

**A CHILD MISTREATMENT AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN  
SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS, OYAM  
DISTRICT - UGANDA**

**A CASE STUDY OF ABER SUB COUNTY,  
OYAM DISTRICT**

**BY**

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## DECLARATION

I, EKII MAXCLEAN JOE, hereby declare that, this work is of my own origin, and to the best of my knowledge, it has never been submitted to any university, or institution of higher learning for any award.

Signature: .....  .....

Date: .....  .....

EKII MAXCLEAN JOE

## APPROVAL

This is to certify that, this proposal was carried by Ekii Maxclean Joe, under the title "A child mistreatment and Academic performance of pupils in Aber sub county, Oyam district".

It has been under my supervision, and now it is ready for presentation to the senate of Kampala International University.

Supervisor's name: Madam Taligola Judith Dorothy.

Signature: .....

Date: 9/09/09 .....

## **DEDICATION**

This research report is dedicated to my dear wife, Mrs. Everline Ekii Maxclean Joe, who encouraged and supported me both materially and financially, leading to the success and completion of this report.

With great honour and respect, I wish to dedicate this report to our dear children: Angole Lunstex Innocent, Ogwang Isaac Bobsynsky, Ogwal Gloria Fiona, Ogwal Immaculate Winny, Nure Edmond and our blessed last born Abodo Hyrine.

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Yours affectionately,

EKII MAXCLEAN JOE

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

C.L	Child labour
C.P	Child prostitution
C.T	Child Trafficking
C.A	Child Abuse
C.M	Child maltreatment
TPR	Teacher Pupil Ratio
AP	Academic Performance
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency
Fund	

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

One major term defined in the topic of interest is “child maltreatment”. Child maltreatment which is commonly called “child abuse” generally refers to mistreatment of child by a parent or another adult. It is a life- threatening, physical violence, including several beatings, burns and strangulations.

Broadly speaking, child maltreatment includes any vital mistreatment, with the most favourable ones being; violence, neglect, sexual or emotional abuse and exploitation of children, rape, and child abduction, denial to good water, shelter, health, education, nutrition and orphanage.

Vulnerable group: easily injured

Maltreatment: it's a very cruel act given to a child, intended to damage her or his body.

Abuse: this is an unfair, cruel or violent treatment of a person, rude and offensive remarks or rendered to a child.

Neglect: to fail to take care of a child by not giving him/her enough attention.

Resiliency Is an ability to feel better quickly.

Defilement This is a sexual harassment deliberately performed to hurt and destroy the virginity of a growing male or female who is below 18 years of age.

Torture	It is an act of causing a severe pain to a child in order to punish or make her/him feel extremely unhappy.
Valuable Pillars	This means very useful and significant These are person with particular qualities.
Sex abuse	it means getting into sexual relationship that is not accepted in the society's beliefs and customs.
Fornication	means sexual curiosity, proving manhood or testing fertility.
Bestiality	having a sexual relationship with animals like: goats, sheep, dogs and cattle.

## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to establish and describe the causes and effects of child mistreatment in Aber Sub County with the view of alleviating children's problems and securing a good future for them. It was carried out in four parishes and five primary schools of Aber Sub County, Oyam district.

The researcher used questionnaires, interviews and observation to gather data. Sixty people took part in the study. Children suffered indiscriminate abuse of their rights, in the hands of both those known to them and those unknown, adults and fellow children too, for various reasons with many terrible effects on them. Many have big problems adjusting socially, in fact many become social misfits.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter presented the background, statement of the problem, purpose, objectives, scope, significant, limitations and delimitations.

### **1.1 Background**

Children are vital in society. They are future citizens and pillar of tomorrow's society. On their shoulders rest later responsibilities. They are the following: farmers, doctors, lawyers, engineers and great leaders of the people. The coming parents, politicians, administrators and what note are in today's children. Children contribute in their own way to their family welfare and income through labour. As a matter of obligation, they support their parents in old age.

However, of late, most media messages about children are disappointing, to say the least. Many children were abused, exploited, tortured all over the world. Some have become victims of sexual exploitation. In the courts, for example, the criminal offence with the highest frequency was defilement (Otim, 2009), with some heartless parents even defiling their own children.

