

**THE PHENOMENON OF CHILD ABUSE AND FACTORS LEADING TO
INCREASED PHYSICAL CHILD ABUSE IN UGANDA: A CASE
STUDY OF CENTRAL DIVISION, KAMWOKYA VILLAGE ,
KIFUMBIRA II ZONE IN KAMPALA DISTRICT OF
CENTRAL PRONVICE
- UGANDA**

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DECLARATION

I MUKALAZI HORMISDASC, here by declare that the work presented here is my original work and has never been presented for any academic award in any institution.

SIGNATURE 

MUKALAZI HORMISDASC

Date 

APPROVAL

This research report is submitted for examination with my approval as a University supervisor.

SIGNATURE 

MR. KIBUUKA MUHAMMAD .T

DATE 25th/08/2010

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family members especially my wife Mrs; Annet Mukalazi, my children Dennis Kizito and Angella Nansubuga, the Staff of Kampala Internatinal University, fellow teachers of Hormisdallen, my work mates, my friends plus Brothers and Sister for the support extended to me my headmaster Birungi Samuel, for giving me confidential and moral support.

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to determine the phenomenon of child abuse and factors leading to increased physical child abuse in Central division with Kamwokya Village as a case study. The study was targeted to children of Mawanda Road and Kamwokya Community primary School, Kamwokya Moslem primary School and Mulago Catholic/ .primary school. Quantitative research design was employed and purposive sampling was also employed. Head teachers and teachers provided .primary data. It was found out that there was overwhelming child physical abuse in the area of study. Most of the abused were in the range of 7 – 10 years. Most abusers were reported to be step mothers who were surprisingly in their young ages. Most abusers had stopped in P.VII and were mentally normal. Most acts of abuse included severe beating, burning and sometimes sexual abuse.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the problem

Child abuse is the physical or mental mistreatment of the child. This is a kind of a phenomenon that is discussed in almost if not all the daily newspapers, the problem of child abuse is discussed, for example in the monitor No. 70. September 02 - 05, 2009 page 7, it was reported that David a six year old boy was found on life high way street in KAMWOKYA town desperately looking for his mother who had dumped him and abandoned him there.

Several studies have focused on problems associated with physical punishment with pupils reporting hatred of schools, desire for revenge or debilitating anxiety and calling for use to restricted to the head teacher.

Many children are involved in acts that prohibit them from exercising their rights such as the right to live, the right to enjoy parental care, the right to education, and protection from all kinds of harm among others. Yet these are the fundamental aspects of human growth and development.

Berk [1997], argues that maltreatment is as old as the history of mankind, but only recently there has been a wide spread acceptance that the problem exists. Kemp Silverman [1962] at the annual meeting of the academy of pediatrics was the one who first coined the condition “battered child syndromes’ a term, which refers to physical abuse in infants.

Child abuse differs from society to society. It is an aspect of societies behavior and the difference is the result of having no clear universal morals, values and norms.

Parents and relatives in some instances abuse their children by giving them harsh punishments, which result in children leaving the home for street. A number of the people believe the best way of up bringing and disciplining is subjecting and exposing them to harsh treatment.

Child physical abuse refers to any act that endangers or impairs a child's physical health and development. These acts include child battering, burning, killing, food and medical deprivation, and dumping in pits. In Uganda, physical punishments are common in schools, home and communities in which children live.

Un like in Northern province where parents had the sole responsibility of rearing kids in a simple way, the African culture setting of child rearing emphasized corporal punishments. It is said that incidents of severe beating of children were very common and yet caused no alarm as it was regarded normal and part of child rearing.

In Central division and Uganda as a whole, children are battered with all sorts of weapons like bars, pestles, bottles, hot metals, naked frames and some times these children are poisoned and killed, sexually abused where an example is seen in news paper vol. 21No. 59, march 2006, pp.2, it was reported that Kamau 85 of Kamwokya village in Kampala district defiled a three and a half year old neighbors daughter and appeared before court on Sep. 3rd 2006.

However, given the awareness, of child abuse through the media and public debate, children are persistently being abused mainly in slummy areas found in the area of the study. In almost all the daily news papers the problem of physical child abuse is highlighted. According to UNICEF report, Ugandans have not done enough to stop evils that impend the physical and mental growth of children.

Further more ANPPCAN media analysis [1996] points out that parent of all social status in Uganda use some form of physical punishment on their children. Gelles [1980] observes that many parents use physical force, which goes beyond the mild punishment

1.1 Statement of the problem

While discipline remains a desirable aspect of socialization of children, the manner in which it has been carried out has led to many cases of physical child abuse. Adults trusted by children and

whom children are solely dependent commit a lot of abuses against children. These acts are common in home, school and communities where they stay.

A family has always been thought to be the most adequate setting in which the child will develop emotionally, and physically. However this has not always been the case, as the physical child abuse has been known to occur with in the context of the family. There fore, where as a family is supposed to provide an adequate environment for the child's physical and emotional health and development quite often it has been the setting in which the child's physical and emotional health are destroyed.

The phenomenon of child abuse takes place across social strata's regard less of the economic well-being or stableness or social status of the family. Child abuse causes observable physical injuries like brain damage and fracture, plus hemorrhage. It has resulted in many children running out of homes and schools to towns and become street children, house girls or houseboys. There is no specific research that has been done on the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse in Uganda and Central division [Kamwokya] in particular perhaps due to lack of statistics on the matter and due to economic constraints.

It is very common in Uganda today that most children, do not grow up with their parents for instances in urban areas, the concept of urbanization together with high cost of living have made parents fail to provide for their children with all the necessities of life, the children are mal fed, not well educated and as a result, they become a nuisance to the society.

As a result, some of these children end up victims of sexual abuse for example according to the News paperNew Vision No .65, August 16 – 19, 2004, pp 11, it was reported that Rev. Fr. Robert Julius of Kamwokya Village in kampala defiled anguelia jokio his house girl 1 January 2004. He then later forced the girl to abort.

1.2 Hypothesis

- (i) There is a significant relation ship between physical child abuse and the family social economic status, personality characteristics of the care taker, home environment and school environment.
- (ii) Ignorant parents are likely to abuse their children
- (iii) The larger the size of the family the greater the abuse of children.
- (iv) Adolescents and such young parents are likely to be more representative in child abuse than their elderly counter parts.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to examine the increased rates of physical child abuse and to identify and examine the major social, economic as well as psychological factors which are responsible for child abuse; and also the study aimed at making recommendations to the policy makers both government and NGOs, with the view of improving the physical or mental development and the general welfare of the ch9ildren population in this country with more emphasis in slummy urban areas.

1.4 Objectives of the study

- 1. To find out the causal factors of increased rates of child abuse in Central division [Kamwokya Village].
- 2. To examine the extent and magnitude of child abuse and thus collect data about it which will assist the public administrators and NGOs to identify areas of future research.
- 3. To make suggestions and recommendations concerning possible ways of preventing or reducing the child abuse phenomena.
- 4. To analyze the effects of child abuse and assess child understands of their rights.

1.5 Scope of the study

The study was proposed to cover children in Central division Kamwokya Village in . district; who had been suffering from child abuse. The study will target children between age of 3 and 18

18 years; since 18 years is considered as the age below which a person is regarded as a child; this is an international definition of the child.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study is significant because it will be of help to government and NGOs in their policy formulation since it shows how children are abused; it is also aiming at helping the people living in slummy areas of Central division Kamwokya Village to identify and understand the causal factors of child abuse on the problems associated with it because this will teach people to improve on their children’s welfare as well as recognizing and respecting their rights.

