

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN EASTERN UGANDA

A CASE STUDY OF BULUGANYA SUBCOUNTY

SIRONKO DISTRICT UGANDA

BY

ASIIMWE DAVID

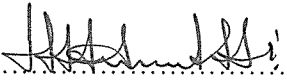
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**A DESERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
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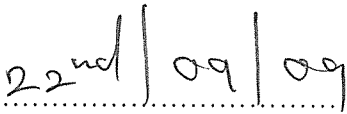
DECLARATION

I ASIIMWE DAVID hereby declare that this works is original and solely my effort and has never what so ever submitted to a higher institution for an academic award.

Sign.....

Name ASIIMWE DAVID

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Date.....

APPROVAL

I certify that this research report by ASIMWE DAVID under the topic “Domestic violence in Easter Uganda with the case study of Buluganya sub-county” has been under my supervision and is ready for the submission to the board of examiners with my approval.

Signed



Supervisor Mr. ANYAMA CHARLES

Date.....



DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my mother Jane Anatoli who encouraged me to do this research in her own home area where there are many women battered with out any one to stand up for them or even give them a hospitable look.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was carried out between June and July 2009. It has been produced in as an effort of David Asiimwe to contribute towards the award of Bachelors in Development Studies.

Therefore wish to acknowledge all forms of assistance extended to me by various people who enabled me to produce the report.

Especially thank my sponsors for their trust and tremendous support financially, technically and morally without which I would have not produced this report.

I also wish to thank the Head of Department Development Studies Kampala International University Mr. Anyama Charles for all his assistance.

To the chairperson Buluganya and Zema sub counties Sironko district Mr. Michael Mamungu and Mr. Augustine Wogidoso respectively.

Last but not the least, I thank the local communities in Zema and Buluganya and police post of Buluganya who eagerly assisted the team by responding the group discussions.

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ABSTRACT

The study on “Domestic Violence in Eastern Uganda was carried out in Buluganga sub county Soronko district in Uganda. Basing on the major three objectives that is Causes of Domestic Violence; Effects and Recommendations to cub down the Vice .

To comprehend the problem of the study, a documentary Literature Review was carried out through use of a descriptive, exploratory design based on qualitative and quantitative measures by help of questionnaires and face to face interviews to obtain data from the clients on the subject matter. The whole respondents constituted of 101, respondents of whom only 98 managed to answer and return the questionnaires.

From the findings it was revealed that domestic violence is a reality and many families had been found out to be victims of domestic violence. It was also revealed that women suffered most the problem related to domestic violence as compared to their male counter parts the men.

Apart from basing beaten terribly, women reported being pushed out of their homes without a penny or when any money for a new start.

The study recommended that the Domestic Relations Bill be implemented to help married people over come the crisis they be fall the days they say “yes”. It was also recommended for offer lows against offenders of married rights especially on relation to the health of spouses.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground of study

FIDA (U) operates a legal aid clinic which traces its history as far back as 1988. The bulk of the cases received at FIDA in family law concerning maintenance of children, inheritance and material disputes. In recent operation, FIDA (U) has found out that a big number domestic violence related case has increased the rate and the number of cases at FIDA (U).

In much as many cases have been reported, they remained unattended to and United Nations reported causes of domestic violence in rural areas of Uganda appear to be much twice as those that have been reported to FIDA or any other human right related agency.

Domestic violence is wide spread practice that goes on in our homes and it can result into assault , mental forces and even murder and takes the form of physical ,sexual and psychological affliction.

As to which sex constitutes the highest victim is open to debate but the fact is that there is violation of trust where by the victim are effected by those most trusted partners in relationship i.e. spouses or lovers.

The problem of domestic violence has captured today's scene especially when many people have tremendously adhered to the false facts that human sacrifices bring wealth to the family. Though not proven, many children and women have fallen prey of hungry and poor men in society. for instances in 2008 alone ,over 35 children between the age of 2 and 12 years were "slaughtered" by their own family members and friends and strangers with implications of gaining wealth and boosting their business.

It should be noted that the problem of child sacrifices has been common in central and eastern region mostly. In Mbale and Sironko, human slaughters have also turned their interest to women whose husbands have been notified cutting off their breasts and private parts for ritual sacrifice. This act of violence has left homes in serious fear since murders just happened in homes unfortunately without any sign.

1.2 Statement of problem

Domestic violence is not strange phenomenon to society in Uganda for there are laws to deal with aspect of assault and battery. On the other hand, there are growing numbers of incident of domestic violence. The media report cases of battered wives, starving children and slain husbands daily. The hospital receives many wounded spouse who do not wish to return to the domestic arena and church pastorate finds many cases of marital despite that requires their intervention.

What is the explanation of this state of law?

Why it is ever on the increase, is it due to ignorance of the law? How do the people of Uganda perceive this issue? Are they aware that violence in homes constitutes a criminal act?

1.3 Objectives;

1.3.1 General Objectives;

The overall role objective of this research is to address the existing gender imbalances in domestic issues by ascertaining the causes, forms and effects of domestic violence.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- To find out the public understanding of the term domestic violence
- To assess the effects of domestic violence

- To find out the forms of redress available to victims and whether the victims use the available forms or prefer an alternative redress

1.4 Significance of Study

Domestic violence is a wide spread occurrences that has now become practice in Uganda which has raised the concern of human rights activists in the country. The study seeks, therefore to examine the extent of the problem and why it is ignored or appears to be ignored.

The study will enable the researcher to fulfill the requirement for the ward of bachelor degree in development studies at Kampala international university.

The study will be used for formulate the proposal for the media and domestic violence related to articles.

1.5 Scope of Study

The study focused analyzing the effects of domestic violence on people of Buluganya Sub County and how the community has managed to over come such effect.

The study also reveals various forms of domestic violence. It showed the work of various institution including NGOs, government and police, in trying to address of domestic violence.

The study also covered the areas of Bulago and Zema Sub-Counties Siranko district. The study covered the period between June and July 2008.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Various books, pamphlets, and other publication were referred to the purpose of determining the current situations in other jurisdiction on domestic violence.

The aspect of law were derived from laws of Uganda i.e. penal code, case law, news paper reports as well as international instruments on this subject matter (see the attached list of materials)

Uganda has been noted among the countries with increasing form of domestic violence. A study in Botswana's chapter of women in law and development. Found that among others Uganda was among the leading countries in women abuse on the continent. The study also pointed out 73% of women in Uganda is abused in their homes.

