

**AN ASSESMENT OF THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCIES OF CHILD
ABUSE ON DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN UGANDA
CASE STUDY OF KABIRA SUB COUNTY BUSHENYI DISTRICT**

BY


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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL
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SEPTEMBER, 2010

DECLARATION

I Byamugisha Ambrose hereby declare that the work in this research report is my original work to the best of my knowledge and has never been submitted for any award in any university or institution.

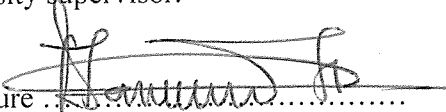
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Date

APPROVAL

This research dissertation has been submitted for examination with my approval as university supervisor.

Signature .......

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Date ..22/09/2010.....

DEDICATION

With much joy, I dedicate this research work to my beloved step mothers Mrs. Joy and Dinnah Muhoozi and my beloved dad Mr. Muhoozi Jackson for their supportive character in my entire academic journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I Byamugisha Ambrose greatly acknowledge the efforts of my respondents from Kabira Sub County for their active participation during my research which enabled me to fulfill the objectives of my research.

Further more, special thanks and recognition go to my supervisor Mr. Rukundo Daniel who has been guiding me during my research. Thank you very much for your encouragement and academic support.

More still, appreciation goes to my family members, my father Mr. Muhoozi Jackson, and my step mothers Mrs. Joy and Dinnah Muhoozi because the only legacy a parent can leave to his child is education for which he has endeavored to accomplish and my brothers; Nicholus, Rodgerz, Kamusiime and Gilbert and also my sisters Susan, Sylvia and Namanya, I love you all.

My brothers Mr. Nicholus Mugisha, Rodgerzi Muramuzi, Kamusiime and Gilbert and my sisters Ampaire, Susan and Namanya who helped me morally and financially.

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried in Kabira Sub County, Bushenyi district. It was carried out to assess the causes and consequences of child abuse on child welfare. This was intended to establish the forms, causes, consequences and solutions of child abuse on development in Kabira Sub County, Bushenyi district. The study used a descriptive research design to describe how child abuse has hindered development of Kabira Sub County, Bushenyi district. The study population included local council leaders, office of the assistant community development officer, Religious leaders, children, parents and opinion leaders.

A sample of 80 respondents was selected using simple and purposive sampling research methods. Data was collected using interview guides and questionnaires from both primary and secondary sources. Collected data was analysed qualitatively and presented in form of tables.

The study found that child abuse was being caused by lack of empowerment to children, grabbing the property of the deceased, step parents, polygamy, ignorance and culture, poverty and greed. The major causes and persistence of child abuse in Kabira Sub county were; poverty, culture, poor laws, and greed.

The study investigated the consequences of child abuse on development of Kabira Sub County, Bushenyi District; it was done basing on the children as the blessing for any development to take place because they are very important for the sustainability of development of any given area.

Literature was sought about the effects of child abuse. In this, causes of child abuse were covered and the possible solutions of child abuse were suggested.

The researcher therefore recommends that, the community of Kabira Sub County should first take its obligation towards the children because the abusers are within themselves and the researcher also recommend that the government should put strict laws regarding children because they are vulnerable and have no court of appeal.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Overview

This chapter contains the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, scope and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Child abuse can be defined as violation and repeatedly taking advantage of all young people below the age of eighteen years [according to Ugandan constitution as revised 1995]. This is inform of child neglect, defilement, rape, trafficking and sacrifice. According to UNICEF, 50million births go unregistered every year-about 40% of all estimated birth worldwide, estimated 246 million children are exploited through child labour, an estimated1.2million children are trafficked each year and also some 2million children[mainly girls, but also a significant number of boys]are exploited every year in the multibillion dollar sex industry, specifically prostitution and pornography.

The present century generally, has been characterized by major changes in the way children are perceived, one result of these changes is that children are increasingly being considered persons with rights, rather than as creatures who should be seen and not heard or whose main reason for being is the satisfaction of adult needs and interests. Their vulnerability is seen as strengthening the case for institutional recognition and protection of child's rights.

The abuse of children has become a problem that cannot simply be left to individual families to resolve. Rather, it is the concern of all societies (schools, the media, churches, cultural centers) and ultimately, of the whole of humanity. The United Nations declaration on the rights of the child19595 asserts a universal obligation to ensure the well being of children – “whereas making owes to the child the best it has to give”. [*UN declaration of the rights of the child, 20 November 1959*]

Once this societal duty is accepted, the problem of child abuse will require institutional recognition. It must be defined and appropriate responses identified and implemented. For

this to be achieved there must be information about the nature and causes of abuse in the specification of the society seeking to address the problem. (Kabin, 2004)

While there is considerable body of research on child abuse and neglect in the West, there is less information available for other regions of the world. Until quite recently, such research as existed for these regions tended to focus on the sorts of practices that the [mostly] western researchers regarded as bizarre or particularly barbaric, for example foot binding in china, female genital mutilation [circumcision] and infibulations in parts of Africa, the Arab world, or female infanticide in parts of Asia and tattooing of child soldier in Asia as well as in Africa. [AU, chapter on the Rights of the child; Memorandum of children 15 Oct 1963]

More recently, the rapid ratification of the UN convention on the rights of the child, and in Africa, the former OAU now AU, charter on the rights of the child represent recognition of international and regional concerns for the welfare and rights of children.