1.7 Operational definition of key terms

Child: A person under 18 years of age and still a dependant

Abuse: to put to use other than the one intended.

Child abuse: any act of omission, commission that endanger or impairs the child’s physical, or psychological / Emotional / health and development

Physical abuse: an act that endangers or impairs the child’s physical health and development.

Battering: this is hitting some body severely.

Burning: this is when one is set on fire or injured by hot water or oil.

Dumping: when children are thrown in pit latrines or any other pit.

Neglect: when children are left to take care of themselves.

Broken home: a home in which the husband and wife have separated.

Single parent family: father only, or mother only and children.

Sexual abuse: sexual victimization of a child by adults.

Defilement: having sex with a child [below 18 years] with or with out her/his consent.

Control: directing/influencing behaviors of individuals to conform to defamed standards of behavior and achievement expectations.

Punish: cause some body suffering or discomfort for wrong doing.

Corporal punishment: is the use of physical force with the intention of causing pain but not injury, for purpose of collection or control of the child’s behavior.

CHAFFER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

A research on child abuse has been carried out in western countries and has therefore been focused on western virtues and values. However, in Uganda child abuse has not been attended to and many children have suffered the consequences of abuse; thus it is worth while starting to carry out research on child abuse especially in slummy areas where such cases are common yet not reported.

2.1 Causes of increased physical child abuse

With the available literature and data collected by other researchers, it is clearly seen that child abuse and particularly physical child abuse takes place in various environments which include; home environment, school environment and work environment. It is thus observed that physical child abuse is increasing at a terrific pace where by at least more than five cases of child abuse are reported to either local councils, police or the press[new vision of Saturday march 6th ,2004]

(a) Home environment

In home environments, researchers point out to the difficulty of drawing the line between “normal” discipline and child abuse because the parent is legally empowered to use corporal punishment to enforce his rules no matter arbitral they may appear to the child or others.

Home environments refer to the prevailing social situation with in a particular social setting. Home environments have been found to be significant in proper upbringing of children. In homes parents have instituted forms of discipline which their children are required to conform. In certain instances, parents have used physical punishments as a measure of instilling good behaviors.

According to Arlen skoln.CK,1973 the intimate environment, exploring marriage and family, if a parent should kill his child in the course of administering a “deserved” beating, some states would consider the event an excusable homicide.

Gil in the book of Arlene Skoin CK1973 noted that it is also, difficult to state how abusing parents differ from normal parents; there is a strong tendency to interpret child abuse, as a result of some gross psychological abnormality. What sort of parent monsters would abuse their children yet the literature on battered children reveals no clear line of demarcation between battering parents and normal ones.

Gelled [1980] observes that many parents use physical force which goes beyond mild physical punishment for different reasons. Such kind of mal-treatment have been condoned in many homes as a normal way of handling child discipline, [Gelled 1980].As a result, parents have inflicted a lot of pain and causing serious physical injuries on their children. In certain cases children have got permanent physical impairment

Most instances of physical abuse occur when the parent or care taker gets carried away in anger and goes too far. Some battering parents expect strict obedience from very young children, they possess a marked sense of righteousness and feel they are encouraging their children to behave and be respectful or they may be under severe economic or other strains. For example, B.F Steele and C.D Pollock write that there seem to be an un broken spectrum of parental actions towards children ranging from breaking of bones and the fracturing of skulls, through severe bruising, severe spanking, and on the mild “reminder” pats on the bottom.

It is difficult to determine accurately the number of instances of child abuse. About 10000 of serious injury to children inflicted by parents or their care takers are recorded annually by child abuse registers; the rate is 9 cases per 100000 children per year [Arlen Skoin C.K 1973].

Researchers in the field assume this to be merely the tip of an iceberg, it is impossible to estimate the number of injuries passed off as accidents or never ever reported. A recent study of parents whose children were hospitalized for treatment of burn, found many instances of what appeared to be willful, negligence on the part of parents. For example, a parent was angry on the child, and some how just did not move first enough to prevent the child from tipping a pot of boiling soup on to him self.

More still, accidents constitute the leading cause of death in young children, almost 3 times more frequent than the next leading cause. Assuming that many of the accidents actually represent cases of child abuse or willful negligence, shading into carelessness, some researcher have suggested that parental abuse and neglect may be the most frequent cause of death to children in USA today [Fontana 1964].

Sex of the children is yet another cause of child abuse. Sex has been considered to have a great influence on child abuse. Girls have been considered to be the most likely victims of abuse in both home, school and work environments. In African cultural context in which girls are considered to be a weaker sex and where there are demands made on them by the parents, it has been thought that there would be a high prevalence of physical abuse among the girls.

mery [1988:6] concurred with this view when she noted that “discrimination on the grounds of sex is a big contribution to child abuse committed against young girls”. Related to this discrimination is the question of preference a particular sex that is where the parents had wanted a child of a particular sex for instance a girl, and if a boy is born instead, the boy is likely to be disliked and may fall a victim of child abuse.

The attitudes that parents have towards their children have been central to some acts of physical violence. Parent with negative attitude towards their children often use abusive language and physical battering. [Berk 1997].

In addition, the home environment has different kinds of people ranging from parent, siblings, expanded family members and neighbors. With such a multitude of people, children are given tasks which are beyond their energies to handle, such as fetching water, firewood, washing and cooking. Failure to perform these tasks has often led to physical punishment with in the home environment.

Furthermore in polygamous home environment, children are susceptible to child abuse and physical maltreatment; [mery 1969], since there are “co wives” in these homes, they often displace their anger their “stepchildren”. [mery 1997].

james [1997] noted that teachers of the young children often observe bruises or wounds on children in various stages of healing. This indicates that the injuries occurred at home at times and may have been inflicted regularly, [james1997] In some cases cruelty against children has forced them to leave homes turning into street children and these acts have become rampant in urban slummy areas and semi-urban homes.

On the other hand, Gil, another child abuse researcher, argues that physical abuse of children may not be the major killer and manner like others have claimed. Gil argues that individual acts of violence against children with in family may be over shadowed by collective societal abuse through poverty and discrimination.

America has some times been described as child centered, however any an unbiased observer for child rights in this nation will find that many millions of children are living, growing up under circumstances of severe social and economic deprivation which tend to exhibit the fullest possible of their innate capacities.

Many of these children, lack adequate nutrition, medical and dental care, education, and vocational opportunities. Any serious student of child life in America society would have to conclude that however high the prevalence of physical abuse of individual children with in their family and homes, may be the abuse inflicted upon them collectively by society as a whole is far larger in scope and far more serious in its consequences [Gil 1970 pp 15& 16].

He suggests these results show the infliction of physical injury on children is viewed as an “almost normal occurrence” in the course of caring for the children.

(b) School environment

On the other hand, there is sufficient evidence that the school environment of children greatly influence physical child abuse. The school system in Uganda has taken the work of raising

children, since they spend a considerable time in school. Thus children's most dominant associations are at school with peers and teachers as the setting for the child's physical and emotional development, [African net work 1998].