In Uganda the law governing the domestic violence is contained in number of statutes. There are two laws with provision that could be interpreted to address domestic violence; the penal code act and the divorce act 3.5.227 of penal code deals with what generally is referred to as common assaults. this include beating ,slapping which are punishable with five years imprisonment upon convict .5.228 of penal code deals with major assaults resulting in actual bodily harm and permanent injury . These are punishable with five to seven years imprisonment respectively.

Under the divorce act, a wife is only allowed to divorce her husband giving cruelty as a reason only if she proves that the husband committed adultery in addition to being cruel to her. A wife who can not or fail to prove adultery cannot get redress from court.

Since 1985, a movement has been underway to move women on to the world's human right agenda because domestic violence mainly affects women and has short and long term effect on victims; there has been move to address violence against women on the global arena. It is in awake of this and other moves the United National declaration calls upon member states to condemn violence, tradition or religious consideration.

Domestic violence takes many forms as will be seen from the research but it is worth emphasizing that the various forms violence are not separate forms but part of single problem noted in structure of society . Wife beating fore example as is not problem caused by an individual psychology but instead reflects the unequal distribution of power between sexes. Thus wife beating far from women being structure in social order is a fact affirmation of particular order.

One of the causes of domestic violence is traced in power relation between sexes. Men as a class weird power over women the rationale being in social organization of society where it is the norm that man shall predominate women.

Violence against the women in family has long history. In all countries and cultures women has been buttered, sexually abused and psychologically injured by person with whom they should enjoy the closet trust. The maltreatment by the man has gone unpunished unear marked to such an extent that adages such as “a dog, a wife and a whelmed trees, the more you beat them the better they be”

2.1 Review of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has been defined variedly depending on the context. Friedrich (1995) defines domestic violence as the physical or mental assault

of one member of the family by another member. Therefore the term domestic violence encompasses violence against women, child abuse be it physical, psychological or sexual, abuse or neglect of elderly and abuse of parents by children.

FIDA Uganda (1996) the term domestic violence will refer to that act of violence in the home between parties in intimate relationships that results or is likely to result into physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering to the victim, including threats of such acts, coercion and arbitrary deprivation of liberty to the victim.

Uganda has been noted among countries with increasing cases of domestic violence. A recent study by Botswana's chapter of WOMEN IN LAW AND DEVELOPMENT found that among others, Uganda was one of the leading countries in women abuse on the continent.

Since 1985, a movement has been under way to move women onto the world's Human Rights agenda. Because domestic violence mainly affects women and has short and long term effects on the victims, there has been a move to address violence against women on the global arena. It is in the wake of this and other moves that the United Nations declaration on the elimination of all form of violence against women of 20th December 1993 was proclaimed.

The declaration calls upon member states to condemn violence against women without relying on customs, tradition or religion considerations.

Friedrich (1995) speculates that domestic violence is violence in intimacy and it first received international attention and definition at the second world women's conference held in Copenhagen in 1980.

2.2 Forms of Domestic Violence

There are various forms of domestic violence of which some are physical and others mental or psychological in nature. These include the following.

Woman battering; this involves beating women in the house hold. It is very common in rural areas.

Marital Rape; Forceful way of having sex with wives in families against their will is also common. However it is not clear whether marital rape to considered a crime or not.

Sexual abuse of female children in house hold; on several occasions fathers have forced daughters and relatives into sex even leaving some pregnant.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): In some culture like Sebei; in Uganda it might not seem a violence but in actual since it's in most cases against women's will.

Rape; Involves forceful sexual intercourse with women or girl below or above age of consent.

In our societies the most common form of domestic violence is mostly related to sexual assaults which have left most of the women and girls vulnerable.

2.3 Causes of Domestic Violence

Friedrich (1995) gives the causes of domestic violence and violence against women in relation to theories. These include;

Psycho-dynamic theory: The defect in character structure of persons, which in the presence of added stress gives way to uncontrolled physical expression. That is to say, stressed people find themselves behaving cruel in homes when disturbed.

Frustration- aggression theory: It is believed that frustration causes discomfort and leads to unpleasant increase in arousal and disconcerting thoughts.

Socio-psychological theories: Aggression is explained in terms of characteristics of the victims of aggression. The victim defect or certain mannerism.

Sociological theories: social factors such as poverty, stress and social isolation contribute or give rise to aggressive behavior. Culturally approved behaviors such as the right of a husband to chastise his wife are included in this theory.

Observation hearing: violence begets violence, people who are beaten up often resort to beating others. People learn aggressiveness through things they observe.

Besides Friedrich, there are some general outstanding causes of poverty, which include:-

Poverty: people get much aggressive when they are poor

Culture: some cultures devalue women and children especially girls hence making them victims of battery and sexual assaults.

Illiteracy: some household heads have taken a choice of beating and sexually harassing family members because they do not attach value to them which is often brought about by literacy.

Alcoholism: this common to men who drink a lot and end up into family fights when spouses ask or comment on their behavior. This is very common in society.

2.4 Example of Cultural Practices Which Enhance Domestic Violence

2.4.1 The Bagisu

The position of women among the Bagisu has a lot to do with their role as child bearers. This role becomes important in relation to the custom of male circumcision. The mother of a male who is about to be circumcised takes a special place during the ceremony. She sits on her bed and the son emerges from her bedroom to undergo the actual ceremony.

This aspect of the custom of circumcision has been described because the act involves inflicting pain and steeling oneself so that bravery can be exhibited.

In so doing the male prove their man hood and this sense of man hood tends to spill over into violence in the homes when the circumcised males marry.

The female spouse is thus a lesser human and becomes an object to practice the male's domination including assaults for petty persons like not opening for a drunken husband at night quickly enough or not putting food on the table or suspected adultery.

Hence although mothers of sons hold a special place, wives of those sons are subjected to domestic violence.

The institution of marriage, however is respected traditionally a marriage is sealed by the payment of dowry in form of cows, goats and sheep. It seems that as long as the agreed upon dowry is delivered.

Customarily the marriage is sealed between the suitor and the bride.

The general attitude is not to interfere when the husband is disciplining (beating) his wife because that is regarded as a private matter. Where another person dares rescue the wife he or she may get himself assaulted too.

The attitude on the part of women that a man who does not beat (assault) or ever express jealousy of his wife does not love her is common. The Bagisu women therefore tend to brace themselves for the worst.

In conclusion, domestic violence among the Bagisu is closely linked with the custom of male circumcision and the tendency is to treat it as a private matter between the forces.