The increased concern is evidenced by the new governmental and indigenous non-governmental organizations [NGOs and INGOs] that have mushroomed over the last 15 years. There is also a growing number of studies on various aspects of the situation of children, The present study will examine child abuse and neglect with the particular objective of identifying the most appropriate ways for the government, Non governmental organizations, and international agencies operating in Uganda to contribute to the existing child protection regime via their programmes. It is difficult to be objective about the mistreatment of the children. We in Uganda like to think ourselves as living in the heart of a large network of family and neighbours.

At times of distress, many Congolese, Ugandans, Rwandese and Burundians turn first to members of the group rather than to faceless agencies. The notion that parents or other adult members of the group can actually betray this trust by determined and repeatedly taking advantage of the most vulnerable members [children]. [The Defender, Juvenile Justice in Uganda, Sewanyana Livingston annual report 2008]

1.2 Statement of the problem

The ratification of the UN convention on the rights of the child asserts a universal obligation to ensure the well being of children stressed a need to protect and promote the

right of children to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of health, provide appropriate, specific, user-friendly and accessible services to address effectively their rights.

Apparently, in Bushenyi District (Kabira Sub County) in particular there exists a communication gap between Adults and children which has resulted into child labour, defilement and sexually abusing children and other dangers of being uneducated. children have been subjected to ritual murders due to parental neglect which in the end has resulted into death and wasting a lot of resources in handling cases related to child abuse.

Unfortunately, when children feel unconnected to their homes and societies, they become involved in activities like prostitution, smoking that put their health at risk. Not enough inquiries in Uganda and Bushenyi in particular have apparently been conducted to fill up this gap.

Therefore, this study aims at assessing the causes and consequences of child abuse and how such a challenge affects the development of children.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General Objective

The over all objective was to find out the causes and effects of child abuse in Western Uganda (Kabira Sub county Bushenyi District)

The study was guided by the following;

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- i). To identify the forms of child abuse in Kabira subcounty
- ii). To find out the causes of child abuse in Kabira sub county.
- iii).To find out the effects of child abuse on child welfare in Kabira sub county.
- iv). To find out measures that can be taken to solve the problem of child abuse in Kabira sub county.

1.4 Research Questions

- i). what are the forms of child labour that exist in Kabira sub county?
- ii). What are the causes of child abuse in Kabira sub county?
- iii).What are the effects of child abuse on child welfare in Kabira sub county?

iv). What are the measures that can be taken to solve the problem of child abuse in Kabira sub county?

1.5. Scope of the Study

There are various family relations and communication patterns in Kabira Sub County, [Bushenyi] but only parent-child relationship and streets will be considered for this study. Both street children and single parents headed families will be studied.

Specifically, the study will focus on communication about child abuse, forms, causes, consequences and solutions of the problems of child abuse in Kabira subcounty. Kabira Sub County is located on the extreme south of Bushenyi district, in the constituency of Ruhinda. It is constituted of six parishes and are; Nyabubare, Nyakateete, Rwanja, Mayanga, Buharambo and Ryengyerero parish. The climate of Kabira Sub County is temperate and the vegetation is green most of the time regardless of unexpected drought. The people of the area are Banyankole and largely investing in Agriculture particularly bananas and coffee.

The soils of the area are generally fertile.

The study will be conducted in the month of April 2010 and is expected to take one month

1.6. Justification of the Study

This study will be significant in the following ways:-

This study is expected to generate more literature that may help policy makers and NGOs in formulating policies that will be beneficial in improving child Rights and the community at large for improved service delivery in changing the negative policies.

All the communities and societies in Western Uganda will have to learn and advance alternatives and opportunities of reducing child abuse. The study will explain more of the role of a child in future sustainability of development of their communities hence making people to respect right of children.

The study will elaborate the role of the Government in service delivering and policy implementation to all people and particularly the children who are neglected & abused.

The study will be a source of reference for other researchers that would investigate about the child related studies

Further more, findings generated from this study are expected to contribute to the knowledge based for academicians interested in this area of study. The study will help in lighting how family dialogue can be instrumental as a strategy for child Rights promotion.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section presents the literature/views that have been presented by other scholars, decision makers, and technocrats among others in relation to the topic of study as either providing solutions to the prevailing problem or further challenges that have faced children.

This section reviews previous studies relating to child abuse and neglect issues. Literature section follows specific themes including children knowledge on their Rights.

2.1 Forms of child abuse

Existing research and social welfare theory and practice divides into the following forms;

Physical abuse and sexual abuse

Children can be killed, physically injured, psychologically harmed, or neglected as a result of either domestic violence or child abuse. From 1990 to 1994, 5,400 children are known to have died from abuse or neglect. Studies suggest that domestic violence was present in a large percentage of these cases: The Oregon Department of Human Resources reports that domestic violence occurred in 41% of the families in which children had been critically injured or killed. In fact, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities in this country. Domestic violence perpetrators sometimes intentionally injure children in an effort to intimidate and control their adult partners. These assaults can include physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of the children. Children may also be injured - either intentionally or accidentally - during attacks on their mothers. An object thrown or a weapon used against the mother may hit the child. Assaults on younger children may occur while the mother is holding the child, and injuries to older children often happen when they attempt to protect the mother by intervening.

Even when domestic violence does not result in direct physical injury to the child, it can interfere with both the mother's and the father's parenting to such a degree that the children may be neglected or abused. A perpetrator is clearly not providing good parenting when he

physically attacks the child's mother. The physical demands of parenting can overwhelm mothers who are injured or have been kept up all night by beatings. The emotional demands of parenting can be similarly daunting to an abused woman suffering from trauma, damaged self-confidence, and other emotional scars caused by years of abuse. In addition, abusers often - as a means of control - undermine their partner's parenting.