UNICEF estimated that 200,000 children from western and central Africa were sold into slavery every year to work on cotton and cocoa plantations. Out of 300,000 child soldiers around the world, it was

claimed that 120,000 of these were forced into soldiering against their own will (UNICEF, 2007).

Child labour, child prostitution, child sacrifice, child neglect, child trafficking and child beating were some of the worst forms of child – maltreatment. Child mal-treatment, commonly known as child abuse, referred to the behavior that caused direct harm to children. Yet, children were the most vulnerable group of people. They were vulnerable because they were easily injured physically, socially and emotionally.

One wondered what caused such maltreatment of children and its effects. These doubts would be the subject matter of this research project carried out in Aber Oyam District.

In conclusion of this introduction, child mistreatment denied the learners in Aber sub county, access to formal education, which was an efficient and powerful tool to fight their future problems, hence eliminating backwardness and poverty that could endanger their future, that was why Bitamazire (2004) attributed the recent social economic growth among developed countries, to the massive investments in education.

Jack (1966) put it that, Uganda had been in conflict, for the last 21 years, especially in Northern Uganda where Aber sub county was located. He goes on to say that, “Rebels bullied and brutalized children into a fearful agreement and finally, lips and buttocks

were slashed off, school going children mistreated and abducted, houses burnt, children's limbs cut off while still alive".

Nalubwama (2008:27) argued that, there was still very high enrollment of pupils in all schools, for instance (350 pupils to 1 teacher), this led to poor classroom control and service delivery. So the national budget of 2007/2008 worth Shs. 634.5 billion, Equated to 65% did not yield any fruit at all. The school management committees in Aber Sub County, had failed to approve and draw development plans, they neither met three times a year, so leading to poor establishment and management of the schools.

### **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Children were both valuable and vulnerable. They were valuable because children were the future pillars of society. They were vulnerable as they can easily be harmed and destroyed, emotionally, physically and socially (Zigler, 1994) yet many of them suffered numerous non-accidental, life threatening, emotional and physical injuries in the hand of adult and other children.

That can affect their future and that of the society. There was, therefore the need to establish the root cause and effects of that kind of child maltreatment.

### **1.3 Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study was to establish and describe the nature, causes and effects of child maltreatment in Aber Sub County,

Oyam District with the view of alleviating children's problems and securing a good future for them.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

1. What are the natures of child abuse in Aber sub county, Oyam District?
2. What are the causes of child mistreatment in Aber sub County, Oyam District?
3. How many children have been mistreated in Aber sub county, Oyam District?

#### **1.5 Specific objectives**

The study would be guided by the following specific research objectives

- (i) to describe the nature of child abuse.
- (ii) to establish the causes of child maltreatment.
- (iii) To analyze the effects of child mistreatment in the society of Aber sub county, Oyam district.
- (iv) To suggest strategies that prevent child abuse in the society.

#### **1.5 Significance of the study**

That research would help to highlight the root causes of child maltreatment, the nature of that mistreatment on children, society and the community would be pointed out. That would in turn, assist those who mistreated children to get alternative methods of handling the children. The outcome of the study would help the community to treat children as teenagers, not as grown up adults,



thus with children being ultimate beneficiaries. However, the whole community too, would benefit because these children were the future pillars of the same locality.

### **1.6 scope of the study**

That research on the causes and the effects of child mistreatment would be carried out between July and September 2009. It would be conducted in four parishes and five primary schools of Aber Sub-County, Oyam district. The data would be collected by the researcher using questionnaires, interviews, group discussion and documentary analysis techniques. That research would basically try to establish the causes and effects of child mistreatment in Aber sub county of Oyam district, Uganda.

That study was also interested in investigating the causes and effects of child maltreatment in Aber Sub County, Oyam district. Geographically, the study would be carried out in the mentioned schools below: Apala A, Atapara, Fr. Oryang, Atura and Oyoe primary schools. Under parishes, they were: Adyegi, Ocini, Akaka and Kamdini.

### **1.7 Limitation of the study**

That research project might not be difficulty-free. The anticipated problems the researcher was likely to face in that study among others included: financial inadequacy, time factor and transport difficulties.

The weather condition would also affect the researcher because rain was likely to occur at any time. In the absence of rains, the hard beating and scorching sun-heat, might affect the health of the researcher. Some respondents might not readily respond positively and as a result, some questionnaires might not be returned. All that, would make the research project slow.