In school setting, physical punishment is perceived as an acceptable method of disciplining children. Many children receive observable physical injuries like abrasions, fractures, hemorrhage, brain damage [paralysis] and retain these mental scars of abuse for life, [African net work 1998].

Physical abuse can not be detached from emotional abuse as children retain these experiences and they are some times manifested in their emotional life [African net work 1998].

The use of alcoholism in schools by teachers is quite common and it is duly reflected in excessive physical punishment handed out to pupils. In some incident, a teacher in Central province was reported to have beaten a student into a state of unconsciousness in a feat of alcohol induced anger

In such circumstances, the school has proved to a threat to children, instead of a sanctuary and fountain of knowledge. Competition among schools for better student performance has turned teachers into hostile individuals who use physical punishment in a bid to attain better results of their students.

Adam [1971] argues that the unique situation of the school as an institution of child rearing means that most children in Uganda are exposed to the institutionalized form of physical punishment.

In learning there are both positive and negative reinforcement means and caning is part of the negative reinforcement. It draws an intimidation and fear; it is humiliating and erodes self confidence from the children. Children, who are beaten experience fear and suffer withdrawal effects [child link Vol. 5, 3rd Sep. 1999].

(c) Work environment

More still, in the work environment children are seen to be abused. All children “work” in some sense of word. Culturally, the participation of children in domestic is perceived as part of the learning and preparation for the adult life. It also contributes to maintenance of the household. However, according to Tom Barton and Gimono Wamai, equity and vulnerability, a situational analysis of adolescents and children in Uganda, [1994], this “normal” work can become excessive or exploitative and be a form of child abuse. The tasks can be too heavy or dangerous. Also, work can prevent the child from obtaining education. Children are also some times used for gainful employment with out pay or the child is physically, emotionally or sexually abused in the course of work, [Tom Barton and Gimono Wamai 1994].

(d) Family social economic status

Hyman [1971], describes social economic status as the family’s position in the system of social stratification depending on the money, prestige and power of resources available.

Backman [1972] has a technical definition of the term as used by psychologists, educationists and sociologists that it refers to the variation in power, wealth and prestige. Family social economic disadvantages that is to say, limited income, unemployment youthful parent hood, contribute to the expression of violent behavior [Belsky and Vondra 1989].

Poverty has been identified as a major cause of abuse and neglect of children, particularly in the 3rd world. Sociologists who have looked at the demographic characteristics of family especially as reported by Gelles [1978] maintained that for abuse and neglect have found high correlation between being reported as an abusive or neglectful parents and being poor.

They substantiated the above statement by identifying common conditions associated with poverty such as poor housing, frequent eviction, inadequate nutrition, insufficient clothing, frequent illness, poor medical and dental care, unemployment and under employment and inadequate education.

However, the sociologists like Gelles concluded by saying that those problems lead to high levels of tension in the family which may get diffused into child abuse. More over, they continue to say that poverty rather than parental neglect may be the cause of parental failure to provide adequate nutrition and physical care or alternatively neglect may be primary to being overwhelmed by the conditions of poverty.

Many parents or guardians who have the responsibility for child care experience difficulties in meeting the basic needs of their children. In Uganda most children come from low social economic status s families that are poverty stricken. Thus leading to high incidences of physical child abuse.

An example, A mother was reported to have strangled her baby to death because the father of the baby was too poor to support the child, [the News paper Monitor on 11 Feb 2007].

(e) Personality characteristics of care givers

According to Adam [1971], children have been found to be target of aggression when their parents are angry. In other words, they are used as scapegoats on whom their parent's anger is displaced:

Berk [1997] cites Parke and Slaby [1983], who observed that children reared in practices that under mine the development of moral internalization and self control are correlated with aggression, love withdrawal, and power assertion.

Physical punishments and inconsistent discipline are linked to antisocial behavior from early child hood through adolescence for both sexes. This will differ from one individual to another depending on the characteristics of the individual care givers.

Some researchers have identified maltreating parents with certain common personality characteristics. According to observations stipulated by steche brandt [1970], maltreating parents

frequently experience feeling of low esteem. They may think that they are worth less, incompetent or bad people. Some neglectful parents neglect themselves as well as their children.

According to Eysenck [1997] violence is caused by adults' behavior traits of being aggressive in nature. Konrad Lorenz [1966], an ethologist proposed that people like other animals, possess innate aggressive impulses. Therefore, it only needs some kind of trigger [provocation] to set it into action. Social psychologists distinguish between two kinds of human aggression, hostile and instrumental [Baron et al 1977]. They maintain hostile aggression is provoked by pain or upset. It's emotional and its primary purpose is to harm, [Stanton et al 1980]. Hostile aggression with intent to cause grievous harm can easily be caused by provocative behavior of children or just due to emotional state of the abuser, Martin [1997].

Specific characteristics of parental personality may increase the likelihood of parental aggression. Hostile personality have been found to be significantly related to the use of harsh punishment, [Simons et al 1991] and parental explosiveness as well as irritability and the use of threats has been associated with aggression against children and disrupted discipline [Caspi and Elder 1988].

Earlier studies looked at child abuse as having its roots in adult psychopathology with a feeling that adults who abused or neglected their children had a history of abuse during their own childhood, [Olweus 1980].

Further research has shown that unmanageable parental stress is associated to child abuse. Stress is brought about by unemployment, marital relationship, overcrowded living conditions and extreme household disorganization, [Berk 1997].

In some cases aggression against children has forced them to leave homes and resort to live on streets. Such instances have been very common in homes where the caregivers are stressed especially by marital relationship breakdown [Omosis2000].

2.2 Types of child abuse

The following are types of child abuse known in Uganda today. According to justice Madania it is divided onto 3 categories: physical, sexual and the emotional or psychological types of child abuse.

(a) Physical child abuse

Physical violence against children is perhaps the most horrendous and merciless type of abuse yet known. The above is mostly carried out by step mothers I fathers in polygamous and broken marriage with a succession of wives who treat the children cruelly or by natural parents most especially drinking parents.

(b) Sexual abuse

Sexual or seductive child abuse is increasingly becoming common in homes today. Sexual abuse may extend to urinating on the child, rape, defilement of all types, indecent assault of all types, sodomy, acts of vulgarity in the presence of the child, child prostitution to mention but a few.

It is unfortunate that very little information would be found on this type of child abuse since it is a grounded fact that incest [a sexual relation ship with close relative in family] is a firmly regarded family secret.

2.3 The situation of child abuse in Uganda

Long stigmatized and undiscussed problem increasing media attention in the early 1990 [the Monitor 25th 1992 January, 1993 New vision, I 7th may 1994] has made it apparent that a significant number of children in Uganda are physically, sexually and emotionally abused.

Note; frequently, there normal requirements of shelter, food and health care are also neglected. Estimates from the department of probation and social welfare indicate that four million children, half of the total children population in Uganda, are physically abused, vulnerable and live in difficult circumstances. There fore, certain categories of children in Uganda are particularly vulnerable and more likely to have their rights denied or violated.

The largest category of vulnerable children include; orphans [1.2-1.5 millions], displaced [approximately 800000], children who labour, children who are displaced due to insecurity and calamities [possibly 300000-400000], and eligible children who are not in school.

In Uganda, parents and guardians used to care for the orphans in the past but now the idea of extended family is becoming “you have to look after your own child before others. In addition to the above, it is common in Uganda today that the orphans with strong family ties continue their education while those without have even their property grabbed.

