

**EFFECTS OF PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP ON DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR: A  
CASE STUDY OF KAMWOKYA COMMUNITY AND NAGURU REMAND HOME**

**BY**

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### DECLARATION

I, **Googo Adella**, declare that this research report is my original work. It has not been submitted to any other university or higher institution of learning for any award. Any other author's work has clearly been indicated.

Signature.....

Date.....

### APPROVAL

This research proposal has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University supervisor.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR

*2* *Clarver* *Okello* *22nd/09/2016*

## DEDICATION

To my beloved parents Mr. and Mrs. Googo Wilson.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADHD :	Attentive deficit hyperactivity disorder
BASC-2-SRP-A :	Behavioral Assessment System for Children, Second Edition, Self-Report of Personality, Adolescents
CASAFS :	Child and Adolescent Social and Adaptive Functioning Scale, Family, Friends, and Self Form
NHIS :	National Health Interview Survey
ADP :	Area Development Program
UN :	United Nations
WHO :	World Health Organization
TDI :	Transformation Development Indication
LC :	Local Council
CBO'S :	Community Base Organizations.
OVC :	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children

## ABSTRACT

This study focused on effects of parent child relationship on delinquent behavior in Kamwokya Community and Naguru Remand Home in Kampala, Uganda. The study sought to establish the relationship between parent child relationship and delinquency and non-delinquency behaviours among children as an attempt to understand the externalized and internalized effects of the quality of parents' relationships with children. In order to achieve the research objectives descriptive designed was adopted and self-administered questionnaire was served among fifty (50) respondents. The study found that to the large extent children live in broken families whereby, they either live in homes where there is one biological parent and then the stepparent. In such an environment, children are exposed to disruptive family arrangement thus accounting for multiple behavioral problems both internalized and externalized disorders. Majority of the participants stated that they were treated differently depending on gender or age; whereas, females were strictly treated yet males were loosely controlled. One of the outstanding effects of parent-child relationship in relation to delinquency was low levels of esteem among children. It is acknowledged in psychology that children with a sense of worthlessness are at higher risk of involving in delinquent behaviors simply because they can easily be influenced by peers among others. It can then be argued that, poor quality of parent-child relationship is associated with high levels of delinquency among children. Implying that, children living in homes where there is close, intimate and secure attachment with parents, such children are less likely to engage in delinquent activities compared those with insecure attachment. In response it was suggested that there's a need for national parental programmes to educate parents of their role rather than building more remand homes for juvenile. Secondly it was suggested that NGOs, FBOs and CBOs get interested in the issue of child rearing and nurturing since children belong to the community. Besides, it was recommended that a study be conducted on the subject of social support, self-esteem and non-delinquency among female students at higher institutions of learning in Uganda.

## CHAPTER ONE

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Introduction

It is a fact that, children and adolescents are part of society, and so, understanding how the family influences adolescent involvement in delinquency is important since family bond is thought to have significant influence on children or adolescent's life. The quality of family life at the systemic level such as wellness, competence, strengths, and weaknesses of a family is found to have a significant bearing on level of delinquency or non-delinquency among children. Therefore this study focused on examining the effects of parent-child relationship on delinquent behaviours in Kamwokya, Kampala Uganda. This chapter presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, definition of key terms and conceptual framework.

#### 1.1 Background to the Study

In the field of community psychology and also in social work activities involving children, the quality and nature of relationships within the family, has been found to have significant influence on children's psychological, social and everyday life. Implying that, children's physical and emotional status, as well as their social and cognitive development, greatly depends on their family dynamics. Family environment is the primary context within which a child develops and so, it's important to understand their ability to function well (Collins, Maccoby, Steinberg, Hetherington, & Bomstein, 2000). In this respect child-parent relationship has been stressed as an important that influences children's wellbeing or social life. Hence the rising incidence of behavioural problems among children could suggest that some families are struggling to cope with the increasing stresses they are experiencing.

Alfie (2005) defined parent-child relationship as a bond consisting of a combination of behaviors, feelings, and expectations that are unique to a particular parent and a particular child; involving the full extent of a child's development. This kind of relationship is considered the primary devotion whose interaction has been found to have lasting outcome on the minor's wellbeing. Hence the quality of parent-child relationship is the essence that determines whether



the child's behaviors will be positive or negative in nature. This is so because; infant's attachment to parents is one of the most important aspects of infant psychosocial development. By definition parent attachment is a sense of belonging to or connection with a particular other (Linwood, 2004).

In this regard, the bond between the child and parent is critical to the child's survival and development. Such attachment is strengthened by mutually satisfying interaction between the parents and the child; in other words, if parents meet their children's needs, and provide nurturance, the attachment is secure (Bryan et al. 2003). Psychosocial development can continue based on a strong foundation of attachment. On the other hand, if a parent's personality and ability to cope with the infant's needs for care are minimal, the relationship however, is at risk and so is the infant's development. Ham (2004) argues that, family stressors are associated with disruptions in the parent-child relationship that put children at risk of maladjustment in the face of disconnection and as result, children belonging to a family where there is no longer intimacy or tenderness or belongingness, they tend to exhibit higher levels of behaviour problems, higher levels of internalising symptoms and more social problems.

Hall & Elliman (2003) defined delinquent behaviors as psychological, emotional and behavioural problems or distressed emotions, which are common or normal in children at some stage of development, but become abnormal by virtue of their frequency or severity, or their inappropriateness for a particular child's age compared to the majority of ordinary children. Notably, the spectrum of behaviours vary from very mild to clinically problematic, and their definition and nature often expands beyond the term 'delinquent behavioural problems' itself to incorporate mental and emotional health problems. It is the lack of supervision and the absence of close relationships between the teenager and his or her parents that influences the degree of delinquency (Demuth and Brown, 2004). And so, the growing behavioural problems such as antisocial behaviour, high crime rates and indeed the growing intensity of youth crimes has raised serious concern towards parents' role in respect to such deviant behavior. It is argued that, children from biologically intact homes have a lower incidence of illegal behaviour that is paralleled by their lower rate of susceptibility to peer pressure to commit deviant acts. This is

because; often the delinquent behavioural problems are a manifestation of a deeper emotional/mental health problem from parental failures.

In Uganda, 10,000 juvenile delinquents live on the streets of Kampala (New vision July, 28<sup>th</sup> 2007); and it has been observed that most of them come to the streets because of mistreatment and lack of basic needs in their families and due to delinquency committed against their communities. Because of delinquency, communities and their families take little interest in them and this makes juvenile delinquents develop a survival instinct which leads them into more delinquency; they are isolated, expelled from their homes which force them to go to streets. It is in this respect that, this study attempts to examine the extent to which parent-child relationship influences mental and emotional health status of children that in later stages it will either manifest as positive or negative behavior. This study suggests that there is a link between parent-child relationship and juvenile deviance. The study also suggests that juveniles who are charged with more serious acts of delinquency are from incomplete homes than juveniles charged with lesser acts of misconduct.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The long troubled history of Ugandan society of unrest left many children detached from significant others and as result many growth without parental affection hence antisocial behaviours. In the recent past, Ugandan families have undergone dramatic changes from well connected to disconnected family structures whose effect has been negative on children. Though this situation is evident however, little attention has been given to critically link parent-child relationship disruption to delinquency in Uganda today. Juvenile delinquency is becoming very prevalent in today's society than in the past, as national statistics demonstrate that there are an increasing number of children in Uganda who are become criminals for instance the so-called kiface gang and iron bar hitters. Sadly, the ongoing defiance campaign demonstrates the worsening situation in Uganda's whose effects is negative in nature among children. This has prompted the researcher to undertake this study to determine the effects of parent-child relationship and delinquent behaviors.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

The general focus study was to identify the relationship between child parent and delinquent behavior in Kamwokya.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

The following specific objectives were developed to serve as guide to the study problem

- i. To determine the familial characteristics in which children are raised in Kamwokya
- ii. To determine the perception children towards quality of parent relationships
- iii. To determine parent-child relationships effects on children's externalized and internalized behaviors in Kamwokya

### **1.4 Research Questions**

The following questions were formulated to answer the research problem of this study;

- i. What are the familial characteristics in which children are raised in Kamwokya?
- ii. What are the perceptions of children towards their parents' relationships?
- iii. What are child-parent relationships effects on children's externalized and internalized behaviors in Kamwokya?

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

#### **1.5.1 Content Scope**

The study was confined at examining the effects of child-parent relationship on delinquent behaviours in Uganda.