Non-physical/psychological/emotional abuse

Domestic violence can occur in heterosexual relationships, same-sex relationships, and teen dating relationships. Although women can be batterers, recent statistics show that 85% of domestic violence victims are female (BJS, 2003).

Child abuse and neglect is a community concern. Each community has a legal and moral obligation to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, which includes responding effectively to child maltreatment. At the State and local levels, professionals assume various roles and responsibilities ranging from prevention, identification, and reporting of child maltreatment to intervention, assessment, and treatment. Child protective services (CPS) agencies, along with law enforcement, play a central role in receiving and investigating reports of child maltreatment. With the increasingly recognized overlap between domestic violence and child maltreatment, CPS is working more closely with those providing services related to domestic violence to ensure more comprehensive assistance to both the child and victim. This manual offers considerations and alternate protocols for CPS caseworkers culled from the practices of various agencies involved in addressing both forms of violence.

Child neglect/failure to provide

In the minority of cases when the adult victim of domestic violence abuses or neglects her children, her actions are often linked to the domestic violence. For example, a batterer's actions may prevent a woman from satisfying her children's basic needs for food, supervision, and support. However, some battered women will abuse or neglect their children whether or not they are being abused themselves.

There is also a link between domestic violence and child fatalities. Of the 67 child fatalities in Massachusetts in 1992, 29 (43%) were in families where the mother identified herself as a victim of domestic violence. In 17 of the 22 (77%) child deaths examined by the N.C.

Division of Social Services' child fatality review team in 2000, the families involved were struggling with both domestic violence and substance abuse (McHenry, 2001).

Even if they are not physically involved, often children know about domestic violence. It is estimated that 87% of the children in homes where domestic violence occurs are aware of the violence (Youngblood & Morris, 2003). As discussed below, witnessing domestic violence can have serious consequences for children.

2.2 Causes of child abuse and Neglect

UNICEF, the world's leading child rights organization, works in Uganda to help the Government meet its obligation under the UN convention on the rights of the child (CRC) and the millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UNICEF's partnerships in Uganda have reached over 7 million persons with critical inputs to sustain immunization services; extend primary health care and nutrition; improve family care practices, ensure HIV/AIDS prevention and control; expand water, sanitation and hygiene coverage, Improve primary education and enable the special protection of children. Trying to pinpoint the causes of a social phenomenon as complex as child abuse can never be easy, child abuse is a global phenomenon and therefore there are other information from other countries in trying to integrate information pertinent to this question.[Assaad,R. and Ghada Barsoum 2004,]

Lack of Empowerment

Children's lack of power in their relationships with adults. Existing research into all forms of domestic violence indicates that when power relationships are heavily skewed in favour of one group, the weaker group is likely not only to suffer abuse and neglect, but do so in violence (UNICEF, 2004) *on the occasion of the International Day of peace.*

Grabbing the property of deceased parent

Customary norms about the entitlement of a deceased person's relatives to a share of the estate are doing havoc to the well being of very many children (*Human Rights defender, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative*)

Step Parents

The connection between child abuse and step parents was one that all media papers including New Vision, Daily Monitor etc last year and from a number of children world wide. According to the Uganda Ministry of Gender, labour and social development,

2006.National policy and strategy for orphans and other vulnerable children indicated that most abused children are the ones who stay with step mothers (*Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Popular version 2006*)

The Polygamous Family

The view that the polygamous family structure contributes to the abuse and neglect problem experienced by children has been expressed by many scholars of whom include Assaad R and Ghada Barsoum, Asama El Badawy and Dahlia Hassaneim of Egypt in their research. It must be said that these tended to be female and as judging from their submissions to the constitutional commission, Uganda women highly recommend outlawing polygamy. Assaad R and Ghada Barsoum raising expectations in diminishing opportunities for Egypt youth due to polygamy. In generation waiting the unfulfilled promise of young people in the Middle East. (Navtel Dhillion and Tarik Yousef (eds). Brookings Institution press. Washington DC

Ignorance of Law

Persistence of customary beliefs and practices were cited as major causes of certain kinds of abuse by most organizations including Save the Children Uganda, World Vision and UNICEF. According to National policy and strategy for orphans and other vulnerable children popular version June 2006. The government of Uganda has established an overall plan to guide the country's development but most people are not aware.

Poverty

The general poverty in which most of the countries in the Great lakes region of Africa especially Ugandans was highlighted by adult respondents as reaching to some forms of child abuse and making others more likely. The majority of street children interviewed by UNICEF said they were there because of parent poverty. Studies by other associations, as well as NGOs have made similar findings. According to national households' budget survey (1989-1990), 81.6% of rural households spend less than Shs.75, 000/- per month. The average household contains 7-8 people.

2.3 Effects of Child Abuse on their welfare

Globally, there are currently more than 1.1 billion children aged 10-19, majority of who lack formal Education. Many are not sufficiently aware of the dangers they face, ill

equipped to protect them selves and willing to take potentially life – threatening risks on the streets. [*The International covenant on civil and Political Rights [ICCPR] 1966 and the International covenant on Economic, social & cultural rights [1906]*]

In times of distress, many Congolese, Ugandans, Rwandese and Burundians turn first to members of the group rather than to faceless agencies. [*The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, The Defender Issue No. 03, 2009*]

The notion that parents or other adult members of the group can actually betray this trust by determined and repeatedly taking advantages of the most vulnerable members [children] can obviously be expected to elicit strong feelings.