2.4.2 The Sabiny

The Sabiny is a tribe from Kapchorwa district, eastern Uganda. Among the Sabiny female circumcision is culturally recognized, circumcision entails removing the most sexually sensitive part of a woman

Among the reasons advanced for the practice is that it ensures woman's chastity to their husband. By removing the most sensitive part, sex is no longer blissful so a woman would have no reason to look for it outside marriage. This in its self is violence let alone the very act of circumcision.

The hardest part of the act is that young women who may attempt to resist the act are either isolated by fellow young stars or even rejected in clans and communities. This isolation is very dangerous especially even when one reaches a time of marriage. This is one of the worst forms of domestic violence. (NAWJCU)

2.5 Effects of Domestic Violence

Violence is associated with a number of consequences of which negatively impact on the nature and situation of people in the community some of these may include:-

Assault of women by intimate male partners has both physical and mental health consequences, for example injury, bruises, cuts, black eyes and broken bones.

Data from wide range of countries demonstrates that domestic violence is a major risk factor for murders of women and by women.

Rape victims exhibit a variety of trauma induced symptoms, nightmares, depression, inability to concentrate, and sleepless times and also face a risk of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS

Medical complications of Genital Mutilation can be very severe since it includes massive bleeding.

Female focused violence represents a hidden obstacle to economic and social development. By sapping women's energy, undermine their confidence and compromises their health, domestic violence deprives women of full participation and national development.

Underlying cause of death among women of reproductive age due to various forms of domestic violence.

Hate between genders in society. Some female in divide also get a negative aspect of men in society and even may neglect marriage.

In most cases domestic violence in a house hold leads to divorce.

2.6 Recommended Solution to Prevent Domestic Violence

FODOWE (u) asserts that the best way to stop violence is by advocating for gender sensitive budgets in Uganda. This will reduce women poverty and subordination in society.

Gardner and house (1996) advocate for police response and cooperation with women as a way to stop rape and beating.

They advocate for arrests and punishment of any one who is behind domestic violence.

Governments should draft visible and clear articles against domestic violence.

UNICEF (2005) advocated for enhancement of children rights and forfeiting all government laws in protesting children against any form of violence.

Government should come up with a law that condemns some cultural practices like female Genital mutilation.

Okumba (2002) emphasizes that men and boys should be sensitized on redefined manhood and violence against women and children.

Community meeting should at least be held at the local council frequently to address the issue of domestic violence.

NGOs should take an upper hand on trying to help women and children who suffer most in domestic violence.

School curriculums should involve teaching children the importance of both sexes other than boys always conceiving it in mind that they are superior and final.

2.7 Efforts to Curb Down the Practice

In the attempt to curb down the vice of domestic violence, both the national and international attempt has been tried as a way to solve the issue. A combination of tools has been thought to create a change in the domestic arena.

2.7.1 International Enactment

At the international level domestic violence has been handled in a way that many international enactments have been followed to create an appropriate law that governs homes and protects the rights of women.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights as introduced in 1948 puts it right that all humans are equal regardless of their age sex and status; therefore the declaration guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of persons and out laws , torture , cruelty , in human or degrading treatment or punishments. It also calls for equality before the law and right to own the property. Therefore this gives both people a right to live without fear of being tortured and harassed by one another in marriage.

On the other hand the declaration of elimination of all forms of discrimination against women proclaimed by the United Nations in 1967 was adopted to protect women in marriages against dubious beating by their husbands.

2.7.2 National law

In Uganda domestic violence is not defined either as a civil or a criminal offence in any specific legal provision. The state of affairs has greatly enhanced domestic violence.

The domestic relations bill which would have provided protection to the married people has not been effective and actually un heard of as far as marriage and relationships are concerned.

On the other hand the criminal law which would have assisted the offended neglects married couples and only intervenes when one person does grievous harm to another is guilty of felony and liable to imprisonment for seven years(penal code act cap 106).

2.8 Organization and Bodies against Domestic Violence

Uganda Human Rights Foundation

FIDA (U) Female Lawyers and the Uganda Police

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the methods that were be used during the study. These included target population, sample size, methods of data collection, data editing and analysis. It addressed the areas of study, the population to be covered and any problem that were encountered during the research process.

3.1 Research Design

The studyl employed both a descriptive and a cross sectional research design in the collection and analysis of the data, the two research designs were preferred because they enabled the researcher systematically collect and present data to give a clear picture regarding the research.

Both qualitative and quantitative were used because they involved carrying out in depth interviews and to conduct group discussions.

Under qualitative method, questionnaires were used to establish the places rampant with domestic violence.

3.2 Area and population of study

The study was conducted in Sironko district. Sironko district lies 295km from the national capital Kampala with divergent tribes and ethnic groups. Of the tribes and ethnic groups, the Bagisu compose of largest group with a large number of youths. The Bagisu population is commonly known as the “Bamasaba” and is mainly characterized by huge families headed by a man who is the bread winner.

3.3 Sample frame work

3.3.1 Sample size

From the proposed study the actual total number of the respondents to be interviewed were 60, that is, 44 victims, individuals and observers of the vice of domestic violence, 5 government agencies or officials, 3 NGOs, 7 local community leaders and 1 police officer.

3.3.2 Sample technique

Purposive sampling technique will be used. Key information will purposively be sampled because it will contain information and knowledge in the area of study.

3.3.3 Sample procedure

The researcher will first define the population, list the elements of the population, determine an appropriate sampling methodology, decide an accurate sampling size and select representative sample of the 44 respondents.

3.4 data collection methods

3.4.1 Instruments

In order to achieve objective of the study, the researcher used the following methods of data collection to get information on domestic violence, causes and the effects. The methods will generate enough information so as to make conclusions.

(i)Questionnaires

The questionnaires were administered to some men, children, and women in Buluganya and Bulago so that the researcher can compare and contrast data given on causes and effects of domestic violence between the two sexes.

(ii)Interviews method

The researcher conducted face to face interviews with some men, children, and women, government officials, NGOs and local community leaders both illiterates and literates on issues pertaining to the respondent's background and family life.

(iii) Observations

This was conducted during interviews to observe the insistency in the interviewee's response. This will help the researcher record notes based on accurate observations. In addition, the researcher will move in the community which will enable him develop an automate relationship with the community during the study.

3.4.2 Sources of Data

(i) Primary Data

This was got through the use of self administered questionnaires, interviews and observations.

(ii)Secondary Data

Text books and other related works of out standing scholars whether published, and un published documents, agency reports, news paper articles, internet sources and so forth was referred to so as to give more light on issues related to domestic violence in Eastern Uganda.