### **1.5.2 Geographical Scope**

Geographically, the study was conducted in Kamwokya situated in Kawampe Division, Kampala Central as well as Naguru Remand Home in Nakawa Division of Kampala District.

### **1.5.3 Time Scope**

The study was carried out for the period of three months namely February – April, 2016; this time scope was selected so as to fit within the university academic schedule.

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The following individuals and groups would benefit from the study findings;

Most importantly, these study finding would be useful to the Ministry of Gender, labour and Development, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education among others. The data generated in this study may be used in policy making or intervention programmes to address any parental and child protection services in Uganda. In other words, the study avails current information regarding child-parent relationship and delinquent behaviors in Uganda.

The study is also expected to benefit NGOs engaged in child protection and rights; data gathered may be used to revisit and allocate considerate resources that maybe directed towards child support services. In other words, generated information may reveal the gaps and the unmet needs that explain the high rate of delinquent behaviors.

Further still, the findings would contribute to the already existing literature regarding parenting, child-parent relationship as well as delinquent behaviours. In this regard, the generated data may be used to update records in terms of statistics and areas of interest.

Finally, the study findings would be used as point of reference by students and scholars, in that, they may use the study as a basis for future areas of study.

## 1.7 Definition of Key Concepts

**Parent - Child Relationship:** refers to parent's emotion interaction with their children as father and mother and child.

**Delinquent:** refers to a person who behaves in a way that is illegal or unacceptable to most people.

**Delinquency:** refers to unacceptable behaviors among juveniles in accordance to the moral codes of the society

**Juvenile delinquency:** refers to criminal acts performed by Juveniles; either violent or non-violent crime committed by persons who are usually under the age of eighteen (18) and are still considered being minors.

**Adolescence:** refers to a period of life in which the biological and psychosocial transition from childhood to adulthood occurs.

**Coping:** refers to a person's patterns of response to stress (in psychology).

**Culture:** a test in which a sample of body fluid is placed on materials specially formulated to grow microorganisms.

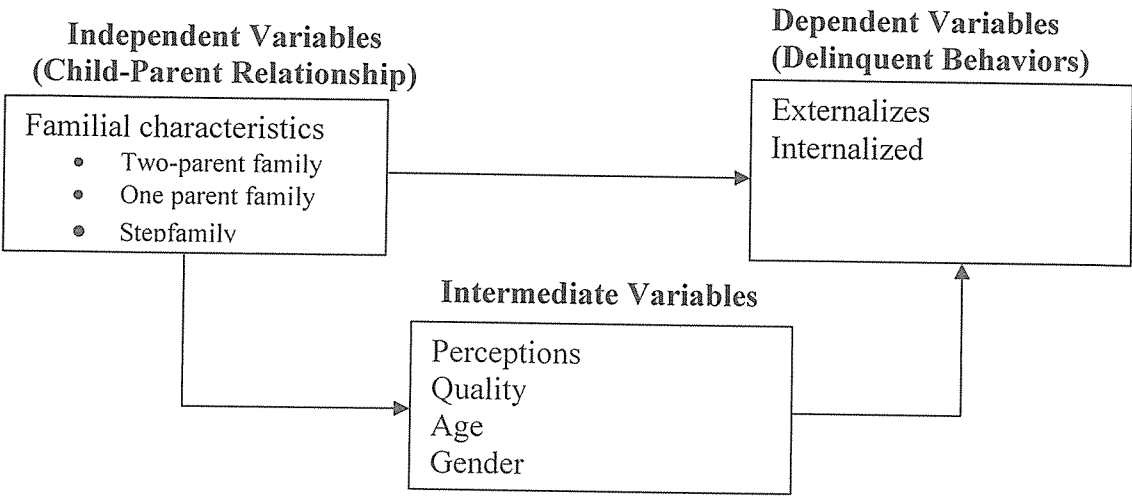
**Family:** refers to two or more emotionally involved people living in close proximity and having reciprocal obligations with a sense of commonness, caring, and commitment.

**Family Functioning:** refers to the social climate of the family; including the family's activities and interaction patterns that help the family members to be close with each other and guide them to manage themselves in facing daily life challenges.

**Attachment:** refers to a child's need for a secure and supportive relationship with an adult caregiver, and attachment behavior is expressed through secure-base behavior in which the child explores his or her world yet remains connected to the caregiver for emotional support and protection (Ainsworth, 1989).

## 1.8 Conceptual Frameworks

The figure above reveals the relationship between the study variables namely the Parent-Child Relationship as the independent and delinquent behavior as the dependent. Besides, the figure also indicates other variables namely intermediate or intervention such as perception that influence the outcomes between the main variables.



Source: derived from study variables, 2016

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter explores various literature authored by different scholars to give the current study context and expose gaps in the existing literature that gives relevance for this study. This study is therefore presented in accordance with the study objectives.

#### **2.1 Theoretical overview**

##### **2.1.1 Family System Theory**

The Family System Theory is based on Bowen's multigenerational approach, which describes a family as a multigenerational network of relationships (Bowen, 1978). The theory describes how family interaction patterns, as well as the organization and structure of a family, may affect every member of the family. Moreover, the theory purports that the family functions as a system in which prototypes of interaction and specific behaviors develop and is maintained. Bowen (1978) asserted that an individual's behaviors should be understood within the framework of family relationships. The beliefs, values, emotional warmth, organization, and communication among family members all seem as parts of the whole system. The smallest change in any part of the family is felt by all members and requires an adjustment of behavior to the system. The family socialization is an important part of the system because it influences the behavior of the family members. Emotional and behavioral difficulties are seen as resulting from negative interactions between individuals and other subsystems (e.g. siblings and parents) or between subsystems (parents and other systems, like schools and the local community).

Not only do parents need to supervise their children, they must also recognize deviant behavior. Parents differ in how they conceive of deviant behavior; some parents allow their children to do as they please without interference while others tolerate any divergence from traditional norms. The model states that family is the most important institution when instilling self-control in children. Furthermore, a lack of attachment between the child and parent creates a lack of social and self-control in the child, therefore creating an atmosphere for delinquency.

## **2.2 Familial structure in the context of children upbringing**

In order to understand delinquency behaviors in society today and in particular, it is important to examine the family structure in today's Uganda to better explain juvenile delinquency. This is important because we must first understand the underlying reasons for delinquency before we can begin to look for solutions to the problem and ultimately find alternative support for juveniles to deter delinquency. In the following sub theme the study revisits literature on different family types or structures to test for the social settings that explain the rate of delinquency and delinquency behaviors.

### **2.2.1 Two-parent family**

By definition, "two-parent family" refers to families in which two married adults live with their joint biological children, however, today this label includes families with cohabiting biological parents and families with a married or cohabiting social parent, typically the father. In any sense, two-parent family is an intact home of two-parent (one male, one female) structure. Wilkinson (1974) argues that, any deviation from this, regardless of reason (e.g., death, divorce, separation or desertions) is classified as broken. An intact home is one of the most influential institutions on children. The family serves as a natural support system and a barrier against outside forces attempting to negatively influence children (Stern et. al., 1984). The absence of a father figure in a home has received the bulk of the blame for undermining a child's ability to adjust and fend off the social pressures of adolescence.

The two-parent family arrangement is also known as the nuclear family composed of husband, wife and their unmarried children. This type of family is based on companionship between parents and children (Pauline Kolenda, 2008). The underlying argument is that, both marital status and biological parentage are integral to children's well-being (Brown 2010). Specifically, children who live in social-father and cohabiting-parent families exhibit poorer developmental outcomes, on average, than those who live with married biological parents (Artis, 2007). Brown (2010) argues that, cohabiting-parent families are incomplete institutions; this argument implies that parental socialization may differ across family types. It also implies that socialization



processes may differentially influence children's development across family types. Specifically, children may not benefit as much from the contributions of social and cohabiting fathers as they do from the contributions of biological fathers, particularly if the biological father and mother are married. To date, no study has explicitly tested this hypothesis.

### **2.2.2 Single Parent Families**

The family structure has experienced dramatic changes in the past 40 or so years, specifically divorce rates, of the number of single-headed households (focusing on female-headed households), and the percent of working mothers (Sweeny, 2002). Thus, Crawford and Novak (2008) observed that, there are an increasing number of children residing in single headed households. Living in a single-parent family is a major predictor of delinquency. Research has consistently shown that children in single-parent homes are more likely to be delinquent (Breivik, Olweus, Endersen, 2009).

