for sexual Gender Based violence in rural communities.**

In most of the divisions and villages to covered by use of focused group discussion, peer influence is a major factor contributing to sexual gender based violence especially sexual harassment, drug abuse and derogatory remarks/bullying. It's noted in the response that most gender violence is due to peer influence. Girls and boys not only indulge in early sex but they are also involved in drug abuse and alcohol as revealed by the following testimony.

*"Boys influence others to take drugs and eventually get spoilt.*

*Use of drugs and alcohol makes boys to force girls into sex"*

(Female student 19 years Angal girls SS Nebbi district)

It was also revealed that powerful peer pressure among adolescents encourages girls to make themselves attractive to boys and older men. This in most cases led to sexual relationships. Boys then want to show power and use all means to get

girl friends. Adolescents contribute quality to peer pressure as supported by observation, most of the responses attribute gender based violence to adolescence. Because most of them have reached puberty, they are at a stage of experimentation with sex, drugs and other things so that if not guided, can easily suffer gender based violence particularly that which is sexual and psychological. This can result in loss of interest in education, absenteeism, poor performance and drop out. This affects their selection as girls may get pregnant and drop out of school. The category here is that the more the youths get involved in such practices of peer pressure the more vulnerable they become with a lot of possibility of recurring aspects of sexual gender based violence, because it tends to be addictive.

#### **4.7 HIV/AIDS as a contextual factor contributing to sexual and gender based violence.**

By use of focused group discussions with females, it was revealed that HIV/AIDS influence sexual and gender based violence in that men prefer to have sex with young girls, as they are considered safer as shown by the following testimony (translated)

*"Girls may get defiled because men believe young girls have no HIV/AIDS and are safe, so they want sex with them"*

(Female student, FGD Nebbi SS)

It was further revealed that poverty and lack of basic necessities increases girl's vulnerability to sexual abuse by HIV infected people. HIV/AIDS has also claimed lives of many parents leaving many orphans who have little or no care in some cases.

Secondary data (UDN 2003) indicates that there are about 2 million orphans in Uganda. This increases dependence ratios, limits the children's opportunity to

access education, and exposes them to child labour and early child-labour responsibilities. The problem is even made worse as such children like boys, girls and those with disability are more vulnerable to defilers. Other factors identified by the survey included the belief that virgins cure HIV/AIDS; the urge by HIV/AIDS positive parents to leave sons with wives, which results in early marriages and increased defilement of young girls reports indicate that the both of new HIV/AIDS cases are among young people aged 15-25 and females are disproportionately affected (Hyde et al 2001) there force the above factors tends to escalate cases of sexual and gender based violence in most rural areas.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

This chapter presents a brief summary of the main findings of the study and it attempts to find out the extent to which objectives were achieved. It further presents the conclusions drawn by the researcher from the findings of the study, recommendations and suggestions to future researchers.

#### **5.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The study was aimed at finding the causes of sexual and gender based violence among the rural communities. (A case for Nebbi district)

Research findings showed that all the areas selected for the study was covered. And that sexual gender based violence is compounded on the aspects of domestic violence, rape, defilement, derogative remarks and sexual harassment.

Psychological and physical sexual violence mainly manifested in early marriages, abortion and these mainly affect the female gender.

In most rural communities, findings further show or reveals that the main perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence are the male gender (men).

Research findings also show ignorance as a crucial factor making the female gender as a source of their misery. Ignorance in terms of failure to realize their rights in a marriage situation (35) compared to (65%) for the male gender puts women at risks of suffering from related symptoms/aspects of sexual and gender based violence.



In line with the above, it was realized to the contrary that men seems to be aware of the consequences of sexual and gender based violence but are simply unwilling to put it to force. Because according to them it will be inciting indiscipline among their wives and the community, so it was okay to leave them in a dilemma for the purpose of strengthening their grip on them.

Research findings also reveals that the vast illiteracy rates in most rural communities perpetrated/accelerated Sexual Gender Based violence, to the extent that aspect of Gender emancipation and empowerment on basic rights, most especially right from freedom of torture didn't make sense to them.

Given the illiterate nature of the society even capital offence of defilement, wife battering, marital rape are ignored and parents approved marriages of their daughters even below the agreed age of 18 years.

Further more findings also reveal that poverty provides a sense of vulnerability that leads to Sexual and Gender Based Violence. First and foremost it propels the female gender to subdue to worst circumstances of Gender violence. In that it propels them in into prostitution in pursuit in earning a living.

Findings further reveals that poverty overlooks parents authority in a home in terms of accepting agreements out of Court for cases such as defilement, rape even when authorities are willing to let justice take its course or but are sabotaged by the actions of the parents.

A research finding also reveals that substance abuses in terms of mainly local gin/alcohol (Enguli, lila lila lila, malwa) are the common means of leisure. And there is a sole contribution of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

It was realized that such men drink a lots; women are likely to be victims of violent abuses, as it was revealed by the questionnaires that the person who does not drink is abused the most. Women also revealed that men always drink with an intention to cause a problem therefore their drinking is normally a cover up for portraying their worst character.

A research finding also reveals that peer pressure was also a cause of Sexual and Gender Based violence. Most respondents attribute Gender Based Violence to adolescence as it's a stage of experimentation with sex, drugs among other things. This caused Sexual and Gender Based Violence in terms of psychological and sexual, thus eventually putting the female gender at risk.

Findings also reveal Aids as a contextual factor contributing to sexual Gender Based violence in that even old men preferred to have sex with young girls as they are considered to be safer.

Research findings also revealed that culture is a sole causer of Sexual Gender Based Violence in that, it condones the worst practice and associate it to something positive for instance wife battering, the victim is ignored, and it is expected that she ought to be beaten to put some sense in their heads as away of facilitating discipline.