3.5 Data Processing

After the data collection, qualitative data obtained from the interview was coded. Quantitative data was coded to tabulate on a scale and entered in the computer using statistical package for social scientists (SPSS).

3.6 Data Analysis

Data will be analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively. Different data sets will be used in analyzing data collected, i.e. where necessary SPSS package will be used. Tables and graphs will be done in Microsoft word and Excel.

Considerations

Bearing in mind the ethical code of conduct, the researcher will first get a letter from the university that introduced him to the respondents during data collection process. The researcher provided the respondents with the necessary information as regards the main purpose of the research, expected duration and the procedures to be followed. Total privacy was rest assured to the respondents and their data was be treated with a lot of confidentiality

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATIONS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher studies the findings using tables, bar graphs and figures to describe the response to the questionnaires, which were read and interpreted.

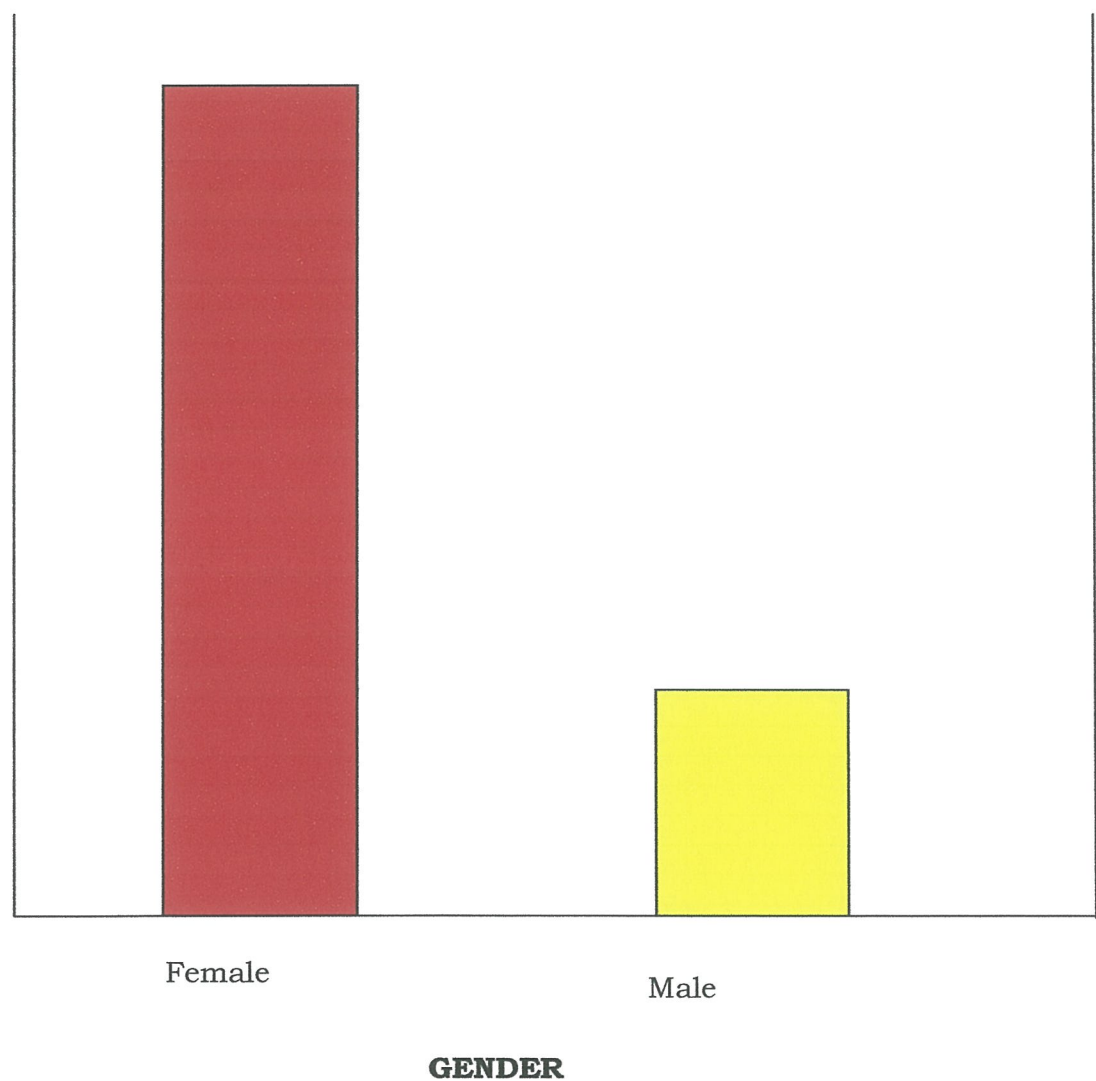
4.1 Socio-demographic characteristics

The research cut across various sexes and age groups. Different respondents gave their views concerning the study and each age group suffered most, and sex and profession. In the social demographic character, the research looked at the age, sex, level of education, marital status of the respondent and their occupations.

4.1.1 Sex

The research involved both female and male gender and it was revealed that the female gender suffered most of the effects of domestic violence. This was mainly due to their weak nature and dependence levels. Most of the female gender was revealed to be on the recipient side and either stayed at home or worked on their family farms whose out put was managed and monitored by their husbands. Research showed that women suffered because they were paid for dowry and did only as a man wished and adhered to any form of treatment while in a man's house.

Graph 1: sex of the respondents



Source: Field data

4.1.2 Age

The youngest respondent was 18 years and the oldest of the respondent was 78 years old. Respondents were either victims of the vice or observers. Some young respondents between 18 and 20 years had not been victims but had witnessed their parents fight and seen their mothers affected with wounds or broken limbs.

4.1.3 Level of education

Most of the respondents were of a low education level whose education ranged from primary to senior four (S.4) and a least number of senior six (S.6) and tertiary levels. Only five respondents from the local community had attained degrees from universities. According to the research, domestic violence was common in illiterate and semi-illiterate families. Illiterate married and cohabiting women suffered husband battering most because they thought that it is usual thing for a woman to be beaten by her husband.

4.1.4 Marital status

Most of the respondents at least belong to a either family, which was married monogamously, or polygamous, or cohabiting or even single.

Table 1: Marital status of the respondents

Marital status	No. of respondents	Percentages
Cohabiting	21	20.4
Married monogamously	40	39.3
Married polygamous	21	20.4
Total	98	100.0

Source: Field data

The research revealed that domestic violence occurred mostly in polygamous families and cohabiting homes. It was revealed that almost 27% of the polygamous families witnessed trend of domestic violence, which were very brutal. It should be noted that in these families it was not only the husbands that battered the wives, but also the wives fought amongst themselves and at worst poured sulphuric acid on themselves. In most of these families however, witchcraft was named as the worst weapon especially by mothers against themselves and mothers against their stepchildren.