According to Juliet [1988] “child abuse in many cases involves members of the family and sometimes natural parents”. Okumu [1990] has also taken note of this infliction of blows to the child by the parents as very common. A lot has been written on child abuse and the following variables below have been put into consideration.

(a) Sex of the children

Sex has been considered to have a great influence on child abuse in Uganda and girls have been considered to be the most likely victims of abuse. In Ugandan cultural context in which girls are considered to be a weaker sex and where there are demands made on them by their parents, it is common that there would be a high prevalence of physical abuse among the girls.

In Uganda there is high discrimination on the basis of sex among children. For instance, Juliet [1988:6] concurred with this view when she noted that “discrimination on the grounds of sex is a big contribution on child abuse committed against young girls”.

Parents today tend to prefer a particular sex most especially the male sex and if a girl is born she is likely to fall the victim of child abuse.

(b) Age of the children

In Uganda’s situation child abuse is known to occur to children of all ages. By definition a child is defined within the range of 3-18 years of age. It was observed by Okumu [1990] that in

Uganda the greatest proportion of abused children were young teenagers of 11 to 14 years with the percentage of 40%.

He further argued that it is at this age that children are growing into adolescents, a stage at which they are very adventurous and likely to engage in notorious activities.

(c) Mental and physical health of children

In Uganda, the severely abused children were found to be either physically or mentally abnormal. One category of abused children includes those cases in which the precipitating factor is a defect in the child especially a defect that contributes to lack of responsiveness, resulting into parental frustrations [Milowe et al 1964:1079 C H D library].

Adam [1971] on the other hand says “ children are trouble seekers and if there is a way of making angry or getting mother at wrong times are made to suffer for it... to make a group angry may be one way some children can be punished”.

(d) Abusers of children

In Uganda’s situation, abusers of children vary from close associates like natural parents and step parents, to un related persons and neighbors. It is clearly understood that step mothers represent a biggest percentage in abusing children. Like juliet [1988:6] asserted “many acts of physical abuse are committed by step parents’ particularly step mothers in polygamous and broken homes”.

Peter [1990: 35] also observed that in Uganda, “step children are common victims of child abuse because normally step mothers favour their own children and maliciously mistreat their step children”.

Also, parents who have early deprivation and evidence of having been abused or neglected during their up bringing are likely to be abusers of their own children [Gimono, 1 970].There

fore in many instances natural parents are also potential abusers of their children basing on their own up bringing.

(c) Age of abusers of children

Most of the abusers have been known to be mainly between the ages of 20- 35 years. In the past under the traditional systems of marriage girls got married and had children as early at the age of 14 years. A man was considered appropriate for marriage and to manage a family when he had reached 18 years old; but then these had the extended family, which played a big role I giving them the social, economic, psychological and emotional support.

Girls bear children at this early age even up to today and there fore due to lack of social, economic, psychological as well as emotional support for these young couples makes them very likely child abusers due to economic, social as well as psychological stress that they face.

(f) Size of the family

The size of the family pre determines the way the family uses its income. Gil [1970] in his book, violence against children and Elmer [1967] in his book, children in jeopardy, found out that abusive homes have larger families than non abusive homes. Also, John Mayo, argues that “over crowding, lack of space particularly in those families with more than six off springs created obvious disadvantages; poverty or temporary shortage of money”.

(g) Maternal employment

Many people argue that maternal employment is a major factor in child deprivation consequently favoring child abuse. Carr-sunders [1967:54] in his study of delinquents in London found out that “almost twice as many delinquents had mothers who went to work”.

But other researchers refute this argument. okumu [1980:650] argued that, “maternal employment offers relief from financial strain, increased sharing, widening of mothers interests and increased independence of the children”.

According to Stephen [1988:45] in his research about maternal employment in relation to child abuse and neglect in Arua town of northern Uganda, found out that maternal employment gives

the family extra financial assistance. He adds maternal employment is not a serious factor of child abuse compared to the financial benefits the family gets.

(g) ii Level of education

Most researchers believe that parents who are either not well educated or not educated at all are more likely to mistreat and deprive their children. Gil [1970] in his book, violence against children and Elmer [1967] in his book children in jeopardy shows that abusive homes have lower educational levels than non abusive homes.

(g) iii, Type of home

It is argued that the type of home from which a child emerges plays a major and significant role in the way the child will be brought up. Gelles in his research undertakings found out that single parents were over represented among abusive and neglectful parents.

Eva Zuckerman however, argues that “children in single parent families are most vulnerable to the loss of care takers, but when two parents have been sharing this role, the loss of one may task the capacities of the remaining parents”.

The situations in broken homes however has a terrible impact on the type of person the children are likely to develop to be, more particularly the tendency to be delinquents.

West D.J [1967:54, Carr-sunders, Akola [1978] and Ondieki [1977], have found that breaks caused by parental dissolution or separation are more closely associated with delinquency than actual loss of parents. Ondieki found that of the 58 juveniles studied, 41 % had lost their parents and yet 59 % were from homes with poor relations.

Akola [1987:40] concludes by observing that, whatever cause of the broken homes it is important, 71 % of his juvenile respondents were from broken families while 29 % from normal families.

Kimani Jackson [1980] observed that due to absence of one parent or both parents in the home, the child finds no comfort and loses the love of either one or both parents. He therefore argues

that “this may lead to the child’s movement from one relative’s home to another yet indeed the child rearing practices are quite different in each home”.

Other researchers have also looked at polygamy system of marriages being responsible for inadequate child care. According to Vivian E Asedri, “polygamy” has been and continues to be a factor of life for many Moslems and African traditionalists” regardless of the little resources available.

He argues that this in most cases result in the failure of the polygamist to give the desired parental care and love; and as a consequence there develop the emergence of wealthy, illiterate and unruly young men and women who take to crime as a way of survival.

2.4 Role played by government and the NGOs

The governments together with the NGOs have played a number of roles and much effort has been exerted to deal with child abuse and particularly physical child abuse. Below are some of the roles played.

According to UN convention on the rights of the child in Uganda first periodic report 2000, the ministry of gender, labour and social development has strengthened the national council for children and coordination between various government bodies ministries and L.C.s involved in the implementation of children’s rights at both national and local levels.

As far as training of law enforcement officers is concerned, government with support of save the children, Denmark UK and UNICEF facilitated the training of UGANDA police on the convention of rights of children and the children statute and how to handle cases of child abuse.

Denmark is training the Uganda’s peoples defense forces [UPDFI on the protection of the children’s rights particularly in conflict situations. As a result of child abuse, the ministry of education has attempted to impose a ban on corporal punishment in schools. While closing a child awareness week in June 1995, the then minister made pronouncement to ban caning in schools which has failed [child link Vol. 5, 3” Sep. 1999].

Also , all appropriate measures including public information campaign are being under taken o combat all forms of discrimination against girls, orphans, children with disabilities, abandoned children, children born out of wed lock and children victims of sexual and economic exploitation, especially those living in rural area with a view interalia of facilitating their basic needs and services.

Discrimination based on sex is prohibited by the constitution of the republic of Uganda, the children statute 1996 and the national gender policy reinforces this. As regards the education, with the introduction of UPE the equalization of the number of girls and boys at .primary entry is close to attainment.