It was also revealed human nature tends perpetuate violence in homes therefore a person who is brought up in chaotic family is likely to be more uncompromising on issues thus eventually causing violence.

## **5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

This research has tried to show the causes to sexual and Gender Based Violence in rural communities of Nebbi district, and in line with this the researcher recommends the following;-

- Law enforcement agents such as police community liaison officers and local leaders should be trained and sensitized about Sexual Gender Based Violence and protection of female gender particularly girl child.
- Mobilize and work with community leaders, civil leaders and other society, organization sensitize the community, parents about Gender based Violence and safety of female gender and the girl child including the roles they can play in eliminating Sex Gender Based Violence for example mobilizing dropout girls and even boys for a noble cause of eradicating Sexual Gender Based Violence.
- District/local authorities should pass by-laws to remove barriers to education such as parent's refusal to take child mothers back to school, neglect of children with disability, early marriage, phonograph and video shows and other barriers.
- There is also a need for encouraging the male gender to view their spouse with positive attitudes in relational power they should view marriage not as an end in itself but as a means to an end (mutual understanding between the couples).
- There is also need for adult literacy programmes, for the purpose of transformation for fundamental change in societies especially the woman in matter of fundamental human rights and freedom.
- There is also need for parents to become more responsive in matters of providing the essential requirements for the girls to avert possibility of girls being exploited.

- There is also need for concerted effort from the civil society, religious leaders and the local councils to address dangers of drug abuse especially among the youths, by organizing workshops and seminars on aspects of Sexual Gender Based Violence.
- There is also need for accountability of our actions and services reflection on the rights of using young ladies for various sexual needs, to promote responsible actions on the part of male Gender towards the females in the communities

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## QUESTIONNAIRES FOR KEY INFORMANTS:

Age:

Sex:

Position/Rank:

Number of years in service:

Number of years in District:

Has your status ever received any case of SGBV?

How many cases of SGBV do you receive monthly?

[1-10 case]

[11-20]

More than 20]

According to your records are the cases from?

[Peasants families]

[Semi educated families]

[Civil servants]

How would you compare drinking habits amongst the following? Very high

[Peasants]

[Semi educated]

[Civil servants]

What do you think has been the major cause of SGBV?

[Alcohol]

[Distribute of revenue]

What do you think is the cause?

[Poverty]

[Cultural influence]

[Alcohol]

[Ignorance]

[All four]

[Others]

Are you aware that SGBV is a crime?

[Yes]            [No]

Would you support wife beating on basis of

[Sex demand]

[Cultural reason]

Do you think a study of the causes of SGBV will help stop it?

[Yes]            [No]

Do you think the perpetrators of SGBU should be punished?

If yes

Give the reasons

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In what form do you see SGBV

[Marital rape]

[Wife battering]

[Child battering]

[Men]

Who is more abused under the influence of alcohol?

[The Drunker]

The person who doesn't]

Do you think the level of one's education affects the lifestyles, either positively or negatively?

Do you think uneducated people by then husbands move often or vice versa.?

Do you think Gender and sexual based violence is rampant in your community?

[Lack of essential materials]

[Feelings of superiority on

[Cultural reasons]

Do you think SGBV under spread in your area?[Yes] [No] if yes

[Very minimal]

[Slightly rapid]

[Very rampant]

What form of SGBV

[Child neglect]

[Wife battering]

[Rape/defilement]

Do you think the local people are aware that SGBV is crime?

[Yes]

[No]

I your own opinion what do you think is the major cause of SGBV?

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## QUESTIONNAIRES FOR COUPLES

Basic information:

Age:

Sex:

Sub County.

Parish:

Village:

Religion:

Educational levels:

Marital History:

How long have you been married?

[1 – 4 years]

[5 – 10 years]

[10 – 20 years]

[21 years]

Do you have any children?

If yes, how many?

[1 – 2]

[3 – 5]

[6 – 10]

What's your income per month?

[Less than 30,000 per month]

[40,000 – 30,000 per month]

[100,000 – 200,000]

[Above 200,000]

Do you own any of the following?

[Iron sheet house]

[Cattle]

[Car]

[Goats]

Buckles]

How does your culture look at the poster of noticed in the house?

[More powerful than men]

[Subordinates to men]

[Should be submission to men]

Have you ever been assaulted by your spouse

[Yes] [No]

If yes how many times

[Once a month]

[3 times a year]

[More than 3 years]

Has any of your members ever assaulted, quarreled between each other. If yes, what do you think was the reason?

[Alcohol drugs]

[Lack of school fees]

[3 times a year]

[More than 3 years]

Has any assault be reported to the local authorities.

What was the judgment?

[Because of culture, the blamed man for alcohol abuse][Blamed man for failure to provide family]

Do you or your spouse take any alcohol? If yes

How often

[Everyday]

[Every week]

[Once a month]

[Once in the months and more]

How do you feel when your spouse over drinks?

Have you ever had a misunderstanding because of booze? If so

How many times

[Daily]

[Every month]

[Once a year]

[More in a year]

Do you know some others in the village who drink?

[Yes]

[No]

Are you aware if they have ever quarreled under the influence of booze?

[Once]

[Occasionally]

[Many times]

Who do you think takes more alcohol in families?

[Women]

What do you look each other with other with your spouse in family affairs?

[Equals]

[Unequals]

**APPENDIX A**  
**KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COLLECTING DATA**

Dear respondent,

I am a student of Kampala International University faculty of Social Sciences and Laws, Department of Social Sciences, offering Bachelor of Development Studies. This is to kindly request you to spare sometime for your highly required contribution on the on going study entitled the causes of sexual and gender based violence among the rural communities (A case for Nebbi District)"

Your unreserved participation will be of great academic value and thus a major determinant to the success of this study. All participation will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.