### **1.8 Delimitation of the study**

However, that research project, inspite of the problems sited above, the researcher would endeavor and ensure that, the following were achieved:

He would try as much as possible to have or acquire enough financial support from the friends and well wishers.

Balanced and managed the time schedules strictly, so as to meet the positive expectation of the respondents.

He would make all efforts to avail himself transport, such as a motorcycle or a bicycle at least, for safety and efficiency of the project.

He would purchase himself or borrow the raincoat in case of any stubborn weather condition.

He would provide himself an umbrella to shelter him from the hard beating and scorching sun-heat.

He had to try to be polite, flexible, approachable, tolerable, moderate, adjustable and convincing. With above suggestions, the researcher hoped to run through that task quite easily.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

That chapter dealt with the review of the related literature. The nature, causes and effects of child mistreatments were here discussed concurrently. That would be followed by the strategies to overcome child abuse. Forms of child maltreatment dealt with here were; child neglect, child labour, child trafficking, child soldiers, defilement or sexual abuse and the like.

#### **2.1 Nature, causes and the effects of child maltreatment**

Child maltreatment commonly known as child abuse generally referred to mistreatment of a child by the parent or another adult. Narrowly, child abuse was limited to life threatening, physical violence, including severe beatings, burns, and strangulation. In a broad sense, child maltreatment or child abuse included any treatment other than the most favourable care and it included: neglect, sexual or emotional abuse and exploitation. (Zigler 1994), Child abuse took many forms of different causes and effects.

In his research "Violence against Women in Uganda" Gumere (1995), rightly pointed out that, parents abandoned their children especially when they were unhappy about their own conditions.

Mothers, who were unprepared for child bearing responsibility, dumped their young ones in degrading and humiliating places. Children were neglected when they did not receive their minimum and necessary amount of proper physical, emotional and psychological support. Children who were likely to be abandoned, abused or neglected included those as: a result of unwanted pregnancies, girls, orphans and the adopted ones.

The Uganda government publication (1999), supported Gumere's idea, that parents who were angry to each other, sometimes took the anger out onto the children. Wife assault, remained the major cause of "child mistreatment". A battered mother in most cases abandoned and neglected her children because she was annoyed with their father.

Kamugisha (1998), in the Child-link, reported that, domestic violence denied a child the right to parental care and protection and the right to reside together with the parents. The best interest of the child, the principle of the child's right could not future anywhere all in a situation of domestic violence.

According to the State Attorney in the Ministry of Justice, in the book "children first" by UNICEF (1996), we were having a problem between discipline and bodily harm. He said, "In the past, discipline meant one, two or three strokes of the can, on the buttocks of the child". There never used to be bodily harmed.

No blood could come out, but now; it was being over done until blood came out, at times, leaving the child in a comma.

Experts believed that, child abuse abounded mainly because the society, regarded physical punishment, by parents as reasonable ways of changing children's behaviors. Adults who hurt children, only intended to correct them and they did not realize how easily the children could be injured (Imanglet 1994). Farrant (2000), supported that, indiscipline in the family and in the society was a growing problem and its effects were reflected in the school. The desire to correct an indiscipline child by teachers, often led to abuse of the children.

Millions of children world over were victims of child labour. Child labour was the employment of children as wage earners, (Zigler 1994). In some countries, Zigler observed children under 15 years formed a large part of the total work force, with no control over their working conditions. They worked mostly in mines, quarries, factories and on farms.

Many children work with their parents doing simple but repetitive task contributing to family income.

As for Njenga (2007), participation rates of children in the labour force, were higher in sub-Saharan Africa, where nearly half of the children in the 10-14 age groups were working, than in any other part of the world.

Poverty, poor education, wars, high population and diseases were blamed for child labour. UNATU (2009) stated that, the persistent challenges of widespread poverty, high population growth, the AIDS pandemic, recurrent food crisis, and the political unrest, and conflicts clearly exacerbated the problem of child labour. Basudde (2009) confirmed that without access to quality education, children drifted into the labour force at an early age, well below the minimum age of employment.

According to UNICEF (1996), in 1991, about 16% of Uganda-children were in full-time work. In western Uganda, over 20% of 10-14 years old work. Children did many jobs. In Tororo District, for example, we were told children left school to chase birds from the Doho Rice Scheme. In fort portal, children mixed Chemicals on Team Estates and in Arua, young girls worked in Tobacco Nurseries.