Other on going interventions that aim at equity realization for out of school children affected by armed conflicts and children with disability include; implementation of COPE and ABEK programmes and temporary school; is for internally displaced children. Apart from ABEK and COPE, the basic education for urban poor areas [BEUPA] is being implemented in . and targets slum dwellers and other disadvantaged children in urban Areas.

Further more, Uganda has the legal frame work to protect children from torture and inhuman treatment. Article 24 of the constitution provides that no person shall be subjected to any form of torture, cruel, in human or degrading treatment or punishment.
The children statute [section 6] also provides for the protection of children from violence and abuse [UN convention on the rights of child in Uganda, firs periodic report 2000].

2.5 Effects of physical child abuse

The phenomenon of physical child abuse has had far reaching and life time negative effect on the child victims. According to Maluser parents have inflicted a lot of pain and causing serious physical injury on their children and that in certain cases children have got permanent physical impairment.

Also, incidences of physical child abuse in schools have led to severe effect in some children. Notable cases include Moi, of Kamwokya Moslem primary school who is now crippled, , Joan of Kaweepe Mbogo Primary school who was seriously battered by the headmaster leading her into a coma. [African net work 1998].

Regarding the above incidences, the effects of physical child abuse impair children in almost all the aspects of life; the children who happen to fall victims of this phenomena are affected psychologically, emotionally, socially, physically and also their growth and development process is tampered with.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the methodological aspect of the study which includes the study design and its execution. The study design selected involves the population under study, and selection of the respondents. The study execution talks briefly the actual exercise of collecting and processing the data and the analysis of it.

3.1 Research design

The research design which was used was quantitative research design. It was chosen because it provided the measurement of responses and assisted the researcher in addressing questions of how many, how often which were part of the questionnaires.

3.2 Sample population

The targeted groups of people were school children from primary schools. The study was gender sensitive in that both male and female children were asked; however due to limited time and resource the research used Kamwokya Moslim primary school, Mawanda Road and Mulago Catholic Primary School.

3.3 Sample selection

The researcher used purposive simple random sampling; critical analysis was also employed by looking at people who seemed to be able to give clear and enough information. The kind of sampling was both systematic and simple to make the researcher achieve the goals of the research.

3.4 Data collection methods

With the help of the headmasters and teachers the classes were organized and 20 questionnaires were taken to each school and then were given to pupils / students at random [that is to say the

pupils were picked at random] because the number of questionnaires were less than the number of pupils / students in each class.

Questionnaires were self administered with almost all closed ended questions. The researcher made sure that every question was clearly explained and under stood. The researcher was also so keen to ensure that there was no interaction of pupils in each class.

After filling questionnaires, the researcher collected them by thanking them for the assistance rendered. The researcher collected the information in the above mentioned schools in four days.

3.5 Study procedure

The researcher chose a total of 80 respondents using the simple random sampling technique. The researcher as well introduced him self to the authorities in Central division Kamwokya so as to be allowed to carry out research within the area

There are only two .primary schools which are Kamwokya Moslim primary school and 26 .primary schools & Mulago Catholic in which the researcher wanted only two .primary schools. In order to come up with two .primary schools, the researcher used simple random sampling technique where she wrote all twenty six schools with their corresponding numbers and then placed them in a box and it was vigorously shaken until they were totally mixed.

He then picked two pieces of papers one at a time bearing the name of the school and number these were Kawempe Mbogo primary school and Hormisdallen primary school Kamwokya

After, the researcher went to these schools and did the introduction to the staffs of these schools with the help of the introductory.

The researcher selected 20 students / pupils from each school and the table below shows how sampling was carried out.

Name of school	Class	No. of pupils / students	Sample selected
Kamwokya P.S	P.7	40	10
	P.6	30	10
Modern Mbogo and Mulago Catholic Primary school	P.7	60	10
	P.6	65	10
Kamwokya Muslim primary school	P7	45	10
	P4	40	10
Mawanda Road	P3	60	10
	P6	40	10
Total		370	80

Source: .primary data

3.6 Instruments used

For the successful collection of data for this study the researcher employed questionnaires and face to face interview methods. The questionnaires were used to find out the effects of sex of a child, age of the child, size of the family mental and physical health of the children, abusers of children and their age, maternal employment, level of education and type of home.

The researcher chose these particular instruments because it is appropriates for the study, since the questionnaire is designed by the researcher. Also, the instrument is time saving as for the administration and scoring are concerned.

3.7 Data processing and analysis

After the data collection using questionnaires then the researcher carried out processing. Processing involve;

(a) Editing.

Here the researcher made sure that every question was answered. This editing aimed at making accuracy and consistency in answers given by respondents. It also gave the uniformity of the answers given and whether the questions were clearly interpreted. The researcher made sure that all questions put in the questionnaire were answered.

(b) Coding.

Coding was carried out after the questionnaires had been finally filled. The major purpose here was classification and categorization of the answers recorded down in the questionnaires. The researcher used two steps in this categorization process, first was to resolve on the categories used and lastly indicating and allocating individual answers to conform to the questions.

Having carried out coding and editing processes; the researcher arranged the information into tables with the titles corresponding to the question [s] in the questionnaire; in which particular answers were given, and number of times in which the answer [s] were given [frequency was put in table with corresponding percentage [s]. then each table was analyzed and interpreted according to the distribution of frequencies and percentages.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presents the findings and interpretations of the data collected. This exercise was done in accordance with the objectives and variables that were set and measured in relation to the structure of the study.

The findings put forward expose the gravity and factors leading to increased child abuse among children in Central division, Kamwokya.

This research sought to address the problem of child abuse by identifying the factors leading to child abuse. In findings representation, the researcher uses tables and percentages as the means of interpreting the findings and their implications.

For easy interpretation and analysis of data, information acquired was first edited and coded. Tabulation was then used to make the data easily comprehensible and numerical figures and percentages were calculated, presented in tables to explain the relevant findings and making comparisons.

The whole chapter is largely statistical and descriptive in its presentation. Interpretations were mainly based on the magnitude of the problem. The conclusions derived from this chapter may not be absolute. However, the findings could function as focal points or guide lines upon which further research and policy regarding to child welfare be based.

4.1 Sex of the children:

On the start of this study, the researcher considered sex of the children as one of the study variables. Sex of the child was hypnotized to be an important factor of child abuse among the children in Central division.

Table one

Sex of the abused children

	Male	Female
Sex category	48	60
Male	32	40
Female	0	100
Total	80	200

Source: .primary data

According to the table I above, it was found that male children represented a higher percentage 60 % as compared too 40 % female of the abused children in the region. It thus indicates that male children are more susceptible to child abuse than their female counterparts.

This is because of the positions males occupy in the family. In African tradition context boys are looked at as s the heirs and there fore likely to take on from the father. In several instances these boys are unsupervised, after which contribute to their being stubborn and lack of sense of responsibility. It is from such unguided background that boys are more likely exposed to abuse than girls.

On the other hand female children are less likely victims of abuse from quite an early age girls are expected to lead a restrictive life and to begin to carry on various responsibilities. This process gives female children the opportunity to grow up with a responsibility and avoid such circumstances. Such children grow up with high lightened self esteem as they are given responsibilities early.

The results differ from those of partric [1991] who found out that 54 % of the victims were females and 46 % male children. These reasons are not in consonance with Madiani Observations, that discrimination on the grounds of sex is a big contributing factor to child abuse committed against girls. The findings also disagree with Kemp [1962:17] when he argues that there is equal sex discrimination among the cases of abused children.