Drug abuse

About one quarter of male young people in Egypt smoke. Data shows that 26% of young males aged 10-29 smoke. Incidence of smoking among female youth is negligible which can be taken as a sign of under reporting, given the social stigma associated with female smoking. The majority of those who smoke are males in the age category 18-29 who were neglected. Among young people aged 10-14, 0.8% of males reported smoking cigarettes on streets. Young male smokers primarily come from the lowest wealth quintile. In terms of urban/rural distribution; these young smokers are mostly urban because they are chased from their homes. (*Survey of young and abused children in Egypt Feb, 2010*)

Street Children

Three percent of young males and females reported on streets. Similar to data on smoking , males in the age group of 22-24 showed the highest level of incidence compared to others. Also similar to early marriages, the data from female respondents showed very little incidence of street. Most of those who admitted using were from a lower socio-economic background and were once abused. (*Survey of young and abused children in Egypt Feb, 2010*)

Early marriages

One percent of young people reported early marriages (0.9%). More than half of them were in the age group 14-20(52%). Similar to the use of illicit drugs, most of those who admitted early marriages were from lower socio-economic background and were once abused. (*Survey of young and abused children in Egypt Feb, 2010*)

2.4 Solutions of child abuse

I am particularly grateful to the children who lifted their veil of their world, and especially to those who recounted harsh experiences. This must have been emotionally difficult for them.

More over, it might have put them at risk of reprisal from those with impurity. Should these children be approached individually and offered help? Should the psychosomatic life of these children be settled?

Mass media sensitization

Mass media especially radio, television and magazines are used by N.G.Os and Government to reach out and publicize child rights and this creates awareness and new knowledge to children. (Ministry of Gender.Labour and Social Development, National policy and strategy on Mass media in Uganda, 2001).

Peer Education

NGOs and churches train and use children to take messages to other children with almost the same background (*Straight Talk Foundation, Annual report 2009*). As these N.G.Os and churches and our leaders continue to preach democracy and at all levels of Government, you find many children will always move at the same pace / alike and defend their Rights. Inter-religious council of Uganda on peer education in youth and neglected children 2005 indicated that discussions among youth in societies can reduce the problem of child abuse. (*Inter religious council of Uganda, Policy guide on young people in schools and out of school, 2004*)

Parental guidance

Traditionally among Baganda, Banyankole and Bakiiga tribes in Uganda, it was entirely the role of the head of the family to protect each child from humiliation and torture by outsiders or family members. The head of the family was totally a final person and a procreation of order and peace in the family and also democracy at a community level children inevitably learn about their rights from the environment any way and it is evident that the environment is not always very safe or reliable, so it is up to caring parents to influence their sons and daughters' moral development and respect to human dignity and Human Rights.

Schools [carrier guidance]

Many people/ parents think that schools have an important part to play in teaching children about child/ Human rights. Some school syllabus consist political Education and Christian Religious Education where human dignity is observed and these subjects may be important as far as child growth is concerned.

Communicating child abuse and neglect is challenging because it deals with highly personal issues of life in which social and cultural barriers exist that inhibit open discussion of the topic. Open discussion of sensitive subjects such as child sacrifice often is difficult and even to the security personnel/police. Because they often lack access information and services, children are vulnerable to a host of child abuse problems [Huberman, 2005]

In study carried out by United Nations declaration of the rights of the child, 20 November 1959 , the study show that/ indicates that, 11 of individuals listed in the questionnaire, children said they were most uncomfortable talking to fathers and mothers. The present century generally has been characterized by major changes in the way children are perceived. One result of these changes is that children are increasingly being considered persons with rights, rather than as creatures who should be seen and not heard or whose main reason for being is the satisfaction of adults' needs and interests. Their vulnerability is seen as strengthening the case for institutional recognition and protection of children's rights.

Generally the problems encountered when conveying child abuse and neglect information are the ones mentioned above and that is a risky business in research gathering. [UN declaration on the right of a child.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

This defines conditions and tools for the collection and analysis of data pertaining to the study. It discusses the following subsections:- research design, area of the study, study population, sample selection, methods and size, data collection and instruments, procedure, data analysis, problems expected to be encountered and ethical considerations.

3.1. Research design

The study used both descriptive and exploratory research designs. It employed both qualitative and quantitative techniques of data collection and analysis. The qualitative methods helped to investigate people's ideas about child abuse and neglect for improved child protection. Qualitative methods of investigation to be employed will include in-depth and focus group discussions. As argued by *Miles and Herberman* [1994] qualitative methods provide data that offers a source of well grounded rich descriptions and explanations of process in identifiable contents.

3.2. Area of study and study population

The study will be carried out in Kabira Sub County in Ruhinda county- Bushenyi District, South-Western Uganda. Ruhinda County is located on Bushenyi-Rukungiri highway, sixteen kilometers from Bushenyi town centre. Ruhinda County comprises of seven sub counties of Mitooma, Kashenshero, Kabira, Mutara, Kanyabwanga, Bitereko and Kiyanga. It has a total population of 160,802, 78,554 of whom are male and 85,299 females, [Uganda bureau of Statistics, 2005].

The county is comprise of different ethnic groups but is predominantly occupied by Banyankole and Bakiiga. The main economic activity is agriculture, cattle rearing and some people are engaged in trade [retail shops]

3.3 Study population

The study covered both parents [guardians] male and female and children [boys and girls] in and out of school and street kids.

3.4. Sample size and selection

One sub county was randomly selected from which two parishes will be selected for the study. Two villages from each parish will be randomly selected. Ten respondents from each village will be selected for my study [see table 1 below] making a total of 80 respondents

Table 1

Sample Selection Criteria from Each Village

Sample category	Sample	Sampling method
Men	20	Simple
Women	20	Simple
Boys - In schools	10	Purposive
- Out of school	10	Purposive
Girls - In schools	10	Purposive
- Out of school	10	Purposive
Total	80	

Twenty one [21] key informants were purposively selected. They included four youth representatives, four religious leaders [one from each parish] one chairperson from each village community probation and Children Welfare Officer [C.D.O], an opinion leader from each parish and district probation and children welfare officer.