According to Simons, Simons and Wallace (2004) there is evidence to suggest that single-parent families, especially single-mothers, expect less of their children, spend less time monitoring them and use less effective techniques to discipline them. Furthermore, children in single-parent homes are more likely to participate in delinquency. In addition, it is harder for a sole parent to find the time to monitor, supervise, and discipline because they find it hard to —prioritize their children's needs above other life demands (Mack et al., 2006:53). Overall, this means that children have greater opportunities and motivation to participate in delinquent acts than do those living in a two-parent family. Hence, the absence of one parent is a major predictor for juvenile delinquency (Mack et al., 2006).

According to Demuth and Brown (2004), more than 50% of children will live in a single-parent home at some point in their lives. As a result, children are spending less time in traditional family settings and can expect many transitions in living arrangements (Demuth and Brown, 2004).

Children in these environments form alienated bonds with their parents creating possible behavior problems. There has also been research that shows that working mothers had a negative

effect in urban, but not rural areas (Vander Ven et al., 2001). Finally, children that have working mothers, spend more time interacting with peers. Peer relationships can lead to delinquent associations (Vander Ven et al, 2001). Children living in such environments form alienated bonds with their parents creating possible behavior problems (Vander Ven et al., 2001). Thus, children that have working mothers, spend more time interacting with peers. Peer relationships can lead to delinquent associations (Vander Ven et al, 2001).

This is the reason why, the quality of parent–child relationship mediates a fair amount of the link between residing in a divorced single-mother household and the development of antisocial behavior or substance use (Breivik, Olweus and Endersen, 2009). Thus, any structural changes that negatively affect the parent-child attachment will likely result in delinquency (Mack, Leiber, Featherstone and Monserud, 2006).

### **2.2.3 Stepfamily Arrangement**

The division between biological and non-biological families can hide important heterogeneity in the latter group, as these can consist of single parent families, families with step-parents, families with grandparents, and finally, in more complexes blended families with both biological and step-children (Halpern-Meeke & Tach, 2008). If having two parents in a household was, per se, the main condition for good child outcomes, reconstituted families would be equivalent to intact ones. However, studying step-families is of interest by itself since it provides new dimensions to family life where children have to adjust to an outside figure that enters the family (Sweeney, 2010). Studying step-parents will provide insights into its effects on children delinquent behaviors. Coleman et al. (2000) observed that, children living in stepfamily arrangements experienced a wide range of effects including their psychological well-being but, perhaps surprisingly, little research has considered the potential psychological impacts on the adults (stepparents and their partners) of living in such a household arrangement.

According to Hofferth & Goldscheider (2010), the presence of a step-parent can introduce more complex family relationships and conflict. Furthermore, it has argued that it is the number of family transitions that matters and that stability within a family is an important predictor for

child outcomes (Sun & Li, 2009b). The entrance of a step-parent would mean another period of adjustment for children.

Reneflo (2011) argued that, the presence of a step-parent is in general related to an increased effect on non-standard demographic behavior of children (leaving the parental home earlier, earlier childbearing and entering a cohabiting union rather than marriage. Especially for girls, outcomes are affected when a step-father enters (Reneflot, 2011). In this respect, Antecol and Bedard (2007) notes that, the consequences of children's family structure on later life outcomes confounds these pathways thus, growing up in a single stepparents' household is associated with increased risk taking.

Summing up, the available evidence suggests those children in step-families may show well-being and other outcomes similar, and in some cases worse, to those in single parent households. Hence, family reconstitution does not at least automatically lead to better outcomes for the children involved. Rather, a close, non-conflictual relationship with stepfathers improves adolescent outcomes, however involvement with non-residential fathers provides little benefit for adolescents and may even be detrimental (Walker and Zhu, 2007).

### **2.3 Perceptions of children and quality parents' relationships**

It is further important to establish the generally child held perceptions towards parental interaction as they are familial characteristics that can impact child behavior. However, the held perceptions are determined by various variables that in one way or another will scale the quality of parent relationship. Thus, it is important to assess their perceptions towards quality parent child relationship during other times of development (e.g., adolescence) because it may be a reflection of attachment quality.

#### **2.3.1 Age Differences**

Poehlmann (2005) found that, age is central to the outcomes of different family arrangements; implying that, the younger the child the high are the risk for experiencing low-quality parent-child relationship later in middle childhood and adolescence. Thus, age is an important factor to examine because children and adolescents can exhibit problems differently as they age. There are mixed results on the held perceptions between age and behavioral outcomes in children and

adolescents. For example, children aged 11 to 19, older children tended to have lower levels of emotional, conduct, and hyperactive symptoms, but not among the British children of Indian decent (Flouri, 2005).

Gryczkowski et al., (2010) observed that, children's ages between the ages of 6 and 12 were not related to externalizing behaviors. Similarly, Younger adolescents (14- to 15-year-olds) and older adolescents (16- to 18-year-olds) did not differ in the levels of the depressive symptoms, and social and academic self-efficacy (Graziano et al., 2009). On the other hand, some studies found that age is significantly related to behavioural differences in children and adolescents. Adolescents' pro-social behaviors, emotional symptoms, and conduct problems were also related to age, such that older children exhibited less emotional symptoms and conduct problems and more pro-social behaviors than younger children. Older children were also considered less problematic overall (Flouri, 2006).

### **2.3.2 Interparental Influences**

In addition, children's perception towards interparental relationship is an important environmental factor in explaining the degree of effects on children behaviours. Situations such as martial conflicts and violence are associated with children's and adolescents' internalizing and externalizing behavior problems externalizing. How children perceive the quality of interparental will determine the degree of externalizing behaviors as related to interparental conflicts and violence (Ghazarian & Buehler, 2010). Besides, a study by Turner & Kopiec (2006) found that, substance use disorders among children and adolescents were related to negative interparental relationship.

Young adults who experienced interparental conflicts during childhood or adolescence were more likely to exhibit alcohol dependence or abuse (Turner & Kopiec, 2006). They also had significantly more suicide attempts when their fathers engaged in interparental violence (Fergusson & Horwood, 1998). Both young children and adults exhibited conduct problems when they experienced interparental conflicts when they were young (Towe-Goodman, Stifter, Coccia, & Cox, 2011).

### 2.3.3 Gender Differences

According to Graziano et al., (2009), boys and girls could perceive similar levels of relationships and attachments to their fathers and mothers but girls tended to report poorer support from parents than boys. Far still, it's been noted that, girls feel more difficult to talk to their fathers than boys did (Levin & Currie, 2010). Even though father-child relationship had similar effects for both girls and boys in emotional dysregulation (Chang et al., 2003); and depression (Meadows et al., 2006), gender could play different roles on how child perceive the quality of parent relationships and thus, effects of the parents-child relationship will vary accordingly because of different parenting styles to sons and daughters (Chaplin, Cole, & Zahn Waxler, 2005). It is common in African families that more attention to girls' sad and anxious emotions than boys' while they focused more on boys' anger than girls' (Chaplin et al., 2005). Additionally, children perceive that, parents tend to be stricter and harsher on boys than girls (Chang et al., 2003). Therefore, boys and girls should be examined separately.

Keown (2012) argued that, children (sons) who perceived that their parents especially, fathers were more sensitive to their sons contributed to reducing sons' inattentiveness. On the other hand, it is held that, boys show higher inattentiveness and hyperactivity/impulsivity when their fathers tended to control them during playtime (Keown, 2012). Boys with hyperactivity have fathers who use overactive and less authoritative parenting skills (Keown, 2011).

The father-son relationship could have different influences on children's behavior outcomes compared to the father-daughter relationship. Father-son relationship was more related to boys' less externalizing behaviors than girls' (Gryczkowski et al., 2010). Fathers' higher involvement is more associated with reducing boys' externalizing, internalizing, and delinquent behaviors than girls' (Carlson, 2006). Similarly, fathers' high involvement in parenting was associated with less externalizing behaviors only for sons (Gryczkowski et al., 2010). Boys who spent more time with their fathers presented fewer behavioral problems than ones who spent less time with their fathers. Girls' behavioral problems were not associated with fathers' care (Aldous & Mulligan, 2002). Moreover, even though both boys' and girls' aggressive behaviors were influenced by fathers' strict parenting, boys' aggression was more related to fathers than was girls' aggression (Chang et al., 2003).