UNATU was right: to say that children's rights were denied by all forms of child labour, which threatened their education, damaged their health and might cause further exploitation and abuse (P31). The worst forms of child labour such as forced labour and slavery, prostitution and employment in drug trade, endangered children's health and security.

Rebelo (2007), claimed that 1.2 million children were trafficked every year. They were sold to do prostitution themselves as well as abducted, and recruited to be soldiers in conflicts. In Africa,

according to Njenga, child trafficking and abuse were fuelled by poverty which forced families to entrust their children into the care of richer family members, who often exploited them as heavy domestic or farm labourers. The trafficked –children were kept out of school and many were seen to have untreated wounds on their legs. Rebels rhetorically asked, “How many doctors, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, specialized workers were being lost just because of greed of traffickers?”

Child miners between the ages of 8 and 14 risked their lives, in Tanzania, for barely a meal a day. In this desperate daily battle for survival, children bared the laborious load. They were considered useful in that respect due to their size, which allowed them to enter tunnels and shafts where an adult would never fit. Many children had lost their lives as mines sometimes collapsed on them.

Some 120,000 African boys and girls were used as child soldiers in conflicts. Roduguez (2007) rights, “one of the most repugnant aspects of conflicts in Africa was participation of children”. Children were recruited because they were seen as cheap and useful, easily brutalized into fearless killing and unquestioning obedience. They were also forced to carry ammunicions, fire and prepare food or performed other non combatant roles (Njenger 2007:p.26). Children routinely, suffered killings, forced labour, beating and other forms of torture. Girls were frequently raped and forced into sexual slavery. Although children were forced and



abducted to be soldiers, Rodringuez (2007) said that, at times, some of them chose to do so out of desperation.

The problem of sexual abuse had received much attention in newspapers and on television. According to Otim (2009), defilement in the courts was the criminal offence with the highest frequency in Uganda. For Ninger (2007), children as young as 4 years were abused night at home by their fathers, stepfathers, uncles, cousins and grandfathers. That high risk to the girl did not end at home. In Kenya, we were made to know, a girl was raped every half an hour. The risk of children contracting sexually transmitted diseases was high. Many were traumatized. Some had already died of the deadly Aids.

Zigler (1994), had also spelt out stress among parents as a cause of child abuse. "a parent who was stressed for other reasons, was more likely to abuse their children than parents who did not have such girl children. "He wrote". Also children who were difficult to care for, such as premature infants and handicapped children, created more stress for parents.

So, such children were more likely to be abused than were those other children, "felt Zigler."

Some traditional beliefs about children harmed them, and evaluated their rights. There were some common beliefs that were dangerous such as the more the children, the more work they could perform. Such beliefs pushed families to produce more children

than they could care for. They also portrayed children as assets, not human beings with needs and feelings (UNICEF, 1996).

The same UNICEF also gave the following as examples of child abuse: teasing a child, laughing at a child, breaking down a child's self-confidence, ignoring a child and shouting at a child (P. 37).

Alcoholism often caused child abuse. Some drunken parents, tended to abuse children, for example, they burnt them, beat them and at times killed them (Okia, Erima and Karwani, 2001). The same authors pointed out indiscipline as one cause of child maltreatment. "Badly behave children ended up being punished and they run away from home", they said.

In his article "Abused children could become violent", Cullen (2008), wrote that, abuse and neglect of children and treating them as the objects of punishment and rejection by society were sowing the seeds of violence and rebellion and terrorism.

He said, "any form of childhood abuse or maltreatment led to deep buried pain, frustration and fulfilled desires and longing and prone to anger and hostility. That was, that could breed rebellions and anti-social resentment and behaviour; a desire to retaliate at parents, family, society and authority-figures were strong. Cullen observed that fanatical extremists preyed on these vulnerable youths; they were the ideal recruits for terrorist - organization and easily convinced to be suicide bombers.

For him, (Cullen), history had given the world many war criminals, cruel vindictive leaders, political demons and cruel dictation, torturers and tyrants, mass murders and genocidal killers- childhood neglect, abuse and violence upbringing, created the personality that could be tyrant, genocidal killers and psychopath. There were people who had caused wars, atrocities and mass murder.