3.5. Data collection methods and instruments

In collecting data, a number of methods and instruments were employed so as to ensure comprehensiveness and a great level of reliability of the acquired information and triangulation purposes. *Cassell and Symons* [1994] argues that triangulation of data by use of multi-method approach is essential to answer many important questions involving complex processes that engage number of actors. Methods for qualitative data will include interviewing using both structured and unstructured questionnaires. Interview schedules and interview guides will be used.

3.5.1 Documentary review/ literature search

To acquire a wide perspective and make a good assessment of the variables related to the study, the research reviewed existing relevant written documents.

3.6. Study procedure of data collection

The researcher got a letter of introduction from department of development studies administration- Kampala International University which I was present to the chief administrative officer [CAO] Bushenyi District. CAO introduced [researcher] to the sub county chief who will also introduce me to the selected parishes that will also introduce me

to the chairpersons of the selected villages. Chairperson helped the researcher with sampling frame or constructing them, if not available and also allocating respondents.

3.7. Data analysis

Quantitative data analysis

Field notes were written and work edited at the end of each working day to ensure consistency in information given by respondents. This involved cross checking of data in regard to eligibility, accuracy, uniformity and completeness. Editing will be done cautiously to avoid changing the meaning of data as collected from the respondents from the field.

3.8. Anticipated problems of the study

This topic being a sensitive one, the researcher was faced with the problem of low responses or refusal to reveal information. The researcher however clearly explained the purpose of the study; and also tried to set a favorable environment for the respondents to answer the questions freely. To ensure privacy, third parties who might listen and interrupt the discussion were avoided.

The respondents also expected the researcher to pay them some money before information can be given. The researcher explicitly explained that this information is only for academic purposes, and will help him to complete his course.

3.9. Ethical considerations

The researcher guaranteed maximum confidentiality by not personalizing data or revealing who said what without their consent. No respondent was forced, coerced or intimidated in order to give information. For confidence and report building, a letter of introduction was got from both Kampala International University and C.A.O Bushenyi District introducing him to the respondents in which motives of the study were clearly stated. Respondents' consent were sought in case a camera or voice recorder was to be used.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

This chapter analyses, interprets and presents the finds of the study. The findings are personated logically in themes that reflect the objective and research questions of the study.

4.1 Causes of child abuse.

This was intended to find out the causes of child abuse in Kabira Sub County.

Table 1: Causes of child abuse in Kabira Sub County

Responses	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Family misunderstandings	22	21
Death of parents	13	12
Poverty	36	34
Ignorance of children's rights	03	04
Drunkardness	12	11
Polygamy	19	18
TOTAL	105	100

Source: Field data, 2010

4.1.1 Family misunderstandings

From the study findings, 21% of the responses showed that family misunderstandings were a cause of child abuse in Kabira Sub County. This was largely attributed to polygamous families which was a common phenomenon in the area. In such families children from different mothers were being treated differently. Who ever needed to be the heir of the father's property and who needed to take the biggest share of land among their mothers. In families where the father died without making the family deed child abuses related to land sharing always sprouted out Kabira Sub County.

4.1.2 Death of parents

Basing on the study results, 12% of the responses indicated that child abuse was rampant in Kabira Sub County. This was causing a lot of child suffering in hands of relatives and next

of kins. This was being caused by the rich people who wanted to cheat and steal the property of orphans whose parents died of AIDs/HIV in Kabira Sub County.

4.1.3 Poverty

From the research findings, 34% of the responses indicated poverty was another big cause to the problem of child abuses in Kabira Sub County. The influx of population pressure in Kabira Sub County has increased vulnerability particularly to young people in the region. The old people want to use the children as the means to achieve their ends hence increased abuse.

4.1.4 Ignorance about children rights

From the study resulted, 04% of the responses indicated that ignorance was a cause of the child abuse in Kabira sub county. Parents were harassing children in form of culture and norms which are backward and leading most the children run away from there homes. This has increased a lot child abuses in Kabira Sub County.

4.1.5 Drunkardness

Basing on the study findings, 11% of the responses indicated that alcohol and drunkardness was a cause of child abuse in Kabira Sub County. Parents who were drunkards had many children who seems to be more abused compared to those who are not drinking alcohol. The children were abused in presence of there parents and some times parents could talk abusive languages in presence of there children and this has been indicated by my respondents to be covering almost 11 percent in relation to other abuses in Kabira sub county.

4.1.6 Polygamy

Basing on the study findings, 18% of the responses indicated that polygamy was the cause of child abuse in Kabira sub county. Men who were having more than one wife in Kabira sub county were subjected to poverty and child neglet affiliated to different abuses in hands of there step mothers in Kabira Sub County. The population of women were too high in the area and few men claimed to be husbands and this has increased poverty and abuse to themselves and children in Kabira Sub County.

4.2 Effects of child abuse in Kabira Sub County

This was aimed at establishing how the child abuse affected Development in Kabira Sub County.

Table 2I. Table showing the effects of child abuse on Development in Kabira Sub County.

Responses	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Early Marriages	56	53
Death of children	19	18
School drop outs	08	08
Street children	04	04
Stunted Growth	07	07
Divorce in families	11	10
TOTAL	105	100

Source: Field Data, 2010

4.2.1 Early Marriages

Basing on the research results, 53% of the responses showed that child abuse in Kabira Sub County had resulted into early marriages because children run for protection by getting married at an early age. Young girls have been getting married due to abuse and some times forced by there parents due to cultures and poverty in the sub county.