## **2.4 Parent-child relationships and externalized and internalized children effects**

### **2.4.1 Externalizing behavioral outcomes**

According to the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) (2011), children living disrupted parental status are more likely to develop attentive deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) than those living in a more desirable family setting (Bloom, Cohen, & Freeman, 2012). This same view is shared by Jia, Kotila, & Schoppe-Sullivan (2012) who argued that, children had fewer externalizing behaviors when their parents were involved in their play activities. Thus, parents' involvement was negatively associated with children's and adolescents' aggression (Leadbeater et al., 2008) and antisocial behaviors (Carlson, 2006). It's further argued that, parents' psychological control on adolescents was related to their aggressive behaviors in their intimate relationship (Leadbeater et al., 2008).

In relation to above Chang et al., (2003) insisted that, parents' stricter parenting styles were associated with children's higher levels of aggression. In that, children were at risk for being bullied when their parents and moreso, their fathers had no involved relationship with them (Flouri & Buchanan, 2002). Hence, children with high parents especially father involvement manifested fewer delinquent behaviors (Carlson, 2006).

Furthermore, Herbert et al., (2012) stated that, in situations where children experienced fewer commands and fewer restrictions from parents in their early childhood had fewer externalizing behavior problems later in life. Similarly, parents' high involvement predicted less externalizing behaviors later in children's lives (Jia et al., 2012).

In addition, Flouri (2005) found that, child-parents relationship was strongly associated with children's and adolescents' behaviors at school. Children's appropriate social behaviors were positively related to parents' level of involvement and emotional expression. For example, children who received less angry emotions from their parents were rated as more popular by peers and teachers than those who experienced more angry emotions from their parents. Thus, child-parents relationships were associated with adolescents' adjustment at school, such that teachers reported youths who had more conflicts with their parents had more behavioral problems at school (Forehand et al., 1986).

In a similar fashion, parents' active communication with their children enhanced children's communication skills, and better communications skills were related to better behaviors at school (Fagan & Iglesias, 2000). Children's and adolescents' lower academic achievement was associated with higher levels of conflicts between children and parents, parents' higher use of commands (Herbert et al., 2012), parents' lower involvement and support (Cooksey & Fondell, 1996), and lower warmth and control from parents (Coley, 1998).

#### **2.4.2 Internalizing behavioral outcomes**

Jia et al., (2012) stated that, higher internalizing behaviors were associated with negative child-parent relationships. In that, parents who used fewer commands when interacting with children during early childhood had children who exhibited less internalizing behaviors in later life (Herbert et al., 2012). Children whose parents were more involved in play activities had less internalizing behaviors than peers (Jia et al., 2012); and children' low levels of anxiety and parents' involvement in parenting were related (Carlson, 2006).

Deutsch, Servis, & Payne (2001) argued that, children and adolescents that manifested high levels of self-esteem are those that had a close relationship with their parents and in which parents' were highly involved in parenting (Carlson, 2006). It was further observed that children and adolescents that happened to be better at controlling their emotions are those that had less strict parenting (Chang et al., 2003) and highly involved parenting (Carlson, 2006) from parents. For instance, depression in children and adolescents was associated with negative child-parent relationships (Demir et al., 2011). Thus, adolescents and children that expressed more positive feelings and emotions (Carlson, 2006) and higher life satisfaction (Flouri & Buchanan, 2002) are those their parents were highly involved in the family. In addition, children's development in cognition (Cabrera et al., 2007), language (Martin et al., 2007), and emotion (Cabrera et al., 2007) was related to parents' supportiveness. To be more specific, children who perceived higher support from their parents had the highest cognitive development in math and language arts compared to those who perceived lower parents' support (Martin et al., 2007).

Likewise, Tamis-LeMonda et al., (2004) demonstrated that better language and cognitive development of young children was related to their significant others' positive and supportive parenting. Similarly, children who had secure attachments with their parents had higher

academic achievement on language at school (Bacro, 2012). Comfortable communication with parents was also related to higher life satisfaction in youth (Levin & Currie, 2010).

The presumption is that, disadvantage experiences by children are likely to impact on their behaviour, life style and opportunities. UK Prime Minister Blair (2006) noted that, the toughest thing anyone faces in their personal life is bringing up a child. Thus, emphasis on parenting and the vital and pivotal role parents' play in providing for and in supporting their children has become central in understanding the increasing delinquent behaviors. This same view is shared by Hobcraft & Kiernan (2001) that, the quality of the relationships and the economic resources available to the family do have the same effect as opposed to the nature of the household. Implying that, quality of relationship rather than type of family or household has significant implication on the wellbeing of children; that is, parent's marital status and presence of one or two parents in household do not, of themselves, affect the child's wellbeing (McKeown, Pratschke and Haase, 2003).

Butler et al. (2007) found that parent-child relationship quality was associated with children's delinquent behavior, and that specifically, the highest levels of delinquency were observed when parent-adolescent trust communication was low. These results also replicated Werner and Silbereisen's (2003) study, which demonstrated that father-child relationships are crucial in child development. In that, exposure to parental negative practices predicted delinquency, children with a history of parental disorders experience the negative effects of inadequate parenting and will be involved in more delinquency (Dannerbeck, 2005).

Further still, Wright & Cullen (2001) revealed that, strong parental support, which is a component of high parent-child relationship quality, is associated with less delinquency. In particular, poor father-child relationship quality contributes significantly to delinquency. In the same stance, Rutter (2003) stated that, children whose parents experience specific psychological adjustment problems may have a predisposition to experiencing the same adjustment difficulties, which are passed down to them via genes that they share in common with their parents.

For instance, heightened levels of family conflict and harsh, negative parental behaviour put children at greater risk of developing adjustment problems if there is an existing family history



of specific indices of psychopathology (Rice, Harold, Shelton, & Thapar, 2006). Therefore, as the family environment serves to activate genetic susceptibilities as well as influencing their adjustment directly, it remains important to identify particular family experiences that increase children's risk of poor adjustment.

## **2.5 Summary of literature review**

In short, literature review reveals that, ineffective child rearing can lead to low self-control, and low self-control increases the risk of delinquency in an individual. Effective child-rearing, which includes supervision, monitoring behavior and punishing delinquent behavior has been found to have varying effects on child's behavior outcomes depending on age and gender. In this study however, focus has been put on examining the varying structural changes within the family, such as single-parent homes, and stepparent's quality relationship with children and how such has affected children's delinquent behaviors.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter therefore discusses the research design, the population and sample. It also discusses the instruments that were used in the data collection, the procedure for data collection and the method for data analysis, ethical considerations as well as limitations of the study.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design is a process of creating an empirical test to support or refute knowledge Borg and Gall (1989). It is also a plan and structure of investigation used to obtain answers to research questions. Therefore, the researcher adopted a descriptive design defined as a study designed to depict the participants in an accurate way or else a designed aimed at providing information about the naturally occurring health status, behavior, attitudes or other characteristics of a particular group. This designed was selected simply because it enables the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data in order to find the solution to whatever is being studied. This in turn helps to describe and give an answer to certain life experiences. With this in mind, it enables a wider view of an issue as opposed to strict numbers and figures which can only account on facts rather than experiences.

#### **3.2 Study Population**

According to Istijanto (2005) population is a collection of items that work together to achieve a common purpose. In this study the target population consisted of households comprising of parents, guardians, social workers and children in the Kamwokya situated in Kampala Central. These categories of respondents were engaged to reveal their opinions and knowledge regarding the subject matter.

### 3.3 Sample Size and Technique

#### 3.3.1 Sampling Size

A sample is a segment of the population with the same characteristics as the population on whom the study is conducted (Burns & Grove 2003). Since it is impossible to conduct a study on the whole population as the sample would be too large to control; therefore, the study involved 50 respondents who were determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) technique. This was done because of time constraints and the purposefulness of the study.

#### 3.3.2 Sampling Techniques

The researcher will employ a combination of sampling techniques as follow;

**Purposive Sampling:** it refers to the intentional, subjective or judgmental selection of respondents depending on the researcher's objective. This technique was used in selecting key informants such as social workers, local leaders, religious leaders and parents. This technique was selected because it is time effective and cost effective but also helps in selection of typical and relevant cases necessary to equip the study with the required information.

**Simple Random Sampling:** the study also employed a simple random sampling technique in selecting respondents; this sampling method was chosen because it avoids any sort of bias from the accessible population; each party of the target population as equal chances to participant.

**Table shows a summary of methodology framework that will be employed to obtain data for this study**

Approach	Sample selection	Data collection	Types of samples	Data analysis
Quantitative	Simple Random sampling	Questionnaire	Children/Teens	Thematic analysis, editing
Qualitative	Purpose sampling	Semi-structured interviews	social workers, local leaders, religious leaders and parents	Editing Coding Tabulation

### **3.4 Sources of Data**

The researcher obtained data from two primary and secondary sources.