Cohabiting families were named second with 25% of the domestic violence victims. Cohabiting men and women were mainly youths with very little experience of what marriage was. Most of them had to seek attention through harshly treating their wives. At FIDA Bulago Health Centre, most of the cases reported were by young girls who were cohabiting with their boy friends who either got them pregnant and married them or “stole” them from their families at a tender age.

4.1.5 Occupation of the respondents

The respondents were mostly farmers or peasants, domestic workers especially women and executives and women who traded in agricultural produces. Very few were students in secondary and tertiary institutions.

Table 2: Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	No. of respondents	Percentages
Domestic workers	10	9.8
Farmer	53	52
unemployed	12	11.8
Business persons	15	15.7
students	08	7.8
Total	98	100.0

Source: Field data.

Most of the respondents were farmers who cultivated either farms or reared animals. A percentage of 52 respondents actively participated in agriculture but still suffered under the scourge of poverty. In most cases, most of the people grew coffee, which provided little for their basic needs and school fees for their children. Other groups also did some productive work like business in agricultural produces.

4.2 Causes of domestic violence

Various causes of domestic violence were given but intoxication was given as a major cause. Other causes like illiteracy, culture were also given

Table 3: Causes of domestic violence

Causes	No. absolute	Percentages
Drunkardness	35	34.3
Poverty	27	26.5
Sign of affection	08	7.8
Culture	12	11.8
Stubbornness	05	4.9
Illiteracy	08	7.8
None	0.3	2.9
Total	98	100.0

Source: Field data

4.2.1 *Drunkennness:*

Most of the respondents (about 35%) revealed that their husbands took too much of the local brew that made them act like animals. It was emphasized that men who took the local brew behaved very weirdly. Among the local brews that were named local spirits normally referred to as “waragi” were said to be the worst and indeed made people behave very indecently. A revealer said that alcohol made man annoyed over nothing and developed a fight over nothing.

4.2.2 Poverty

Residents said that the poor state that people live in has made them turn hostile. Women complained that a mere asking for money for food and other necessities made their husbands quarrel a lot and even worse beat them.

4.2.3 Culture

Among the Gishu and Sabins, culture is a much respected aspect and counts first before any thing else. Culture places men on top of all members in the family and proves that the man who is the breadwinner is always right. It should be noted that the cultural practices of bride price and female genital mutilations (FGM) have made women very vulnerable to the vice. After payment of bride price, men make their wives properties and working “machines”. For instance in Bulago women complain of their husbands leaving all the farm work them and only prove active when it is time to harvest. On the other hand the Sabin girls were annoyed with the cultural practice of female circumcision that made them vulnerable to sexual pains and diseases.

4.2.4 Illiteracy

Some respondents accompanied most these causes with illiteracy that is referred to as a disease of the rural people. In fact some women said that their men need to go back to school and learn that women and children are humans and feel pain when hurt. It was revealed that illiterate men bartered their wives than their counterparts, the literates and semi-literates.

4.2.5 Other causes included

A number of causes were further advanced to include either party becoming financially better or worse off than the other. The onset of “MATEMBEISM” (Women emancipation or “omwenkanonkano”) where by women refused to cook or do housework duties, nuzzling by women , having “small brains.”

Jealousy, adultery, disrespect and breakdown of communication between partners, failure to adhere to the constitution of the house as set out by the male partners were other advanced by the respondents.

Others were refusing female partners to work/earn a living or separate income, refusal by male partners to disclose financial status. Lazy female partners, cultural and drunkenness and expecting too much from the partners.

It is worth noting that the respondents, in Buluganya named failure to treat the relatives of the male partners as they wished in the presence of children as a cause of domestic violence.

4.3 Forms of domestic Violence

These were identified by the respondents to include physical injuries, bruises, deformities and actual death of the victim, separations or divorce. Abandonment of families, torment, anxiety, lack of parental care of the children, desertion of children, loss of self-esteem, depression, suicide and sickness including Aids in complicated cases.

4.4 Effects of domestic violence

Most of the effects of domestic violence are negative and reduce humans to “punch bags”. However, a few gentlemen analyzed and said that battered women gain respect for their husbands.

Table 4: Effects of domestic violence

Effects	Number of absolute	Percentage
Wounds	30	29.4
Broken limbs	28	27.4
Blindness	07	6.9
Permanent injury	16	15.9
Miscarriages	11	10.8
Temporary injury	06	5.9
Total	98	100.0

Source: Primary source

4.4.1 Wounds and broken limbs

while 30% of the respondents attributed wounds as the most evident effect of domestic violence, 28% of the respondents said that broken limbs were more evident in almost all forms of marriages. Some respondents however said that at times all the two effects happened at once.

4.4.2 Blindness and permanent injury

In polygamous families, it was revealed that sometimes both men and women got blind or permanent injuries especially from pouring of sulphuric acid and use of sharp objects when fighting. For instance two (2) women in Bulago sub-county happened to be blind after being burnt by their husband's second wives resulting from fights. On the other hand, men also were found have suffered some effect of permanent injuries where women some times cut off parts of their bodies due to adultery. Some respondents revealed that in some serious extents women cut of their husband's private parts after realizing that he was cheating on her.

4.4.3 Miscarriages

Among some women and young people, domestic violence was revealed a serious cause of miscarriages especially among those who were pregnant. It was revealed that kicking and boxing a pregnant women's stomach would

lead to serious implications, which start with simple bleeding and later on loosing the baby.

4.5 Actions to combat domestic violence

The population of respondents suggested various actions that different stakeholders should undertake as one-way to combat the vice of domestic violence. The actions were suggested to government, NGOs, and the local community.

4.5.1 Actions by government

- i. Government should put strict laws against men who batter their wives. The laws should mostly threaten village men who have no respect for their wives at home and take all chances to threaten them with out considering their rights. It should be noted that Uganda has no Domestic Relations law that protects women against the dubious acts of their husbands. There fore it is against this note that hostile men should be threatened with strict laws that will discourage people to harass weak one in society.
- ii. Police should arrest those who beat their wives without an outstanding reason. Domestic violence culprits should be punished by the law and imprisoned if found guilty this will discourage those who intend to do the same.
- iii. Government should alleviate the poverty levels that have women dependants on mainly men for any thing. Various projects should be implemented in the rural areas to help women earn some thing other than being mere dependants. This will reduce fights that result from dependence on one sole breadwinner.
- iv. Women emancipation (“omwenkanonkano”) should be upheld. Women should be recognized as equal owners of the household and property

that they have equally contributed towards. For instance, government should also put in place a law that mandates women to have equal shares of the property in case of divorce or separation. In this regard, men will fear to violate their women's rights since they cannot stand losing their property.