4.2.2 Death of Children

From the study results, 18% of the responses showed that children were being sacrificed and others bewitched by their step mothers and witch doctors because of abuse and neglect. Many children in Kabira Sub County had died under both known and unknown circumstances but all have been attributed to abuse by elders and dangerous people in our society. Other children have been raped and killed by unknown people and known people in Kabira Sub County.

4.2.3 Divorce in families

Basing on the study results, 10% of the responses showed that families were divorcing due to child abuse. In the families where the spouses had misunderstandings over children, divorce and conflicts were high. This was partly brought about by unfaithfulness among couples or parents who could sleep and abuse their own children and girls were the ones mostly affected by their fathers who were using them. This originated from the fact that whenever a wife gets or hears something about sexual relationship with the father and her daughter, she could divorce.

4.2.4 Street children

From the research findings, 04% of the responses showed that due to abuse in Kabira, street children were becoming a common phenomenon. Children were fighting with their parents and amongst themselves due to child abuse. Different families were developing enmity due child abuse which led to lack of co-operations and unity in the communities and hence increased child abuse in Kabira Sub County.

4.2.5 Stunted Growth

From the study findings, 07% of the responses indicated that children are most stunted due to child abuse in Kabira Sub County. This was being revealed in this research where by almost all abused children are stunted and could not tally with there age physically during my research and this hinders developmental purposes which thus hinders community development in Kabira sub county.

4.2.6 Increased School dropouts

Basing on the research findings, 10% of the responses indicated that due to increased child abuse in Kabira Sub County it has increased school dropouts and causing more poverty among the youth. School drop out were basically in primary and secondary and few cases in higher institution of learning. This has greatly affected development in the sub county and the region at large.

4.3 Solutions of Reducing Child abuse

It was intended to identify the methods that were being used to administer and solve the problems of child abuse in Kabira Sub County.

Table 3: Solutions of reducing child abuse in Kabira Sub County

Responses	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Through the local councils	30	28
Family courts	35	33
Police	10	10
Higher courts of law	04	04
Elders	13	12
Religious Leaders	03	03
TOTAL	105	100

Source: Field data, 2010

4.3.1 Through the Local Councils

Basing on the study findings, 28% of the responses showed that child abuse cases were being solved through the local councils. The local councils received complaints from the child and next of kin and would invite a community meeting for the hearing of the case after which the judgment would be made after hearing from both parents and the child. In Kabira sub county, People have a slogan that it takes the whole village to educate and make a child grow rather than a mere parent hence intervention .The role of probation and welfare officers at the sub county also play a big role in child protection and growth in Kabira sub county

3.2 Family Courts

From the study findings, 33% of the responses indicated that child abuse was being solved through family courts in Kabira Sub County. People consulted their family elders in case misunderstandings related to children and their parent or step mothers. Family elders help young people to learn and respect family members and other elders and also help them and teach them their obligations and rights hence some young people can defend their rights through running to elders for protection.

4.3.3 Police

From the research finding, 10% of the responses showed that child abuse related cases were being administered and settled by police like rape, defilement were not tampered by elders through direct help on medication to the child which other people could find difficult before the police intervene.

4.3.4 Higher Courts of law

From the study results, 04% of the responses showed that child abuse in Kabira sub County were being settled through the higher courts of law. These were handling large magnitude cases that could not either be settled by local councils, family courts and elders. These would be referred to the higher courts of law for the state lawyers to help the children reach reconciliations with the abusers or parents. These included cases of death as a result of defilement, rape and or child sacrifice.

4.3.5 Community of elders

Basing on the study findings, 12% of the responses showed that child abuse in Kabira Subcounty were being solved by group of elders in the area who are respected as heads of clans and Families..

5.4.3 Religious Leaders

Basing on the study findings 03% of the responses indicated that child abuses were being solved through religious leaders. A religious leader could counsel and advises the two parties in reference to Bible and Quaran respectively and this encouraged reconciliation particularly between conflicting parties or apparent and a child. This however was not being effective on larger cases like defilement. Parties always invited and agreed upon neutral person to help them reach a consensus on issues related to child abuse which are contrary to Ugandan law on such cases like defilement, rape and child sacrifice.

4.4 Problems Encountered In Settling child abuse cases in Kabira Sub County

This was aimed at establishing the problems that were being encountered in settling child abuse in Kabira sub county, Bushenyi District.

Table IV. Problems encountered in settling child abuse cases in Kabira Sub County

Responses	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Corruption and bribery	48	46
Lack of man power	23	22
Ignorance of local people	03	02
Lack of evidence	05	05
Inaccessible areas	16	15
Lack of funds	10	10
Total	105	100

Source: Field data 2010

4.4.1 Corruption and Bribery

Basing on the research findings, 46% of the respondents showed that corruption and bribery was the biggest challenge to the effective resolution of child abuse cases in Kabira Sub County. This was affecting both the local people and the administrators. The

defendants were being bribed to falsify their statements against their supporters and the administrators write away from the local councils to the higher courts of law. Rich people were influencing judgments over abused children who are poor and vulnerable in Kabira Sub County.

4.4.2 Lack of enough man power and qualified doctors.

Basing on research findings, 22% of the respondents showed that lack of enough man power at the district and higher level of authority was a big challenge to the settlement of child abuse in Kabira Sub County. The district and the sub county lack enough man power with the required skilled people to handle child abuse cases and this could lead to lack of proof in courts of law. The lawyers were not enough in the higher court of law and this was delaying the process of child abuse that some cases take a period of more than five years which makes the poor people to give up on such cases and other young people in the process.