#### **3.4.1 Primary Sources**

This data is firsthand data from respondents that has never been published directly from selected respondents. The researcher used a self-administered questionnaire to gather this type of data from children/teens, social workers, local leaders, religious leaders and parents.

#### **3.4.3 Secondary Sources**

This researcher obtained secondary data from libraries, text books, internet and review of the documents published by the unit of analysis. Secondary data is that type of information that has ever been published by different authors.

### **3.5 Data Collection Instruments**

The research instrument is a method used to observe or measure the research variables as accurately as possible (Polit & Beck 2004).

#### **3.5.1 Questionnaire**

A questionnaire is a set out questions based on a researcher's objectives in a sequential order in order to get solutions or opinion from people to solve a problem. Both closed and opened questions were formulated. The questionnaire will contain a 5-point likert scale questions in order to get a standard form of answers or response.

#### **3.5.2 Interview Guide**

An interview is a conversation between two or more people that is, the interviewer and the interviewee, where interviewees are questioned by the interviewer to obtain information. The researcher held face to face interviews with eligible respondents using a semi structured interview guide because interviews would enable the researcher to learn about things that cannot be directly observed.

### **3.6 Data Collection Procedure**

The researcher obtained permission from the department of social work and social administration to proceed on with the study. Then instruments of data collection were crossed examined by the supervisor. A total of fifty questionnaires were used, one for each person or respondent. Before distributing questionnaires, permission was sought for from authorities from the study area as well as consent from respondents thereafter; respondents were served with questionnaires.

### **3.7 Measurements of Variables**

#### **3.7.1 Parent-child relationship**

As the independent variable for this current study, the Child and Adolescent Social and Adaptive Functioning Scale, Family, Friends, and Self Form (CASAFS) were used to examine parent-child relationship. The CASAFS is a self-report scale measuring children's and adolescents' social and adaptive functioning in contexts of family and peer environments by using a 5-point scale of 1 (never), 2 (often), 3 (sometimes), 4 (always), and 5 (does not apply to me). The CASAFS has acceptable internal consistencies for family relationships ( $\alpha = .74$ ). The family relationships subscale has a test-retest correlation of .54 (Price, Spence, Sheffield, & Donovan, 2002).

#### **3.7.2 Delinquent Behaviors**

As an independent variable for this study, the Behavioral Assessment System for Children, Second Edition, Self-Report of Personality, Adolescents (BASC-2-SRP-A) was adopted. The BASC-2-SRP-A is a self-report rating measuring clinical and adaptive behaviors including child emotional, inattention/hyperactivity, internalizing, adjustment, and school problematic behaviors (Reynolds & Kamphaus, 2004). It takes about 20-30 minutes for youth to complete the questionnaire.

### **3.8 Data Quality Control**

Validity and reliability of the research instruments will be determined through consultation with the academic supervisor. Secondly, to determine the internal consistency of the scales that will

be used to measure the study variables, the researcher will conduct a pre-test among a selection of participants.

### **3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation**

#### **3.9.1 Data Analysis**

**Quantitative Analysis:** Data collected from by use of questionnaires was compiled, sorted, edited, classified and coded, and analyzed using a computerized data analysis package SPSS 15.0. Descriptive statistics were run to determine respondents' level of agreement or disagreements in regarding variables under study.

**Qualitative Analysis:** This type of data collected by literature reviews were analyzed thematically, whereby the researcher had to sort and pick rhyming themes d which were then used as quotations in support of quantitative data.

#### **3.9.2 Data Presentation**

This involved mainly the use of simple statistical techniques like use of tables and percentages to test significance of the information from which meaningful interpretation was drawn; generating frequencies and percentage using bar-charts, pie-charts and diagrams. These helped to show the distribution of respondents on each of the independent and dependent variable

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

First and foremost, before conducting this study, the researcher submitted a research topic to academic supervisor for approval, once the topic was approved the researcher went ahead to draft a proposal upon which the report was based. Thereafter, upon approving the proposal, the researcher sought for permission from the University authority to proceed on with the study. Once an introductory letter was obtained the researcher used it for further permission from the authorities in the study area and also used it to obtain consent from all the respondents. Given the nature of the project anonymity was observed. The researcher further observed extreme confidentiality while handling the responses. Information was availed to the respondents that the researcher would not cause any danger directly or indirectly and that participation is voluntary.

### 3.11 Limitation of the Study

**Scanty Secondary Data:** It was anticipated that, given the nature of the study, locating current and relevant data to support the study would be problematic due to scarcity of literature to support this study however the researcher overcame this limitation by resorting to the use of internet and public libraries.

**Unreadiness of Target Population:** Also the researcher anticipated the unwillingness of certain respondents due to unknown reasons; this would delay the process of data collection. However, the researcher solved this hurdle by creating a rapport relationship with such respondents hence creating a warm environment to engage them into responding to the study.

**High Levels of Illiteracy:** Besides, since the study was to be carried out during working days and among low earning households to be able to engage parents among others, whereas, the comprehensiveness of this study depends on quality of information but in case of illiteracy this would affect data quality. However, in order to overcome this limitation, the researcher formulated tools that simple and clear; as well as interpreting and translating the tools in the most used language.

**Limited Time:** The researcher was required to carry out this study within a specified time frame which seemed out of reach because of different obligations; for instance, the study was required to be undertaken during the semester thus, competing for lectures, course works, tests and exams among others; this would affect the comprehensiveness of the study since, for thorough study, time is a key element. However, the researcher designed a time schedule to accord all tasks suitable time as well as forego pleasure.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on presentation and analysis of the findings got during the field study in Kamwokya areas. The field results are presented in form of graphs, charts and tables. It starts with the characteristics of juvenile delinquent respondents which are fundamental in examining the effects of parent-child relationship on delinquent behaviours. This is followed by the three objectives of the study.

#### 4.1 Characteristics of the Respondents

The socio-economic character of the respondents is presented by sex, age, and level of education, which altogether remained fundamental to interpret and discuss the effects of parent-child relationship on delinquent behaviors.

##### 4.1.1 Respondents by Gender

**Table 1:** Findings showing respondents by gender distribution

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	18	36.0	36.0
Female	32	64.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

Findings in the Table above indicate the gender distribution of respondents that participated in the study, according to statistics, 64.0% were female while 36.0% were male respondents. The gender difference of participants had no negative effects on the objectivity of the study findings since all participants had equal opportunity to participate in the study. Besides, age was also considered critical in this study since the effects of parent-child relationship vary according to



gender difference thus, capturing respondents' gender was appropriate for the comprehensiveness of this study.

#### 4.1.2 Respondents by Age Bracket

**Table 2:** Findings showing respondents by age bracket distribution

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
12 & below	2	4.0	4.0
13-15	29	58.0	62.0
16-18	6	12.0	74.0
19 & above	13	26.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

In regard to the age composition of respondents, findings in the Table above indicate that majority of the respondents representing 58.0% were aged (13-15) years followed by 26.0% aged (19 and above) then 12.0% who were aged (16-18) and lastly 4.0% were aged (12 & below). The age distribution was considered relevant because it's important to determine how parent-child relationship affects children according to their age differences.

#### 4.1.3 Respondents by level of education

**Table 3:** Findings showing respondents by level of education distribution

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Primary	19	38.0	38.0
O-level	27	54.0	92.0
A-level	4	8.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

The study also captured the education difference of respondents with a sole purpose of determining parents-child relationship and academic outcomes of the children. In this regard, results in the Table above indicate that 54.0% of the participants were O-level students followed by 38.0% primary level and only 8.0% were of A-level respectively. The consideration of educational statistics in this study was based on an assumption that, children's school behavior is equally influenced by parents' support; more so, the quality of support.

#### 4.2 Familial structure in the context of children g in Kamwokya community

The first objective of this study was to determine the familial structure to which respondents belonged and so, the following findings indicate respondents' submission to this objective.

##### 4.2.1 Findings on whether respondents live with both of my biological parents

**Table 4:** Shows findings on whether respondents live with both of my biological parents

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	27	54.0	54.0
Yes	23	46.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Source: Primary Data, 2016

On the question of whether findings on whether respondents live with both of my biological parents, statistics in the Table above reveal that 54.0% a representation of 27 participants indicated that they don't live with both of their biological parents. But it is only 26.0%, representing 23 respondents that indicated they live with both of their biological parents.