- v. Government should abolish alcohol in the villages or put curfew hours that will prohibit men from over staying in bars. It should be noted that most of the fight between women in marriage often happen at night when men return from bars drunk. There fore the time should be set when people should take alcohol and it should be stated that no one is to take alcohol during working hours and state a curfew time when they have to go back to their homes.

4.5.2 Actions by NGOS

- i. They should create jobs for women and help them get loans for their small-scale business in order to reduce their dependence on their husbands that has made them vulnerable. Once women can earn a living they can fore go the dubious ways that their husbands make them pass through when asking for the money.
- ii. They should empower women. NGOs should give women the voice to speak loudly especially when dealing with the aspects that touch their lives. For instance women should be told of their rights and should also be told in which ways they can protect them. They should not only emphasize girl child education but also help in sensitizing the married about different thing that could bring about fighting in the house hold.
- iii. Counseling of married children and school going children as a way of improve their character in future especially when they get married. It should be noted the right training starts when the child is young there fore young people should be told how to treat each other right from

school to home. This will help them to respect each other even when they get married in future.

4.5.3 Action by the Local Community

Abolish the concept of bride price and dowry, which have reduced women to mere property. The community should protest against the act of “selling” their children to young men. In other words, high bride price should be discouraged since they make the young women be reduced to mere commodities and in the end made to work like machines.

Abolish cultural practices that oppress women like female genital mutilations. It is better that women are left with a few cultural practices like knelling and others that can prove respect for their husbands other than making them pass through a hell of life which is filled with pain and trauma.

Handle domestic violence cases not only supporting the side of men. Men should not be given a chance to oppress women because of their status in the home but should be made to respect their wives and family. The police could arrest where necessary the men who dubiously batter their wives other than protecting them since this will discourage men who batter their wives.

All the actions highlighted by the community in question had great bias on the police that have not really helped them very much since most of them are male and always try even much harder to help their male counterparts. One woman said that women are always the ones in the wrong even when the whole world bares witness. In fact she said cases related to domestic violence should be given to female Police.

4.6 Recommendations to prevent domestic violence

The respondents give various views and recommendations that would be adopted in regards to reducing the causes and effects of domestic violence

- i. The law should be stricter on dealing with spouses who subject their partners to violence. Imprisonments should be conducted in cases where spouses beat up their wives to death or even to extents of bleeding. This will discourage the young who may wish to adopt a similar strategy in dealing with their marriage relations.
- ii. The law should prohibit boys below 21 years and girls below 18 years from getting married. This will reduce the dubious ways in which young and inexperienced people handle their marriage issues; since it is proved that it is the young that mostly beat up their spouses.
- iii. Man should not be allowed to marry more than one wife and divorce should only be approved when indeed there is something wrong in the household. Polygamous marriages should may be approved to the Moslems who at least know how to handle the issues and restricted to the rest who only want to take it as a privilege and find themselves messing up.
- iv. One should not marry a spouse below his or her level of education. This will enable both the spouses to respect each other since they belong to the same education level other than marriages having one spouse educated and manipulating his wife because she is illiterate.
- v. Government should alleviate levels of poverty that have made women very vulnerable. For instance if women can at least earn some thing for the day their dependency on their husbands will reduce and eventually fights in the house will also reduce since there is no over demanding.

- vi. Laws articulating rights and obligations of spouses in marriages should be enacted. Different stake holders should come up with ways in which both the spouses should behave in a home giving respect to one another so as all of them can meet each others rights.
- vii. There should be straight talk between parents. Parents should not fight before their children but rather face the fact and reality of marriage through settling their problems in the bedroom with a productive talk.
- viii. Spouses should learn to tolerate one another. Like the marriage vowels go for better for worse, spouses should know that there are times of smiling and times of sorrow which all of them should respect and put into consideration.
- ix. FIDA should do pre-nuptial counseling. The actions of reducing domestic violence should not only be left to the married but also FIDA should help in arranging for monthly meetings that are meant for counseling the married and those intending to get married.
- x. Bride price should be abandoned or reduced. Parents should not over price their girl children since the price later manifest into suffering and wishes.
- xi. Spouses should have Jesus in their midst. Spouses should have belief that they are meant for each other right from God's plans and therefore should not mistreat one another since it becomes a sin after vowing that they will live happily
- xii. Women should be economically empowered. Government should at least in its various plans consider the fact that women are the poorest among the poor hence come up with strategies that will redeem them from the scourge of poverty that has made them very vulnerable to the insults that their husbands have made them go through.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher gave a brief summary of the study, major finding of the study, identify the recommendations to different stake holders and give a detailed conclusion of the study.

5.1 Summary

The research initially was set with doubts if the vice of domestic violence existed or not. It was therefore established that domestic violence existed especially in polygamous families more than monogamous. Over 27percent of the women married under a polygamous marriage were found to be living under hash home atmospheres. It was revealed that polygamous men treated their wives very harshly mainly because most of them were either clan leaders or elders who could not be reported to any one.

The cohabiting group which comprised of 21 percent of the people living in intimate relation ship also suffered the vice with almost half of them finding them selves being tortured with in their homes. The group comprised of mainly youths who thought that a woman only respected her husband if she is punished with a cane.

It was also established that unemployed men who comprised of 12 percent were more of drunkards who did not participate at all in the helping of their families especially in providing for basic needs for their families. On top of that, most of these drunkards developed a simple argument to a big fight that left their wives bruised and wounded. Research revealed that it is not the

alcohol that made the men beat up their wives but the temper that it brought especially when they took much of it.

²Lsid2190359 In fact the respondents mainly hinted on drunkardness as the major cause of the vice since mostly men drunk beyond their capacity and found no control but rather to dance to the tunes of the alcohol. It became worse with the families where both the man and the woman consumed alcohol. They fought all day giving no respect to them selves and their children. One respondent said that the only thing that could save such people was to get saved and leave the alcohol.