4.4.3 Ignorance of local people

From the study results, 2% of the respondents showed that ignorance of people on the laws about child abuse are very high and because of some cultures, some see it as normal to rape which indicate things like braveness or strong ness hence they do not bather to follow such cases and even don't know about the law.

4.4.4 Lack of evidence and too much Falsification of proof documents due to corruption

From the study results, 05% of the respondents indicated that falsification and manipulation of child abuse documents was one of the problems that people in Kabira Sub County encountered in administering and settling child abuse cases. People could be bribed during the evidence time and doctors could change the results of medication in the process showing that a person was not raped or defiled .This posed a challenge on which document is the real one while settling child abuse cases in Kabira Sub County.

4.4.5 Inaccessible areas

Basing on research findings, 15% of the responses indicted that inaccessibility of the area was a big challenge to the settlement of child abuse cases in Kabira Sub County. Being an

upcountry where the road network is poor, it becomes hard for the lawyers and judges to reach into Kabira Sub County to solve child abuse cases and concerns.

4.4.6 Lack of funds

From the study findings, 10% of the responses indicated that lack of enough funds to carter for all processes involved in settling child abuse cases like defilement and medical check up. The responsible authorities like office of assistant community development officer lacked enough money to hire out qualified personnel and doctors for such cases and investigations by the police.

4.5 Government efforts to settle child abuse.

This was aimed at establishing the ways through which the government was trying to settle child abuses in Kabira Sub County and Uganda as a whole.

Table V: Government's efforts to settle child abuse in Kabira Sub County

Responses	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Removal of children from dangerous situations	13	12
Legal support for children by local authorities	43	41
Probation and social welfare officer	11	10
Sensitization of communities	29	28
Monitoring and Evaluating child protection services.	9	09
Total	105	100

Source: Field data, 2010

4.5.1 Removal of children from dangerous situation

Basing on the research findings, 12% of the responses showed that the government had formed foster homes by appropriate authorities. Fostering is the temporary care of a child .Formal fostering is making legal arrangement to take temporary care of a child while informal fostering is temporary care of a child who is a relative. The children statute does not require a relative of a child to go through the legal fostering procedures.

4.5.2 Legal support for children by local authorities.

Basing on the research results, 41% of the responses indicated that the government had formed local councils in the name of decentralization. All local authorities have a duty to protect the well being of children in their area .The secretary for children is responsible for matters concerning children like ensuring that children attend school, proper care and support etc

4.5.3 Probation and social welfare officer

From the findings, 10% of the responses showed that the government has probation and welfare officer [PSWO] The PSWO is the focal person for everything related to children in the area .He/she is involved in working with relatives of children in distress ,working with police, judges, health workers and teachers to resolve problems with children rights.

4.5.4 Sensitization

From the study results, 28% of the responses showed that the government was sensitizing communities on how to avoid child abuses by both young people and the general public. Government was educating people how to protect their children from such abuses. Campaigns on radio shows, and public have been done by Government to change the situation in Kabira Sub County.

4.5.5 Monitoring and evaluating child protection services

Basing on the study findings, 9% of the responses showed that the government had introduced tools for sample indicators for child protection legal support through number of community members attending sensitization workshops on child protection and child abuse, a number of cases of child neglect or child abuse reports and how they were solved, number of parents assisted to make a will and to establish guardianship of their children and number of vulnerable children property disputes in which the CBO advocated for the child, and how they were resolved.

4.6 Reasons for persistent occurrence of child abuse

This was aimed at finding out why child abuse was persistently occurring irrespective of the government's effort to solve them.

Table 4: Reasons for the persistent occurrence of child abuse in Kabira sub county.

Responses	Frequency	Percentages (%)
Cultural beliefs against girl child	61	59
Poverty	15	14
Ignorance	17	16
Greed	12	11
Total	105	100

Source: Field data, 2010

4.6.1 Cultural beliefs against girl child

From the study results, 59% of the responses showed that poor attitude against girl child and backward cultures have consistently caused child abuse in Kabira Sub County. Cultural values are very much respected but some of them hinder the rights of other people and hence development is challenged. Young people are abused in form of culture because they have no say, according to most of the culture values in Kabira sub county ignores the views of young people and that's why child abuse have persistently occurring.

4.6.2 Poverty

Basing on the research findings, 14% of the responses indicated that lack of basic needs like food, clothing, shelter among others have made young people to continue being abused either by the rich or by themselves in form of survival . Most respondents said that some parent force their young girls for marriage because of benefits they gain from the man side, for the case of Kabira Sub County is cows. people were poor hence could reach the extent of selling their children for child sacrifice to witch doctors or for exchange of money and other benefits if she is a girl hence increased child abuse in the region..

4.6.3 Ignorance

From the research results, 16% of the responses showed that ignorance was a biggest cause to the re-occurrence of child abuse in Kabira Sub County. The people in the region are not informed about children rights and even the young people are not informed about their rights hence contradictions between the two. Some parents abuse their children in form of disciplining them with heavy [corporal punishments] and they think it is okay.

4.6.4 Greed

Basing on the study findings, 11% of the responses indicated that the greed among people from the masses has accelerated child abuse in Kabira sub county .Some people are greedy of others hence promote and accelerate hatred through children and increase child abuse in Kabira sub county for example a man intended to defile a young child on the aim of giving her HIV/AIDS because of enmity he had with the parent hence the situation of child abuse increasing and accelerated in Kabira sub county.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter includes a general summary, recommendations and conclusions to the study. They are derived from the study findings that are based on the objectives of the study

5.1 Summary

The study covered 80 respondents where 45 were male and 35 were female. This included 29 children, 20 married, 11 single, 19 widows and 11 widowers. 38 had attained secondary school ordinary level, 5 had attained a degree and 37 had never attained education at all levels. 24 were self employed, 46 unemployed and 06 were civil servants and 04 had nothing like occupation. 45 were between 10-18 years, 30 were between 18-27 while 05 were over 30 years of age.