#### 4.2.2 Findings on whether respondents only live with their biological mothers

**Table 5:** Shows findings on whether respondents only live with their biological mothers

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	35	70.0	70.0
Yes	15	30.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

On whether respondents only live with their biological mothers, results in the Table above show that the greatest percentage of 70.0% stated No to the statement while just 30.0% stated yes that they only live with their biological mothers

#### 4.2.3 Findings on whether respondents are being taken care of by their fathers

**Table 6:** Shows findings on whether respondents are being taken care of by their fathers

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	48	96.0	96.0
Yes	2	4.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

With regard to whether respondents are being taken care of by their fathers, the study found that, 96.0% a representation of 48.0% noted that they are not being taken care of by their fathers and only 4.0% stated otherwise.

#### 4.2.4 Findings on whether respondents live with their mothers and stepfather

**Table 7:** Shows findings on whether respondents live with their mothers and stepfather

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	1	2.0	2.0
Yes	49	98.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

It was further observed in the Table above that 98.0% stated that they live with their mothers and stepfather and only 2.0% stated no.

#### 4.2.5 Findings on whether respondents live with their fathers but with stepmother

**Table 8:** Shows findings on whether respondents live with their fathers but with stepmother

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	10	20.0	20.0
Yes	40	80.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

The study findings in the Table above show that, 80.0% acknowledged that they live with their fathers but with stepmother and only 20.0% declined to the same statement.

### 4.3 Perceptions of children and quality parents' relationships

The second objective of this study was to establish the perception children held towards the quality of parents' relationships and so, under this sub theme cross tabulation statistics were generated by use of spss to compare between the genders' perceptions as follow.

#### 4.3.1 Findings on whether respondents have friendly talks with both their parents by gender

**Table 9:** Shows findings on whether respondents have friendly talks with both their parents by gender

					Total
		Sometimes	Often	Always	
Male	Expected Count	1.8	9.0	7.2	18.0
	% of Total	6.0%	16.0%	14.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	3.2	16.0	12.8	32.0
	% of Total	4.0%	34.0%	26.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	5.0	25.0	20.0	50.0
	% of Total	10.0%	50.0%	40.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

On the question of whether respondents have friendly talks with both their parents by gender, statistics in the Table above indicate that, majority of female respondents acknowledged represented by 34.0% stated often compared to 16.0% representing male participants; then 26.0% again of the female stated always to the same statement compared to 14.0%; while 6.0% of the male stated sometimes compared to 4.0% of the female. These findings entail that to the large extent male children perceive their parents as not being friendly to them whenever they talk to them compared to female.

#### 4.3.2 Findings on whether respondents' parents complimented them when they did something well by gender

**Table 10:** Shows findings on whether respondents' parents complimented them when they did something well by gender

					Total
		Sometimes	Often	Always	
Male	Expected Count	2.2	7.2	8.6	18.0
	% of Total	2.0%	10.0%	24.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	3.8	12.8	15.4	32.0
	% of Total	10.0%	30.0%	24.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	6.0	20.0	24.0	50.0
	% of Total	12.0%	40.0%	48.0%	100.0%

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

When respondents were asked whether their parents complimented them when they did something well by gender, 30.0% of the female participants representing the majority stated that often compared to only 10.0% of the male; then 24.0% of both female and male stated always however expected count shows that 15.0% of female more and only 8.6% of male. What this implies is that, female children seem to have more positive perceptions towards their parents and also, parent seems to have positive response to their daughters compared to male children; an indication that, male children received less attention among the participants.

#### 4.3.3 Findings on whether respondents' parents do not know the friends you are with by gender

**Table 11:** Shows findings on whether respondents' parents do not know the friends you are with by gender

					Total
		Sometimes	Often	Always	
Male	Expected Count	2.9	9.0	6.1	18.0
	% of Total	8.0%	18.0%	10.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	5.1	16.0	10.9	32.0
	% of Total	8.0%	32.0%	24.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	8.0	25.0	17.0	50.0
	% of Total	16.0%	50.0%	34.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

When respondents were asked whether respondents' parents do not know the friends they are with by gender results show that majority of the female respondents representing 32.0% stated often compared to 18.0% of the male; also, 24.0% of the female stated always compared to 6.1% of the male children. These findings reveal that parents tend not to be mindful of who is with their daughters or children, what this entails is that, children are at high risk of being pressurized by peers to engage in delinquent behaviours than children's whose parents are keen about who is talking and interacting with their children.

#### 4.3.5 Findings on whether respondents' parents do punish them when they have done something wrong by gender

**Table 12:** Shows findings on whether respondents' parents do punish them when they have done something wrong by gender

						Total
		Almost Never	Sometimes	Often	Always	
Male	Expected Count	1.1	3.2	7.2	6.5	18.0
	% of Total	6.0%	2.0%	18.0%	10.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	1.9	5.8	12.8	11.5	32.0
	% of Total	.0%	16.0%	22.0%	26.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	3.0	9.0	20.0	18.0	50.0
	% of Total	6.0%	18.0%	40.0%	36.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

With regard to whether respondents' parents do punish them when they have done something wrong by gender, 26.0% of the female respondents stated that always compared to 10.0% of male; then 22.0% of the female also stated that often compared to 18.0% of male. These statistics imply only one thing that, whereas, female children were often punished by parents when they did something wrong, findings indicate that often male children were not always punished even when they had done something wrong. These findings affirm that there is always high attention given to daughters' conduct or lifestyle by parents than male children and this explains why there are more cases among male children engaged in delinquent behaviours.



#### 4.3.6 Findings on whether respondents' parents have ever hit them with a belt, switch, or other object when they did something wrong by gender

**Table 13:** Shows findings on whether respondents' parents have ever hit them with a belt, switch, or other object when they did something wrong by gender

					Total
		Sometimes	Often	Always	
Male	Expected Count	2.2	10.4	5.4	18.0
	% of Total	.0%	26.0%	10.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	3.8	18.6	9.6	32.0
	% of Total	12.0%	32.0%	20.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	6.0	29.0	15.0	50.0
	% of Total	12.0%	58.0%	30.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

Results in the Table above indicate that 32.0% of the female respondents stated that often parents have ever hit them with a belt, switch, or other object when they did something wrong compared to 26.0% of the male respondents. Once again 20.0% of the female participants asserted that always parents have hit them with something compared to 10.0% of male participants. These are significant statistics that entail, female children are always under control of their parents unlike male children who seem to be loosely supervised or monitored by parents and this will explain why male children will be easily influenced to engage in delinquent behaviors.

#### 4.3.7 Findings on whether respondents' parents yell or scream at you when you have done something wrong by gender

**Table 14:** Shows findings on whether respondents' parents yell or scream at you when you have done something wrong by gender

					Total
		Sometimes	Often	Always	
Male	Expected Count	3.6	9.4	5.0	18.0
	% of Total	6.0%	18.0%	12.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	6.4	16.6	9.0	32.0
	% of Total	14.0%	34.0%	16.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	10.0	26.0	14.0	50.0
	% of Total	20.0%	52.0%	28.0%	100.0%

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

In regard to whether respondents' parents yell or scream at you when you have done something wrong by gender majority of female participants representing 34.0% stated that often parent yelled at them compared to 9.4% of the male; similarly, 16.0% of the female argued that always parents scream at them compared to 12.0%. though both genders acknowledged that parents yelled and screamed however statistics seem to state that majority of female children perceived parents' being reactive towards them.

#### 4.3.8 Findings on whether respondents' parents treated them differently depending on gender and age by gender

**Table 15:** Shows findings on whether respondents' parents treated them differently depending on gender and age by gender

					Total
		Sometimes	Often	Always	
Male	Expected Count	1.1	11.5	5.4	18.0
	% of Total	2.0%	18.0%	16.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	1.9	20.5	9.6	32.0
	% of Total	4.0%	46.0%	14.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	3.0	32.0	15.0	50.0
	% of Total	6.0%	64.0%	30.0%	100.0%

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

Further still, the study findings according to the Table above reveal that, 46.0% of the female participants stated that often parents treated them differently depending on gender and age, so did 18.0% of the male participants. This implies that, children perceived their parents has been more strict to children according to which sex and age; in this case, it can be argued that female children were more restricted and controlled by parents compared to male children. Likewise, older children were more held accountable than younger ones, a perception that was held by majority of the participants.

#### 4.4 Child-Parent relationships and externalized and internalized children effects

The third objective of this study was to determine correlation between parent-children relationships and externalized and internalized behavior outcomes. Therefore, crosstabulation statistics were generated to test for the relationship between the study variables and results are as follow.