4.2 Ages of the abused children:

The age of the children was among the major variables investigated. This is because it was thought the majority of children are abused depending on age distribution, the children’s roles, and expectations and as to incite abusers.

Table 2:below indicates the findings as based on age distribution of the abused children.

Table two
Age distribution of children abused.

Age of category	Number	Percentage [%]
0 – 6	12	15
7 – 10	34	42
11 – 14	31	38
15 – 18	2	02
Total	80	100

Source:- .primary data

From table two above, young children of age between 0-6 years make up 16 %, those between 7-10 years with 42 % make the majority of victims of child abuse. 11-14 years is 38 % and 15-18 is 2 % of total number of respondents.

In accordance with table two above the greatest proportion lie in children with the years “between” 7-10. This happens probably because children at this age tend to be playful, stubborn, notorious, or with dubious behaviors. These are ages of adventurism and children are so difficult; they are so demanding in terms of basic necessities.

However, this does not seem to imply that children at this age go out of hand and become deviants. These are “normal” attributes in human development.

On the other hand children above the age of 15 were found to be the least likely age to be abused. The reason for this was that at this age children are mature enough to be responsible and defend themselves against abuse.

The findings differ from those of Joan [1991] which indicated that the greatest proportion of abused children were teenagers of between 11-14 years. These differences are about a matter of geographical location and or societal differences in social and economic conditions.

Other wise child abuse seems to affect all ages of children. Thus the majority of abused children were found between 7-10 years of age; but there is clear representation of all ages.

4.3 Abusers of children

Table three

Abuser	Number	Percentage
Mother	08	10%
Father	13	16%
Step mother	22	27%
Guardian	14	18%
Grand parents	6	8%
Neighbors	13	16%
No responses	4	5%
Total	80	100%

Source: .primary data

From the table above, it was clearly indicated that the greatest abusers of children were step mothers with 27 % in the sample survey. Reasons are that: unlike in western culture, in African culture it is common practice to have polygamous homes as it is socially acceptable. This breeds the concept of “step mothers”.

On top of that when a man separates with his wife which is wide spread as the result of social, economic contradictions, he is encouraged to take on another wife to replace the lost one. And as a result of this many children are brought up by their step mothers.

The above observations are in consonance with Kikonyogo's [1988] observations that many acts of physical abuse of children are committed by step parents. It also agrees with Lomonyas [1991] findings that step mothers represented the highest percentage of physical abusers of children. Nonetheless it can be justified from the findings in table three above that the child's natural parents are also significant abusers of their own children for instance father was presented by 16 % while mother was represented by 10 %.

Reasons given here were that at times children's behaviors go beyond tolerable degrees and this provokes parents to abuse them. At times unbearable social, economic as well as psychological conditions cause stress in the parents resulting into abusing these children.

The above observations are in agreement with Eva Zuckerman [1983] she argues that even natural parents either because of stress brought about by problems of single parent hood do abuse children.

Among the least abusers as seen from the above table [table3] were the grand parents who represented 8 % of the total number of abusers. The reason put forward for this is that at times either because of the death of the parents or other wise children are left to the care of their grandparents.

But because of old age associated with psychopath and psychosis leave alone hardships which are tormenting, grand parents have always been victims of such circumstances and children under their care have always fallen prey of abuse.

Also it was evidenced that neighbors do abuse children represented by 16 %. Thus from the above findings it can be shown that perpetrators of child abuse range from biological parents to distant relatives and or foreigners.

4.4 Age of abusers

The age of abusers was considered to be an important variable for investigation in this area of study.

Table four

Age distribution of abusers

Age categories	Number	Percentages [%]
Under 19 years	4	5
19 – 25	10	12
26 – 32	28	35
33 – 40	19	24
Over 40 years	19	24
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

From table four above, it is clearly shown that the highest numbers of abusers of children were found between the ages of 26-32 years with 35 %. And the least proportion of abusers was found to be under the age of 19 years with 5% but there is general representation of the distribution of abusers according to the age. Reasons advanced to explain the pattern of occurrence in the findings of the study follow.

Firstly, adults between 26 -32 years are associated with aggressive tendencies in settling matters. This may be because of their youthful nature that impels them to act forcefully.

The second reason could be associated and explained in terms of the relation ship between the age at which the children are when parents are between 26-32 years. Given the fact that early marriage is a common and acceptable practice in African social context, it is apparent that by the age of 32, he might be having the children of 7-14 years.

These age [7-14] in children are characterized by being playful, insubordinate and adventurous and these children are likely to engage in such acts. This means that relationship and the age of the children are in conflict.

Person under 19 years of age were found to be less likely abusers. This can be explained by the fact that having children at this age and the few who happened to have could be having very young ones, and in most cases first born are likely to receive maximum parental care and love. The few cases of 5% found in this category could as a result of accidents and unwanted pregnancies caused by increased defilement.

Persons of over 40 years are having children above the age of 17 years who can act responsibly to defend themselves against abuse.

4.5 Education status of abusers:

This was another factor for investigation; it was assumed that the level of education one attains would have a strong influence on ones attitudes towards abuse. Also that education status of people is related to their undertaking of the normal developmental stages in a child, child psychology and knowledge about child welfare.

The findings were represented as in table five below;

Table five:

Educational status of abusers

Education level	Frequency	Percentage [%]
Never attended school	27	34
.primary	43	53
.primary	6	8
Post .primary	3	4
Non response	1	1
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

From the above table, 53 % of the abusers were of .primary education level followed by 34 %, who never attended school. The least likely abusers according to the education level were those of post .primary level wit only 4 %.

These findings imply that the majority of the abusers were either illiterate or semiliterate. The reasons for the above are that the majority of the abusive adults were of .primary education level probably because they had little or no knowledge of child psychology and developmental stages in human beings plus their implications.

On the other hand, educational level may be also thought to have an impact on the levels of income and the wellbeing of individuals. The more education one acquires, the better the income. This combined with the fact educated people have a high sense of public opinion may explain why people with post .primary educational level were lowest abusers or children.

These findings concur with Eva Mary [1990] when she observed that most of the mothers who were abusive had not received even the minimum education. She added that “nearly none knew any thing about health and care or even the basic about child psychology and up bringing”.

From the above findings and interpretation, it can be explained and justified that the level of education can influence the abusive tendencies among the adults.

Also, when one attains a higher education level, then he/she develops a sense of self esteem for instance, him / her is satisfied with needs of self confidence, competence, self worth and recognition which can promote better understanding of others especially children.

4.6 Mental health of abusers.

The mental health of abusers was also considered a variable for the study.

Table six

Mental health of abusers:

Mental health of abusers	Number	Percentage [%]
Normal	76	95
Abnormal	4	5
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

As indicated in table six about 95 % of the total number of respondents were normal and only 5 % of total respondents were abnormal. This has an implication that many people who abuse children do so not because they have mental disabilities, but because of other reasons.

However much as the majority of the abusive persons were found normal. It cannot be ruled out that mental disability plays a role in child abuse especially when one considers the 5% of the study findings.

The above findings were in consonance with Caulberu and Ziejerts [1981] explanation that “while 90 % of such parents are either psychosis or personalities, may be are lonely, un happy and angry adults under great stress” Caulberu and Ziefert both seem to point other factors in abusers.