The study found out the following as the causes of child abuse in Kabira sub county; poverty, culture, ignorance, greed, family structure, step mothers due to polygamy and enmity attached from different wives

The study found out the effects and consequences of child abuse as increased street children, early marriages, increased school dropouts, death of children, stunted growth among children and increased drug abuse among the youth. The study further found out that child abuse was high due to the death of parents of those children due to HIV/AIDS scourge in the region

Child abuse has persistently occurred in Kabira Sub County due to culture, poor laws, poverty, ignorance and greed.

The measures being undertaken to reduce child abuse in the area were identified as; removal of children from dangerous situations, legal support for children by local authorities, probation and social welfare services through Probation and social welfare officer, sensitization of communities about the dangers and consequences of child abuse and through monitoring and evaluating child protection services.

5.2 Suggestions/Recommendations

From the findings, the researcher suggests that the suggestions made by children who are abused regarding how to come back to normal life should be supported rather than undermined.

This should be done by various stakeholders such as government, NGOs, local community and International communities.

5.2.1 The government and NGOs.

The government and non governmental organizations should emphasize and participate in programmes of children in the area through highlighting legal issues affecting children. For example on inheritance; early marriages, defilement and recruitment of children to the army among others. The government should put strict laws on people who abuse children which are generally appreciated by the public. Child abuse have continued due to corruption and hence stakeholders should fight corruption at all levels in this country.

5.2.3. Conclusions

The study asserts that the suggestions made by children who are abused should regard on how to come back to normal life, let them be supported rather than undermined

Research findings indicate that all stages of their suffering [the abused] on streets, in slums, place of work, armed centers etc. Children are under pressure, either implicitly or explicitly, to relocate into re-integration centers or homes.

Despite the dangers of child abuse, many of children choose to remain on the streets and slums instead of moving to one of the reintegration center. These decisions are driven by a variety of reasons; the most important one being that these children find streets or slums to be most conducive environment for their independence.

My research asserts that the choices of children relating to where they wish to live should not be encouraged but they have to be relocated to convenient areas where they can be reintegrated and benefit from learning. These young children are not incapable they have capacities, skills and abilities.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: INTRODUCTION LETTER



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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Date: 08 JULY 2010

To:

WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to introduce to you BYAMUGISHA AMBROSIO.....
who is a bonafide student of Kampala International University. He/she is
working on a research project for a dissertation, which is a partial requirement
for the award of a Degree. I here by request you, in the name of the
University, to accord him/her all the necessary assistance he/she may require
for this work.

I have the pleasure of thanking you in advance for your cooperation!

Yours sincerely,

Bakyaita Grace
HOD, Development Studies

"Exploring the Heights"

APPENDIX B: RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ACADEMIC RESEARCH

My name is Ambrose Byamugisha a student of Kampala International University pursuing a bachelor s degree of development studies. I am carrying out a research on the topic “An **assessment of the causes and consequences of child abuse in western Uganda; a case study of Kabira sub county-Bushenyi district**”. This research is basically for academic purposes and not any other reason. Therefore you are requested kindly to contribute to this research by answering the questions below. The information you will give, will be treated with maximum confidentiality.

SECTION A: SOCIO ECONOMIC VARIABLES

1. Age

12-18

18-24

28 and above

2. Gender

Male

Female

3. Education qualification

‘0’ level or its equivalent

A level

Diploma

Degree

None of the above [please specify].....

4. Marital Status

Single

Divorced

Married

Widow, Widower

5. Occupation.

a, Self employed

b, Un employed

c, Civil servant

d, Schooling

e None of the above

SECTION II: THE CAUSES OF CHILD ABUSE ON DEVELOPMENT;

a; Who is a child ?

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.....

.....

.....

b, What is child abuse?

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.....

c, Identify the forms of child abuse in Kabira sub county.

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d, What are the causes of child abuse in Kabira Sub county ?.....

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

e, In what ways does child abuse affect the child welfare and development of Kabira Sub county?

.....
.....

SECTION III; CHALLENGES FACING THE AUTHORITIES AND STAKE HOLDERS

a, Give five challenges that are faced by local authorities, parents and stake holders in addressing child abuse cases in Kabira sub county

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....

SECTION IV: MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO REDUCE CHILD A BUSE .

a, What are the efforts being undertaken to reduce child abuse in your area.....

.....
.....

b, In your own opinion, how best can child abuse be controlled in Kabira Sub county?.....

.....
.....

Your participation in this research has been highly acknowledged. God/Allah bless you abundantly

APPENDIX C: BUDGET ESTIMATES

BUDGET ESTIMATES

No	Item[s]	Cost[Ugs]
1.	Stationery	50,000/=
2	Transport/travel expenses Hire boda boda/ motorcycle, transport refund for respondents in focus groups 1000x51 people	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> 60,000 51,000 </div> <div style="font-size: 3em; margin-right: 10px;">}</div> <div>111,000/=</div> </div>
3	Research assistants	100,000
4	Refreshments during focus group discussion	100,000
5	Developing sampling frames and secretarial services	40,000/=
6	Accommodation for a week during data collection	$10,000 \times 7 = 70,000/=$
7	Communication/ telephone	30,000/=
8	Miscellaneous	19,000/=
	Total	520,000/=