Child mistreatment affects both the child and the society or humanity. "When a child was used, abused, mimed, he lost a part of his childhood and a part of his human potential. And, with him, all humanity lost the unaccomplished promises of a unique human being. "The words of Njengo (2007), gave good ending:" children needed to enjoy their childhood and retained their innocence: - They had dreams and expressions and they could not fulfill them, when they were bonded in the worse forms of exploitation. It is sad to see the grim face of innocence, desperate and unsure of what the future held.

According to John Kanya (1990: pg 38), he argued that, it was due to child maltreatment that was why United Nations Organizations (UNO), put in place human articles on children's rights, mainly to stop torture, inhuman and degrading treatment on the child. John Kanya went on to say that, all the disciplinary measures, safety and procedures should maintain the interest of the child.

UNICEF (Page 16-17) discussed that, child poverty, deprivation of: material, emotional and spiritual resources, left children unable and could not enjoy their full rights.

According to Dollar(1939), defined aggression and violence as acts performed to hurt a person. For example, an angry mother gave a blow on the face of her child, for spilling milk on the family carpet.

According to Cichetti and Lynch (1995), parental abuse and neglect of toddlers, was too rampant, for instance, parents did mistreat children at any age, like three years. That came about when toddlers explored to get into things which they should not, and as a result annoyed parents.

According to Ganiel B. Del Hart (1993), the consequences of maltreatments were associated with problems like: poverty and family stress which could also stress children negatively. Some correlates of maltreatment established down here were: aggression, social withdrawals, and general difficulties with peers.

Other theorists in the field too are: Pettit (1990), Egeland (1997), all argued that, the consequences of maltreatment had many forms.

National Research Council (1993), averted that, physical neglect such as failure to meet the child's basic needs like: food, warmth, cleanness and medical attention, tended to produce to devastating consequences. Egeland (1997), went on and argued that, physical

abuse meant deliberately, causing the child physical injury and which often promoted behavior and emotional problems such as avoidance and disorganized attachment relationships.

In related development, emotional availability in the parents was a result of depression which could lead to a very degrading maltreatment.

## **2.2. Strategies to prevent child maltreatments.**

Poverty and ignorance were said to be the cause of child workers in Africa. The problem, as Njenga put it, was closely linked to the continent's poverty increases in family incomes and children's educational opportunities (p. 24).

The problem of stress among parents which led to child abuse could be solved, as "Zingler" put it by, "preventing family members from becoming so isolated or stressed that abuse occurred." He said, "Parents support groups and other professional services could help relieve many of the stresses that led to abuse.

Children should be warned or educated, not to let people, even family members touch them, in ways that made them feel uncomfortable. Zingler continued that, they should be instructed to tell a trusted adult, if they were sexually abused. Children were to be encouraged to discuss anything that bothered them with a trust worthy adult, Zingler, (p.110).

The African civil society should be come “more and more conscious that peace was a fundamental human right and demand from their leaders and from the international community, a commitment to shun, was as a means of solving dispute: should Africans be given the chance of benefiting from their rich resources, free from dictation, wars and exploitation of all shorts, they should see the day when; child soldiers; would be a thing of the past.

UNICEF (1996) had also given useful limits to avoid child abuse. It said, “Violence did not discipline a child. Children needed explanation from good role models, and parents needed to give good examples to their children. Working children needed protection from exploitation. Community leaders had to explain to their people that child labour is against the law, and that child abuse was a crime punishable by law.

As Njenger convincingly put it, security agencies and human right workers should denounce child maltreatment. Every child had the right to enjoy childhood without worrying.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0. Introduction**

The concern in that chapter, was to expose the methods employed to carry out the research. Those methods included: sample, instruments, procedures, data analysis and presentation.

The researcher would also use a cross section survey because, the study intended to pick only some representatives sample elements of the population. The study would be cross sectional survey because, it would be conducted across participants over a short period of time. That therefore, would not necessitate the researcher to make a follow up of the respondents. The study was also referred to because, it would allow the researcher to get a detailed content of causes and effects of child maltreatment in Aber sub county, Oyam district.

Both qualitative and quantitative methods would be used to investigate the causes and effects of the child mistreatment in Aber sub county Oyam district. That went on with what (Idi Amin) argued that, "A research design was a significant step in the qualitative research process.....".