The research revealed that illiterate families faced most of the out comes of domestic violence as compared to literate and semi-illiterate families. It was largely stated that: illiterate men often took chances in their own hands to prove their superiority in the house. For instance, after paying pride price men turn wild and mistreat their spouses since they believe they own them and their actions. In this view, some women hoped that at least all young boys should go to school to avoid actions in their future marriages.

The research showed that there are almost no laws as regards to the vice of domestic violence. This was evident enough when most of the respondent especially female respondents showed their cry and worry when their husbands battered them when ever they wanted and went with out any body trying to question them. The respondents were not satisfied with work of the police which they referred to as ineffective and protective of the men other than providing justice.

Another scenario that captured the research attention was the marriage between children (young boys and girls). It was revealed that inexperienced young cohabitants often fought and divorced with out any consultations from elders. Over 17 percent of the respondent below 20 years were married with over two children and what made matters worse is that their marriages were

mostly at the mercy of their parents who provided for their food and other needs. They fought a lot over who is right or wrong and in the end the girl suffered with wounds and other minor injuries.

The research showed that the major way to solve marital issues was through family elders mainly from both sides of the parents where matters worsened, for instance if the girl got hurt matters would be posted to the local council and later prove. It was revealed that men who battered their wives to the extent of bleeding went to jail up to three (s), years, some times compensated the woman and her family and more still served in the community as a punishment.

5.2 Recommendations

From the field study it was revealed and found out that respondents were not happy with the present law dealing with domestic violence. The law is insufficient in both civil and criminal law only caters for simple assaults and assaults occasioning grievous bodily harms from the research it is evident that domestic violence covers a wider scope and it is upon this basis that we make the following recommendations that are redirected towards government, civil society local community and the international community.

5.2.1 Recommendation to Government

- i. Clearly state in the constitution that domestic violence is a criminal offence. This will scare away men that take the law into their own hand and reduce women to punching bags. If government states the law that prohibits men to unjustifiably beat up their wives this will enable them have a say in their marriages and also reduce their vulnerability to the depressing acts of their husbands.
- ii. Fight corruption at police and judiciary level that set domestic violators free of crime. It was revealed that most of the men went free of their

charges because they managed to pay a certain fee to the police man or any other authority that handled their case. In fact that's why some women left their husband's homes with out any thing even when they had a hand in the management of the wealth they had worked for their entire lives.

- iii. Educate all young people and elderly about the fate that domestic violence brings, this can be done through U.P.E and U.S.E school curriculum. This will enable men to understand that both are equal stake holders in the house and have a role to play in the management of the home. If both girls and boys associate together at school, they will get to learn that no one deserves to be harassed or be beaten all the time and above all every one will get to learn that people's rights need to be respected and given the first priority.
- iv. Government should set the age of marriage above 20 years. This will reduce the number of young marriages that are mostly associated with domestic violence. It was revealed by the elderly respondents themselves that at least young people above 20 years reason better than those below 20years.
- v. Government should alleviate the level of poverty that has made some groups especially women vulnerable to domestic violence. With alleviation of poverty, women dependency on men will reduce and perhaps simple fight related to money and ownership will be over come reducing the tense fights in house holds.
- vi. Laws articulating rights and obligations of spouses in marriage should be enacted by government. The government should fully establish the right of individuals especially when it comes to ownership of property and the roles. If these laws are properly stated it will reduce the level at which women are battered due to lack of a stated law that shows rights.

5.2.2 Recommendation to the civil society

- i. The church should sensitize the married couples about their roles and obligations to stop quarreling and fighting when they finally get a home. This will enable all the newly wed to understand that marriage is a place of peace but not a battle field.
- ii. Emancipation of women should be taken to excessive limits. The concept of women emancipation should be taken with great emphasis as a way to reduce women surbodnance and give them a new way of life that is almost equal. For instance women should not only sit and wait for their husbands to give them every thing but rather should also have a role to play in the day to day financial running of the home. In this regard men will also respect their wives as potential contributors to the well being of the home.
- iii. NGOs should train women LCs, counselors, clan leaders and police on how to handle domestic violence cases, victims and culprits. Culprits and victims should not be harassed by the people handling their cases but rather find ways of trying to resolve the cases in more amicable ways. In fact NGOs should train personnel with great potential to council the contenders of the vice.
- iv. NGOs should create employment opportunities and income generating opportunities to reduce the levels of women poverty and dependency. It is believed that independent women can have a say about most of the things in their homes there fore lobbying for some loans on their behalf will help them create some jobs that will reduce their dependency and vulnerability.
- v. m_Fund the community projects that aim at empowering the vulnerable groups. NGOs should help to fund women movements that mostly deal

with their welfare. For instance women lawyers should be financed adequately to defend women's rights so as to make them respected in society too.

- vi It should be noted that Community Based Organizations should also play a central role in communicating to the general public the efforts each of them has in trying to curb down the inhuman act of domestic violence. People's rights should be at least told to them and come in to action where necessary.

5.2.3 Recommendation to the local community

- i. Community punishment to Domestic violence culprits. The community should find punishments that can be given to the violators of the home laws and also try to see that every one in society lives happily in their marriage vow other than one party making the other than men oppressing their wives.
- ii. Organize local council meetings to educate married couples against domestic violence. The local community should organize meetings that place the culprits of the scourge before the people. This will make other not to disrespect their wives for fear of getting ashamed.
- iii. Condemn cultural practices that depress human rights especially for women. The community should be protective of their women and girls especially from the men who behave like animals in their marriages.
- iv. Condemn practices of bride price that reduce women and girls to mere commodities. This has been said on and on but cultural leaders should be in position to discourage parents who regard their daughters to be wealth for this places them in the horror of mistreatment.

5.2.0 Recommendation to the international country

- (i) Foster government to enforce laws that fight against domestic violence. The international community should follow up the government policies especially those that are championed to fostering human right and well being.
- (ii) Increase donations and incentives that are meant for human rights campaigns and protection. Through the United Nations the international community should see to it that women are fully represented and their rights observed by every one including the government it's self.

5.2.1 General Recommendations

- (i) Government, civil society and local community should rise up as one body to condemn the vice through promoting education that will reduce early marriages and give the masses knowledge about their rights and obligations. In this regard young people would have been stopped from getting married since they have to attend school till they are ready to get married.
- (ii) A general law stated under the Domestic Relations Bill should be implemented and put under action to condemn any one who violates domestic rights. For instance divorce should only be proved in the courts of law and not justified by the men.
- (iii) It should be in the interest of government and everyone to fight and reduce the level of poverty that has made men aggressive and women vulnerable in society. Every one should be in position to contribute towards the well being of the household other than one person taking the whole responsibility. This will reduce the dominance by the men which make them oppress women.