Like stress and excessive anger other than mental abnormalities as being a major cause of child abuse.

4.7 Family size and child abuse

The number of individuals in a family of the abused children was considered to be a major contributing factor to child abuse. The findings were put in the table seven as shown below:

Table seven

Relationship between the size of the family and child abuse

Number of children	Number of families	Percentage [%]
1 – 3	21	26
4 – 6	30	37
7 – 9	14	18
10 – 13	6	8
Over 15	9	11
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

As shown above, in table seven, a very big number of children with 37 % who suffer from child abuse fall in the range of 4- 6 children and 1-3 children with 37 % and 26 % respectively. This could a result of the fact that most abusive parents are known to be in the age limit of 26-32 years as was shown in table seven.

It is probable that under such ages of 26-32 years one could be found having about 4-6 children.

4.8 Peoples knowledge regarding child abuse

People's way of understanding child abuse was another factor which the researcher was interested in it was assumed that people abuse children because they are ignorant about it. The findings of the variables are shown in table eight.

Table eight

Knowledge about child abuse

Knowledge of abuse	Number of respondents	Percentage
Have knowledge	10	13
Have no knowledge	70	87
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

As it is in table eight, it was found out that the highest number of respondents did not have any knowledge on child abuse represented by 87% while only 13% of the respondents know what is meant by child abuse.

Thus the majority of the people abuse children because of ignorance regarding child abuse; the reason for this ignorance is due to the low level of education or no education at all of the abusers, and lack of information about child abuse.

However, 13% of the abusers had knowledge of child abuse thus revealing a fact that some people deliberately harm children.

Table Nine
Responsibility for child care

Care taker	Frequency	Percentage [%]
Father	16	20
Mother	48	60
Sister	8	10
Brother	4	5
Others	4	5
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

From table ix above, the mother has a very big role [responsibility] for child's care. The researcher found out that 48 respondents with 60 % were under the care of the mother; followed by the father with 20 % of the total respondents.

The least number of care takers of children were the brother and the rest of people with 5 %, and this is an indication that they are likely to abuse these children in terms of giving them food, dressing then property. And teaching them in one way or the other as well as confronting them.

The mother takes a responsibility in doing all the above roles, and thus a child is very much attached to the mother.

Table Ten
Occupation of the parents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage [%]
Business	15	19
Peasant farmer	52	65
Public office	10	12
Others	3	4
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

In accordance with findings in the table x, 52 children had parents who were peasant farmers which contributed to 65 %. This implies that these children are likely to face problems of lack of education due to having no school fees, lack of materials like dressings, and very many needs of children. Thus these children of peasants are likely to face problems of child abuse.

Only 10 children had parents who were public officers and 15 children had parents who had business. These contribute a very small percentage and thus very small fraction [proportion} if not none escape the problem of child abuse.

More so, those children of the peasant farmers were all the time at home in most cases and thus could be mistreated while at home thus the problem of child labour could affect them which is the form of abuse.

Table Eleven:

Number of abused children and the nature of abuse:

Nature	Frequency	Percentage [%]
Emotional	65	81
Physical	5	6
No abuse	10	13
Total	80	100

Source: .primary data

According to table xi above, many children were abused emotionally which is presented by 81% and only 5% were abused physically. The emotional type of abuse which the researcher came across was denying the children education, proper feeding and clothing also using the abusive language to children.

The physical abuse the researcher came across were injuries as a result of being beaten.

4.9 Limitations of the Study

This part of the study presents the researcher’s attempt to evaluate her own work through the whole process of this research study; this involves the identification of the short comings of this researchers work and to establish the possible causal factors of such short comings.

To begin with, the researcher realized that even if she had been all the necessary and relevant skills and techniques for affecting the study, she was to a reasonable extent hand capped by inadequate resources in terms of time and finance.

These combined with other related factors and emanated into a series of shortcomings discussed below.

On the on set of the study, the researcher was expected to carry out an exhaustive review of the relevant on the subject matter under study. However the related literature was not satisfactory in the view of the researcher. The literature she managed to get was not exhaustive and without any specific reference to the area of the study.

More still, the field of the study was so complex. Here it was very difficult for instance to establish the actual abused children and the abusers in the survey population. The researcher had to use the school children and got information which was not very much reliable and that hindrance was also due to shortage of enough time to go deep in slums to get information.

Closely related to the above was that eliciting information from students and pupils regarding the abusers and the abused especially in areas of defilement proved to be paradoxical. It seemed to be embarrassing to both children and teachers and some failed to release the very actual information.

In such circumstances the researcher was suspected to be a spy and under such instances the actual information could hardly be acquired.

Nevertheless regardless of the fore going shortcomings of this study, the researcher set out and proceeded with reasonable progress and in turn came out with successful investigation on the topic.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS,

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a brief summary of the main findings of the study. The chapter as well presents the conclusions which are drawn by the researcher from the findings of the study the short comings of the study, and lastly with presentation for future researches in the area of child abuse country wide.

5.1 Summary of findings

The study was aimed at identifying and determining the factors that lead to child abuse among people in Central division in Kampala district

Respondents were pupils in Kamwokya and pupils in Kamwokya .primary school and Hormisdallen primary school and Mulago Catholic .primary school. All of which are in Central division division “B”.

The information about adults who had abused children was acquired from the scholars themselves. The headmaster and teachers helped the researcher a lot in providing information where it deemed necessary and in organizing their students/pupils to fill in questionnaires that were given to them.

The techniques used based on random sampling, in this case therefore, selection of these schools was done randomly [using random sampling as well as the number of respondents].

For data collection, questionnaires with mostly closed ended questions were the main research instruments.

The findings of the study have been summarized below under the headings of the tables in chapter four.

5.1.2 Sex of the abused children

The analysis of the study apparently showed that the children are over whelming likely victims of the abuse. Over 60 % of the abused children in the sample survey were the males. This probably because of the different roles expected of them and different conditions subjected to them.

5.1.3 Ages of the abused children

Although the overall analysis portrayed the most vulnerable ages, in which a child could be abused as being 7-10 years with 42%, there was a fairly equal distribution of abused children across various years of age.

5.1.4 Abusers of children:

In this regard, it was found out that the step mothers are the most likely perpetrators of the dreadful phenomenon of child abuse. This probably, because of the step mother-step child relationship which is in most cases characterized by mistrust and contempt on either side.

5.1.5 Ages of abusers

The majority of the abusive adults were found to be between the ages of 26 and 32 years. This can be due to their aggressive nature at this age range in which their children are also approaching their adolescent age and are likely to be insubordinate. It is therefore because of this contradiction in character that makes children vulnerable to abuse.

5.1.6 Educational level of abusers

The education level of the abusers attained was found to have significant influence on the trend of abuse. Most cases of child abuse were found to be perpetrated by people who had stopped in primary level. This is probably because these are people without any knowledge of child psychology and development.

5.1.7 Mental health of abusers

On the whole, it was found that the majority of the abusers were mentally normal. Mental abnormality of the abusers was therefore found not to be a big contribution towards the abuse of children.

5.1.8 Family size and child abuse

An investigation into the relationship between the size of the family and child abuse revealed that most of the children abused were from big families with children above four in number.

5.1.9 The type of abuse of children that were inflicted on the children were adversely alarming and ranging from severe beating, burning and the alarming dangers of defilement which is very dangerous as abuse of children is concerned and the types of abuse of children could sometimes result in death of these abused children.