### 3.1 Sample for data collection:

Four parishes and five primary schools of Aber, “Ocini, Akaka, Kamdini and Adyegi”. While Schools of Aber were: “Atapara, Fr. Oryang, Apala(A), Atura and Oyoe” respectively constituted the research areas . Since the population of those communities were large, only the head teachers, three teachers and five pupils randomly selected from each school community, would be taken to participate in that research project. While from the parishes, the total number of 20 people, 5 per parish were to be sampled. Of the 5 people, two of them would be youths, one from each sex. The three were going to be elders, one woman, two men. The huge number of people, due to limited time and inadequate financial resources would not force that small sampling on the researcher. A general total of 60(sixty) people would be part of this research study project.

The tables below summarize the number of subjects sampled.

**Table 1.1**

Schools	Pupils	Teachers	Head teachers	Total
Apala (A)	4	3	1	8
Atapara	4	3	1	8
Fr, Oryang	4	3	1	8
Atura	4	3	1	8
Oyoe	4	3	1	8
Total	20	15	5	40



**Table 1.2.**

PARISHES	NUMEBR OF PEOPLE		YOUTHS		
	MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Adyegi	2	1	1	1	5
Ocini	2	1	1	1	5
Akaka	2	1	1	1	5
Kamdini	2	1	1	1	5
Total	8	4	4	4	20

The above two tables indicated that the total of 40 people would be taken from schools and 20 from parishes were going to be used, giving a general population of 60 respondents.

### **3.2 Sampling technique**

Random sampling would be used to select the schools from the target number of schools, teachers, head teachers, pupils and the community without biasness. That ensured that, each member of the target population, was given equal chance of being included in the study. Head teachers and teachers would be sampled using purposive sampling procedure so as to arrive at focused information.

Stratified sampling technique would be used to identify sub groups that shared similar characteristics in the populations, and proportions were chosen from each group to form a sample. This technique would be to sample the headteachers, teachers, pupils

and the community would categorize them into homogenous characteristics. That would ensure proportionate representation of the sub groups in the study.

### **3.3 Instruments of data collection:**

The researcher would use the following tools to collect information:

#### **(a) Questionnaire:**

Five difference sets of questionnaires would be designed, with each for a particular population category. The questionnaire items, would be fixed. Predetermined set of questions and statements would be designed to gather information from respondents. Closed and open ended questions would be employed. In close ended questions (forced choice), the respondents shall select from two more options. While for open ended questions, the respondents would be allowed to reveal: more information, clarification and elaboration. Two types of sets of questions would be prepared for head teachers and teachers, pupils and communities respectively. N.B It should be noted that, questionnaires, aid in studying variables not easily observable such as: views, opinions, perceptions and feelings. They also gave a high reliability and employment of categorical data.

#### **(b) Observations:**

In addition to questionnaires, the researcher would use "observation" as a technique for data collection. And observation guides were to be constructed to make observation more objective.

That helped the researcher to fill, put gaps and information that might be left up by questionnaires.

**(c) Interviews:**

From each population category, the researcher sampled out a few for a face to face interview. Interview guides were also constructed. That technique was used for respondents who were unable to fill questionnaires because they did not know how to read and write. In addition, the researcher would use the interview guide with verbal communication between the interviewers and the respondents. The guides would be close ended and open ended, structured and unstructured to elicit information from the respondents.

**d) Nominal/ group discussion**

That would be used to solicit information from the head teachers as a group, who would help the researcher to come up with conclusion regarding the child maltreatment, causes and effects in Aber Sub County, Oyam district.

**Documentary analysis:**

The researcher would collect available school records and reports to gather the information on child malpractice, causes and effects in Aber Sub County from the above respondents.

**Validity and reliability:**

Accuracy of information would be ensured by use of relevant instruments. The questionnaires and interview guides would be subjected to scrutiny of the supervisor, whose recommendations would be used to finally formulate instruments that would have the ability to solicit the expected data.

**Administrative procedure**

An introductory letter would be collected from the university authority by the researcher, who would pre-visit the schools and parishes in Aber sub county to seek permission to carry out the research in the schools. He would develop programs of activities to be done. For example questionnaire, would be given out during school days in the term. Through oral questions, the researcher would use interview guides in order to solicit responses from the respondents individually (face to face).