##### 4.4.1 Findings on whether respondents' parenting behaviors, such as physical punishments accounts for behavioral disorders by gender

**Table 16:** Shows findings on whether respondents' parenting behaviors, such as physical punishments accounts for behavioral disorders by gender

					Total
		Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	4.3	8.3	5.4	18.0
	% of Total	6.0%	14.0%	16.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	7.7	14.7	9.6	32.0
	% of Total	18.0%	32.0%	14.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	12.0	23.0	15.0	50.0
	% of Total	24.0%	46.0%	30.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

On the question of whether parenting behaviors, such as physical punishments accounts for behavioral disorders by gender, 32.0% of the female participants stated that quite a bit while 14.0% stated to the same. In general, participants acknowledged that physical punishments had externalized effects on children's social behaviors, viewed that has been shared by several psychology scholars.

#### 4.4.2 Findings on whether respondents' dislike ordering them to do this and don't do that by significant others by gender

**Table 17:** Shows findings on whether respondents' dislike ordering them to do this and don't do that by significant others by gender

						Total
		Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	.4	2.5	9.7	5.4	18.0
	% of Total	.0%	.0%	18.0%	18.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	.6	4.5	17.3	9.6	32.0
	% of Total	2.0%	14.0%	36.0%	12.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	1.0	7.0	27.0	15.0	50.0
	% of Total	2.0%	14.0%	54.0%	30.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

According to study findings in the Table above 36.0% of the female respondents stated that quite a bit they disliked ordering them to do this and don't do that by significant others compared to 18.0% of the male. These findings entail that, children tend not to be controlled an expression that reveals the mental status of rebellion or disobedience.

#### 4.4.3 Findings on whether respondents have trouble controlling their temper by gender

**Table 18:** Shows findings on whether respondents have trouble controlling their temper by gender

							Total
		Not at All	Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	.4	.7	4.7	8.6	3.6	18.0
	% of Total	.0%	2.0%	10.0%	20.0%	4.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	.6	1.3	8.3	15.4	6.4	32.0
	% of Total	2.0%	2.0%	16.0%	28.0%	16.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	1.0	2.0	13.0	24.0	10.0	50.0
	% of Total	2.0%	4.0%	26.0%	48.0%	20.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

According to the study findings in the Table above statistics indicate that, 28.0% of the female respondents stated that quite a bit they have trouble controlling their temper as well as 20.0% of the male respondents. The total statistics affirm that majority representing 48.0% acknowledged that they had trouble controlling their temper.

#### 4.4.5 Findings on whether without canes or threats they cannot follow rules or anyone or place by gender

**Table 19:** Shows findings on without canes or threats they cannot follow rules or anyone or place by gender

						Total
		Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	1.1	4.7	4.0	8.3	18.0
	% of Total	6.0%	4.0%	2.0%	24.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	1.9	8.3	7.0	14.7	32.0
	% of Total	.0%	22.0%	20.0%	22.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	3.0	13.0	11.0	23.0	50.0
	% of Total	6.0%	26.0%	22.0%	46.0%	100.0%

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

A significant percent of male respondents representing 24.0% stated that without canes or threats they cannot follow rules or anyone or place by gender compared to 22.0% of female respondents affirming to the same. The total statistics of 46.0% categorically stated that without canes or threats they cannot follow rules or anyone or place by gender.

#### 4.4.6 Findings on whether respondents rather fight back than see someone humiliate them by gender

**Table 20:** Shows findings on whether respondents rather fight back than see someone humiliate them by gender

							Total
		Not at All	Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	.4	1.4	5.0	8.6	2.5	18.0
	% of Total	2.0%	2.0%	20.0%	6.0%	6.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	.6	2.6	9.0	15.4	4.5	32.0
	% of Total	.0%	6.0%	8.0%	42.0%	8.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	1.0	4.0	14.0	24.0	7.0	50.0
	% of Total	2.0%	8.0%	28.0%	48.0%	14.0%	100.0%

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

Findings on whether respondents rather fight back than see someone humiliate them, the table above reveal that, 42.0% of the female stated quite a bit and in total statistics indicated 48.0% showed a same state of mind towards anyone who humiliated them.



#### 4.4.7 Findings on whether respondents are suspicious of over friendly strangers by gender

**Table 21:** Shows findings on whether respondents are suspicious of over friendly strangers by gender

						Total
		Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	.4	2.5	6.5	8.6	18.0
	% of Total	2.0%	2.0%	22.0%	10.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	.6	4.5	11.5	15.4	32.0
	% of Total	.0%	12.0%	14.0%	38.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	1.0	7.0	18.0	24.0	50.0
	% of Total	2.0%	14.0%	36.0%	48.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

According to the study findings in the Table above, statistics indicate that 38.0% of the female respondents and 10.0% of the male, and a total of 48.0% stated that they are suspicious of over friendly strangers

#### 4.4.8 Findings on whether when people are especially nice, they wondered what they want by gender

**Table 22:** Shows findings on whether when people are especially nice, they wondered what they want by gender

						Total
		Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	1.1	2.2	6.1	8.6	18.0
	% of Total	6.0%	4.0%	8.0%	18.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	1.9	3.8	10.9	15.4	32.0
	% of Total	.0%	8.0%	26.0%	30.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	3.0	6.0	17.0	24.0	50.0
	% of Total	6.0%	12.0%	34.0%	48.0%	100.0%

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

Results in the Table above further reveal that, majority of the female respondent represented by 30.0% and 18.0% of the male respondents indicated that when people are especially nice, they wondered what they want

#### 4.4.9 Findings on whether respondents tend to like being alone than be surrounded by crowds by gender

**Table 23:** Shows findings on whether respondents tend to like being alone than be surrounded by crowds by gender

						Total
		Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	.4	2.2	9.0	6.5	18.0
	% of Total	.0%	4.0%	14.0%	18.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	.6	3.8	16.0	11.5	32.0
	% of Total	2.0%	8.0%	36.0%	18.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	1.0	6.0	25.0	18.0	50.0
	% of Total	2.0%	12.0%	50.0%	36.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

Results in the Table above reveal that, 36.0% of the female respondents and 14.0% of the male stated that quite a bit they tend to like being alone than be surrounded by crowds

#### 4.4.10 Findings on whether respondents often find themselves worried about things they cannot control by gender

**Table 24:** Shows findings on whether respondents often find themselves worried about things they cannot control by gender

						Total
		Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	.7	2.5	11.2	3.6	18.0
	% of Total	2.0%	8.0%	24.0%	2.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	1.3	4.5	19.8	6.4	32.0
	% of Total	2.0%	6.0%	38.0%	18.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	2.0	7.0	31.0	10.0	50.0
	% of Total	4.0%	14.0%	62.0%	20.0%	100.0%

*Source: Primary Data, 2016*

According the findings in the Table above, 38.0% of the female and 24.0% of the male respondents and a total of 62.0% stated that quite a bit they often find themselves worried about things they cannot control

#### 4.4.11 Findings on whether respondents often felt that other kids were better than them by gender

**Table 25:** Shows findings on whether respondents often felt that other kids were better than them by gender

						Total
		Very Little	Somewhat	Quite a Bit	A Great Deal	
Male	Expected Count	.4	2.2	8.3	7.2	18.0
	% of Total	2.0%	.0%	4.0%	30.0%	36.0%
Female	Expected Count	.6	3.8	14.7	12.8	32.0
	% of Total	.0%	12.0%	42.0%	10.0%	64.0%
Total	Expected Count	1.0	6.0	23.0	20.0	50.0
	% of Total	2.0%	12.0%	46.0%	40.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data, 2016

In respect to whether respondents often felt that other kids were better than them, statistics in the Table above indicate interesting results between genders that is, 46.0% of the female stated quite a bit while 30.0% stated great deal though in total, both genders representing 46.0% argued quite a bit.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

In this chapter the major findings of the study are discussed stressing the significant issues as generated from the field. The presentation of the chapter is done in accordance with the research objectives followed by the general conclusion then recommendations and areas of further studies respectively.