5.2 Conclusion

The study was investigated into the factors that lead to increased child abuse. The study aimed at identifying and determining those factors that could be responsible for persistent problem of child abuse in Central division Division Kampala district.

From the findings of the study it was also found out that child abuse is prevalent in society. It is an alarming danger which has affected the emotional and physical development of children.

It has left some people without any sense of morality. The majority of the children are left disfigured, deformed, abandoned, infected with AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, as a result of defilement, delinquents are on increase, mention all the bad effects of child abuse.

This implies that any effort directed at reducing the above social as well as psychological ills and other related atrocities impacted on the children must first move deeper in the core of the problem and analyze fully the likely results of the syndrome of child abuse and then get ways in which to limit it.

This can be done by either, direct government intervention through enacting laws and policies against the acts of abuse or through other social institutions like the church for setting family disciplines that result into divorce.

It was also found out from the study that personal characteristics of both the abusers and the abused children tend to shape and increase the problem. Such characteristics include sex, age, marital status, and mental defects in the children and other related social situations like poverty. It is to the contention of the researcher that some measure ought to be taken in order to rectify the situation. These measures can successfully be under taken by not only the policy makers and nongovernmental organizations but also the general public should be awakened, made aware of the problem and people should act to eliminate the evils of child abuse that threaten the existence of mankind.

5.3 Recommendations

For the continuity and development of society, there is need to protect and guide its young ones. The future of our country Uganda lies and equally depends on the quality of children and these calls for proper nurturing of the young.

It therefore requires an interdisciplinary and equally multi faced approach to counter the corrosive nature of child abuse that jeopardize the existence and development of society by endangering the caliber of its young ones.

Effective measure to control child abuse should be preventive in nature that is addressing the causal factors and protecting the victims of the insurgence of this phenomenon. These measures are discussed below:

1. The general public which has the obligation and or responsibility to protect the child should be educated and sensitized about the existence of child abuse and its dangers to the children and the entire society. Knowledge about the existence of dreadful syndrome of child abuse should be passed on to the public.

If it is also imperative that people are made aware of the rights of the children and how to ensure that they are respected. Education of the public can be done through the mass media programmes on radio should be uplifted to address this danger.

Seminars should be organized and conducted in slum and rural areas so that parents and other adults who abuse children are made aware of their obligations of bringing up children in a conducive and health manner. Rights of children and laws relating to such rights must be known by the public including the children themselves.

2. In tackling the problem of child abuse. There is need for an integrated approach. In this way interdisciplinary collaboration very vital factor if the problem of child abuse is to be strictly addressed. This requires that social workers, physicians, politicians, probation officers, police the judiciary, resistance committees at all levels have to jointly address the problem.

In addressing the problem especially the resistance councils should have the moral and social obligation to arrest and report perpetrators of the child abuse to the relevant authorities who should also act accordingly.

3. There is need to review, the relevant laws to children, in order to make them more protective to the children, also requires that child abuse be clearly defined in the legal statutes. A clear distinction must be made between what acts constitute abuse and those that do not.

In the acknowledgement of the above, the researcher is compelled to argue that all sorts of corporal punishment or violence put act on children that are likely to affect the emotional health and physical development the children should be considered as abusive.

More so, the penalty or sentence given to perpetrators of abuse should be made effective, heavy and severe.

4. Furthermore, parents need to be educated on stages of child development and their implications. Adding on this more education in the area of child psychology and approximate child rearing practices must be encouraged at family level, through counseling and adult education campaigns or through evening voluntary classes for adults.

The researcher also recommends that such topics like child development, child psychology and the rest above should be included to form part of primary education curriculum so that by the time both girls and boys drop out of school, they are well versed and equipped with knowledge about these subjects.

Thus given such a foundation, young people will be expected to grow up into responsible people who will take up their parental duties.

5. Some adults have been observed to abuse children when under the influence of alcohol. And thus alcohol should be regarded as causal factor of child abuse. Therefore if control of excessive intake of alcohol is put in place, there could be a reasonable reduction in cases of child abuse. This therefore calls for both education and counseling of the parents who happen to abuse or intend to abuse children under the influence of alcohol.

6. Causes of child abuse have also been known to be due to defects in the child's personality. It has been observed that in the child's personality. It has been observed that in certain instances children have been found to provoke and or incite adults to abuse them. Many children at different development stages like at adolescence stage tend to be insubordinate and unruly.

This means that there is a need to reactivate the probation and welfare office to carry out not only family counseling but also child therapy and counseling.

7. It was also found out that alarming rates of child abuse particularly defilement is as a result of moral decadence. In this view therefore, there is need for moral rehabilitation. This should also go a long way in controlling casual sex among school boys and girls such that unwanted pregnancies which the result is child abuse are checked.

Moral rehabilitation should also reduce single parent families so that people may begin to value the stability of the family institution which is being eroded by forces of immorality.

8. Also, environment plays a big role in child sexual abuse. Of recent, there has emerged a common intention to spread AIDS by many adults. And this gives the highest percentage of the causes of child defilement, thus I recommend the following to be done:

- (a) Parents should stop exposing their children to public for instance bathing them outside houses.
- (b) Children should not be sent alone to shop or neighbors at night
- (c) Parents should make it a point that their children always have panties and are dressed properly
- (d) Never to trust a stranger to the extent of leaving him/her with your children
- (e) Alcohol should be sold at limited time; so as to reduce redundancy and to encourage people involve themselves in productive or developmental activities.
- (f) Lastly the secretary for children should be included on local councils (L.C) committees or secretary for women should represent the children as well. She should ensure that children's problems and needs are solved in an area as well as ensuring their protection.

5.4 Suggestions for Future Research

The researcher would like to acknowledge and emphasize here that this study is not exhaustive and it does not claim to have covered all the victims of child abuse in Central division. This implies that what has been done is just "a tip of an iceberg" to emphasize the fact that there is still a lot to be done and this is foundation.

Therefore, having failed to provide an exhaustive coverage of the topic of study the researcher would like to recommend the following for future research on this topic.

1. Societal attitudes and perception towards child abuse.
2. Future investigations should focus on the magnitude of child abuse in society.
3. More variables need to be investigated and examined especially those that are perceived to be culturally, socially, and economically existing in nature.
4. Future researchers should try and increase on the sample size so as to make findings on topic appear more representative.
5. Investigations should be made to find out the causes of family violence.
6. Last but not least, researchers should try and inquire into the area of child labour.

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APPENDIX II

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE ON CHLD ABUSE IN CENTRAL DIVISION KAMWOKYA ZONE

Tick or write where it is necessary

Child data

1.1. How old are you

1.1.1 Gender

(A) Male ☐

(B) Female ☐

1.1.2 (i) Do you have your parents

(ii) Are they alive or dead and if dead when, how old were you when your mother died

Father died?

1.1.3 If you have no parent whom do you stay with?

1.1.4 Mention the people you remember who had ever abused you

(a) Mother ☐

(b) Father ☐

(c) Step mother ☐

1.2.4 Who disciplines you whenever you do something wrong?

.....

.....

.....

1.2.5 What type of punishment do you always face?

- (a) Corporal punishment ☐
- (b) Isolation ☐
- (c) Deprivation ☐
- (d) Denial of privileges ☐