5.2.6 Area for future Research

The concepts of marital rape against the will of the partner's right to have sex are another field which requires research.

The area is mainly chosen because there was a lot of controversy about "marital rape" especially among the married men. Most of the male respondents refuted the idea that there was any thing like rape if the two were married and shared marital vows. There fore the concept of marital rape should be also given room for future research in order to enlighten when a man rapes his wife.

5.3 Conclusions

In conclusion the research revealed that domestic violence widely exists in Ugandan societies.

The causes are several ranging from cultural traits, economic, psychological as well as gender imbalance between parties living in intimate relationships. Women constitute the biggest number of domestic violence and the effects of this are abhorrent.

The current regulation had been found to be inadequate in dealing with the problem thus creating a need for immediate reform of the law. It is worth noting that there is need for further research on the attitude of professionals who deal with victims of domestic violence in their daily work to wit medical personnel and other enforcement agent's right from the grass root level

All in all different stake holders are called upon to join the move to cub down the evil and inhuman act of domestic violence that has made women insecure in their marital homes and communities. On the other hand respect should be observed in homes so that people live happily with each other than fights that not only affect the married but also the children that they take care of.

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APPENDIX 1

DOMESTIC RELATION RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THOSE WHO HAVE WITNESSED IT.

Dear sir / Madam

I am ASIIMWE DAVID a student of Kampala international university who is carrying out research on domestic violence in homes and the community as whole.

The objectives of the study include:

To find out the causes of domestic violence among people living in intimate relationships.

To assess the effects of domestic violence on the victims.

To find out the forms of domestic violence in Buluganya sub-county.

This questionnaire is intended to get the information on about the above subject. The information you give will be treated with ultimate confidentiality and will be used for the said purpose.

Please tick the appropriate option from those given in the boxes and fill the blank spaces with the required information.

Note: you can tick more than one appropriate option where applicable.

Name Surname

A) Social demographic characteristics

(1) sex (a)Male ☐ (b) fema☐

(2) Age (a) 17 ☐ (b) 17-2 ☐ (c) 25 ☐ (d) ☐ 1 ☐ 51 >
a

(3) Levels of education

(a) Primary ☐ (b) Seconda ☐ (c) Tertiary ins ☐ on ☐ egree
others specify.....

(4) Marital status

(a) Single ☐ (b) Cohabiting ☐

(c) Married-monogamou ☐ (d) Married polygamous ☐

Others specify.....

(5) Occupation

(a) Domestic work ☐ (b) None / unemployed ☐

(c) Farmer / cultivator ☐ (d) Business perso ☐ ader

☐

(e) Student

Others specify

B) Causes of domestic violence

(6) What are the causes of domestic violence?

(a) None

☐

(b) Cultural /tradition

☐

(c) Drunkardness

☐

(d) Stubbornness

☐

(e) Sign of affection

☐

Others specify.....

(7) Have you been the victim of the act described above?

(a) Yes

☐

(b) No

☐

(8) When do people carry out the act of domestic violence?

(a) Weekends

☐

(b) Week days

☐

(c) Whenever relatives visit

☐

(d) After denial of personal earnings

☐

Others specify.....

C) Effects of domestic violence

(9) What are the physical, mental and psychological effects of domestic violence?

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Wounds | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d) Permanent injury | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Broken limbs | <input type="checkbox"/> | (e) Miscarriage | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Blindness | <input type="checkbox"/> | (f) Temporary insanity | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Others specify.....

(10) What are the common effects?

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Wounds and cuts | <input type="checkbox"/> | (b) Broken limbs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) All of them | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d) Permanent injuries | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Others specify.....

D) Forms of domestic violence

(11) What are the different forms of domestic violence you know of?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Boxing | <input type="checkbox"/> | (e) Denial of marital things | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Kicking | <input type="checkbox"/> | (f) Denial of children school fees | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Beating with instruments | <input type="checkbox"/> | (g) Denial of conjugal rights | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Slapping | <input type="checkbox"/> | (h) Denial of love and care | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Others specify.....

(12) Which of the above is common in your village?

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| (a) All of them | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d) e-h | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(b) Some of them (e) None of the above

(c) a-b ☐

E) Gender imbalances

(13) What forms of gender imbalances exist in your homes?

(a) Income inequality ☐ (b) Property imbalance ☐

(c) Status imbalances ☐ (d) Religious imbalances ☐

Others specify.....

F) Concern and attention.

(14) What does the person mistreated do to get justice?

(a) Report to elders ☐ (d) Report to friends ☐

(b) Report to police ☐ (e) Report to diviners ☐

(c) Report to LCS ☐ (f) Go to hospital ☐

Others specify.....

(15) What does the person(s) you report to do in order to help you?

(a) Punish the contender ☐ (c) Arrest the contender ☐

(a) Advise you ☐

Others specify.....

Thank you for your co-operation

APPENDIX II

DOMESTIC RELATION INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Dear sir / Madam

I am ASIIMWE DAVID a student of Kampala international university who is carrying out research on domestic violence in homes and the community as whole.

The objectives of the study include:

To find out the causes of domestic violence among people living in intimate relationships.

To assess the effects of domestic violence on the victims.

To find out the forms of domestic violence in Buluganya sub-county.

This questionnaire is intended to get the information on about the above subject. The information you give will be treated with ultimate confidentiality and will be used for the said purpose.

- (1) What do you think are the causes of domestic violence in the homes of civilians?
- (2) Do the causes mentioned above appear in both illiterate and literate headed house holds?]
- (3) What are the major effects of domestic violence in the society?
- (4) Do people with such effects go for medical attention or not?
- (5) In case of divorce and family neglect have those been affected filed any case against the offender?

APPENDIX IV

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE POLICE IN RELATION TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

- Q1. Does domestic violence really exist in homesteads?
- Q2. Do people often report cases related to domestic violence to the police?
- Q3. What do the police do to help the people who report such cases?
- Q4. If any how many cases are reported every year related to domestic violence?
- Q5. Specifically what domestic vices do you deal with if any?
- Q6. Which gender and age is mostly prone to vices of domestic violence?
- Q7 (a). Which legal procedure do you follow when dealing with people who offend others in intimate relationships?
- (b) Are they treated like other criminals or have their own punishments?

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Date: 28/07/09

To: THE SUB-COUNTY CHIEF
BULUGANYA SUB-COUNTY
SIRONKO DISTRICT

This is to introduce to you
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,



Mr. Kaddu Ronald
Associate Dean