**3.4 Ethical considerations**

All the information given by the interviewees, would be treated with utmost privacy and confidentiality. That was, the researcher would treat human dignity with the respect it deserved. Thus the respondents would be requested to give the most accurate information that was needed by the researcher.

### **3.5 Procedures of data collections:**

An introductory letter would be obtained by the researcher from the university authority. It would be given to all sample students or subjects either by word of mouth or directly as the letter, depending on whether the respondent was literate or otherwise.

The various questionnaires had their own introductory part which pointed out the identity of the researcher, and what he or she wanted. Before any activity commenced on the compound of the sampled schools, the administration was requested to proceed on. The researcher established the report with the respondents, so as to elicit better information from all.

The researcher would administer the questionnaires himself. The administration of the questionnaires took four days; two for schools and two for parishes. While observations and interviews were to consume 5 and 6 days respectively. Nevertheless, necessity had to accept telephone calls. After getting all the necessary information from the respondents, the researcher went a head to score, analyze, interpret and present the data.

### **3.6 Data analysis and presentation.**

In the analysis and presentation of information to be gathered, the researcher was to have a real qualitative consistency on the nature of the study. The data would be presented especially in: simple statements, tables, graphs, analytically discipline statistical measures, ease analysis and presentation which were done

objective by objective, as in the following chapter. The summary of the findings was offered, results were computed and conclusions drawn, chapter 5 contained discussions, conclusions and recommendations.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.0 Introduction

In this forth chapter, the information that had been collected from the field was guided by the following specific objectives.

1. To examine the causes of child abuse.
2. To describe the causes of child abuse.
3. To analyze the effects of mistreatments in Aber sub country, Oyam District.
4. To determine the strategies that prevent child abuse in the society.

#### 4.1 Nature or types of child abuse

All respondents would claim that there was child abuse or maltreatment in their area. Types of child maltreatment to be given, would include; child neglect, child labour, child trafficking, child soldiering, sexual abuse and child beating . The subjects or respondents would mark the types of child maltreatment or abuse as would be seen in the table below.

**Table 1.1. Nature or types of child abuse.**

Natural / types of child abuse	tally	Frequency	Percentage
Child neglect	<div> <div>///</div> <div>///</div> <div>///</div> <div>///</div> <div>///</div> <div>///</div> <div>///</div> <div>///</div> </div>	42	70

Child labour	<del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del>	27	45
Child trafficking	<del>HHH</del> //	07	12
Child soldiering	<del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> /	56	93
Sexual abuse	//// // // // <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> — —	48	80
Child beating	— //// // // // <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> <del>HHH</del> — — —	58	97