#### **5.1 Summary of Findings**

##### **5.1.1 Familial structure in the context of children in Kamwokya community**

The first objective of this study was to determine the familial structure from which respondents belong and so, interesting results were ascertained. It was observed from the study that the largest percentage of respondents lived with their mothers but with stepfathers; likewise, another significant percentage stated that they lived with their fathers but with stepmothers. These findings indicate that, children are raised in unstable environment which exposes them to negative experiences since in such environment children run a risk of being abused and neglected by significant others. Besides, the study also found that, a good number of respondents mentioned they were staying with both of their biological parents however, this doesn't imply that, living with both biological parents it will result into positive behaviors, thus, what matters in this case is the quality of relationship such children experiences with their parents. It can therefore be stated that, to the large extent children in the study are lived in families or homes where there was one biological parent.

##### **5.1.2 Perceptions of children and quality parents' relationships**

Regarding the second objective the study found that, not always but often parents would talk with them in a friendly manner. It should be noted that, communication between children and parents is one of the most critical element in nurturing and building a quality relationship. However, in many cases, there is such a hostile kind of communication whereby, children live in fear since there is one way kind of communication that is from parents to children and rarely two

way. Interestingly, there was a difference according to gender, whereas parents communicated friendly to female children it was not the case with male per this study. For instance, the study found that, whereas, majority of female respondents acknowledged that, parents complimented them whenever they did something good however, this was not often the case to male. This is the general perception children have towards the quality of relationship with their significant others namely parents.

Further still, female respondents indicated that, parents were ignorant of who their friends were unlike male. What these statistics implies is that, parents have loose friendship with their children which are characterized with lukewarm or loose relationship. In a situation where parents are less involved in the lives of their children, children tend to find comfort from the outsides with whom they are free to express themselves. The lack of parents' involvement in children's circle of friends exposes them to risky behaviors as it is the case to today and this explains why Kamwokya has high cases of delinquent problems.

Moreover, respondents revealed that, parents screamed and yelled at them, while other stated that, they are often hit by objects when something goes wrong. However, it was also observed that, parents' reaction towards children depended on age and sex of children. Thus, age and gender difference was noted as a critical element that shaped the nature of parent-child relationship. All in all, findings about the perceptions held by children about the quality of relationship with their parents indicate that there is unhealthy and loose relationship between children and parents in the study area.

### **5.1.3 Parent-child relationships and externalized and internalized children effects**

Further still, results regarding the third objective aimed at determining parent-child relationship and externalized and internalize children effects. Thus, among the statement that were used to measure internalized effects was whether respondents felt that other kids were better than them; interestingly majority indicated that quite a bit they did feel inferiority at one point in their lives; but comparing between genders, female respondents had the high percentage of those who felt low esteem of themselves. It is widely argued that, children who had significant social and emotional support from their parents tended to have high degree esteem than those without. This implies that, due to poor quality of parent-child relationship many children in the study areas

suffer from inferiority complex which is also associated to delinquent behaviors. It is a general argument that youths with low levels of esteem were more likely engaged in delinquent behaviors than those with high degree.

It was also observed in this study that, majority reacted to people who humiliated them; physical punishment seemed not to deter them from engaging in delinquent behaviors but rather punished them in defiance as many indicated that they disliked ordering them to do this or that, such control by significant others seemed to instill rebellion hence parenting style that emphasized control of children instead induced stubbornness per this study. Notably, study found that majority mentioned that without canes or threats they cannot follow rules or anyone or place; such state of mind and disobedience entails the level of delinquency among the study population. Besides, it indicated the effects of family structure changes especially in light of parental interaction with children; whereas, it is widely acknowledged that, parents play a significant role in shaping their children's behaviours however, absence of parents to fulfill this role has left children exposed to external agents whose moral or behavioral practices are questionable. Sadly, participants indicated that they often find themselves worried about things they cannot control; an indication of depression as one of the internalized effects of poor parent-child relationship.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

In summary, the study found that to the large extent children live in broken families whereby, they either live in homes where there is one biological parent and then the stepparent. In such an environment, children are exposed to disruptive family arrangement thus accounting for multiple behavioral problems both internalized and externalized disorders. Majority of the participants stated that they were treated differently depending on gender or age; whereas, females were strictly treated yet males were loosely controlled. One of the outstanding effects of parent-child relationship in relation to delinquency was low levels of esteem among children. It is acknowledged in psychology that children with a sense of worthlessness are at higher risk of involving in delinquent behaviors simply because they can easily be influenced by peers among others. It can then be argued that, poor quality of parent-child relationship is associated with high levels of delinquency among children. Implying that, children living in homes where there is



close, intimate and secure attachment with parents, such children are less likely to engage in delinquent activities compared those with insecure attachment.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The following suggestions have been developed based on the study findings;

There is need for the concerned national institutions concerned with children wellbeing in the country to come up with programmes to educate parents using different media as a way forward to become conscious of their role and lifestyle since they are models to children.

It is also recommendable that NGOs, FBOs and CBOs get interested in the issue of child rearing and nurturing since children belong to the community.

Institutions of learning should also take up the responsibility of demanding parents' involvement especially for school-going children as well as initiate activities that encourage positive living and social productivity.

### **5.4 Areas of further Studies**

Based on the study findings there is a need to conduct a study in the areas of social support, self-esteem and non-delinquency among female students at higher institutions of learning in Uganda.

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## Appendices

### Appendix I: Survey Questionnaire

**Dear Respondent,**

My name is **Mrs. Adella Googo** and I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in social work and social Administration of Kampala International University. I am carrying out an academic study about the *"effects of parent child relationship on delinquent behavior: a case study of Kamokya communities"* Please kindly spare some of your valuable time and respond to the following questions. The research has purposely selected you to participate in this study. The information that you provide will be treated with all the confidentiality it deserves and will be used for the purpose of this research only. **Thank you**

**Please read each statement carefully and be as honest and objective**

#### **1. Gender**

	<b>Gender</b>	
1.1	Male	1
1.2	Female	2

#### **2. Age**

	<b>Age bracket</b>	
2.1	12 & below years	1
2.2	13-15 years	2
2.3	16-18 years	3
2.4	19 & above	4

#### **3. Level of Education**

3.1	Nursery	1
3.2	Primary level	2
3.3	O-level	3

3.4	A level	4
3.5	Diploma	5

**4. What kind of business are you involved?**

4.1	Food Stall	1
4.2	Retail shop for merchandizes	2
4.3	Saloon services	3
4.4	Restaurant	4
4.5	<b>Others Specify</b> _____	5

**5. For how long have you been in the business?**

5.1	1-5 years	1
5.2	6-10 years	2
5.3	11- 15 years	3
5.4	16-20 years	4
	21 and above	

## Section B:

6. Familial structure in the context of children g in Kamokya community					
Instructions: Please tick the most appropriate.					
		2	3	4	5
6.1	I live with both of my biological parents				
6.2	I only live with my biological mother				
6.3	I am taken care of by my father				
6.4	I live with my mother and stepfather				
6.5	I live with my father and stepmother				

## SECTION C: Perceptions of children and quality parents' relationships

**Instructions:** The following are a number of statements about your family. Please rate each item as to how often it TYPICALLY occurs in your home. The possible answers are Never (1), Almost Never (2), Sometimes (3), Often (4), Always (5).

		1	2	3	4	5
7.1	I have a friendly talk with both my parents					
7.2	Your parents' compliment you when you have done something well.					
7.3	Your parents do not know the friends you are with.					
7.4	Your parents do not punish you when you have done something wrong.					
7.5	Your parents hit you with a belt, switch, or other object when you have done something wrong.					
7.6	Your parents yell or scream at you when you have done something wrong					
7.7	Your parents treat you differently depending on gender and age					
7.8	Your parents calmly explain to you why your behavior was wrong when you misbehave					

## Section D: Child-Parent relationships and externalized and internalized children effects

**Instructions:** Please rate each of the following items in terms of how characteristic they are of you. Use the following scale for answering each of these items: 1 2 3 4 5 6 (5 A Great Deal, 4 Quite a Bit 3 Somewhat, 2 Very Little, 1 Not at All)

Extremely uncharacteristic of me		1	2	3	4	5	Extremely Characteristic of me	
	<b>Externalized</b>							
8.1	Parenting behaviors, such as physical punishments accounts for behavioral disorders							
8.2	I dislike ordering me to do this and don't do that by significant others							
8.3	I have trouble controlling my temper.							
8.4	Without canes or threats I cannot follow rules of anyone or place							
8.5	I rather fight back than see someone humiliate me							
	<b>Internalized</b>							
8.6	I am suspicious of overly friendly strangers.							
8.7	When people are especially nice, I wonder what they want							
8.8	I tend to like being alone than be surrounded by crowds							
8.9	I often find myself worried about things I cannot control							
8.10	I often feel that other kids are better than me							