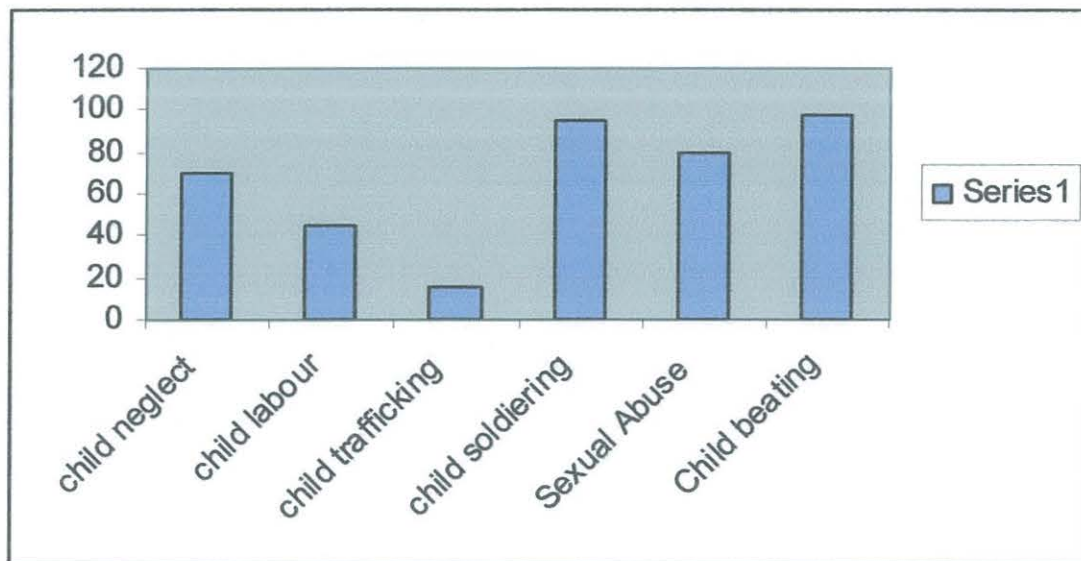
**Source: Primary data 2009**

Table 1.1 revealed that the majority of child mistreat meant was child beating with 97%, followed by child soldiering 93% and child neglect 70%.

This implied that, the community of Aber was quite aware of child mistreatment.



**Fig. 1: Graphic representation of the forms of child abuse.**



Source: primary data

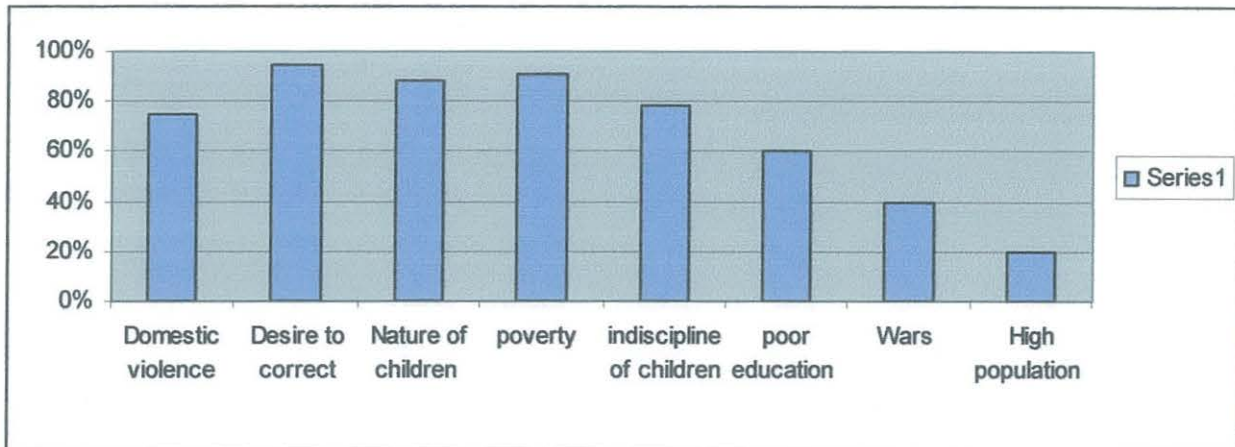
As indicated in the figure above, child beating was the highest form of child abuse and child trafficking was the lowest form with 97% and 12% respectively.

#### **4.2 Causes of child maltreatment**

Several causes of child maltreatment or abuse were to be outlined and marked by the 60 respondents. These were to be isolated and calculated as followed: Domestic violence, (73%), desire to correct (95%), nature of children (88%), poverty 92%), indiscipline of children (78%), poor education (60%), wars (40%), high population (20%).

The above information could be expressed in a graphic form as below:

**Fig 2: showing causes of child abuse.**



**Source: Primary source**

In fig 2 above, the biggest cause of child maltreatment remained the elders desire to correct the behaviour of children. It was followed by poverty with , 95% and 92% respectively. The least cause of child abuse as indicated above was high population, followed by wars and that was, with 20% and 40% respectively.

Fig 2. revealed that, the biggest cause of child mistreatment remained a challenge and parents needed to work hard and correct their children's behaviour which was 95%, it was followed by poverty 92% respectively.

However, the least cause of child mistreatment was high population with 20% only and was followed by wars 40% respectively.

#### **4.3 Effects of child maltreatment**

The 60 people who would respond, outlined the following effects of child abuse in varying degrees, as could be shown in the table that followed; (A). Drop out of schools, (B) Death, (C) poor peer relation

(D) attempt to suicide (E) emotional uneasiness (F) unusual interest in sexual matters (G) inappropriate expression of affection (H) isolation and aggression. (From A to I are codes).

CODES (EFFECTS OF CHILD ABUSE)	Tally	Frequency	percentage
A	<del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del>	58	97
B	<del>    </del>      <del>    </del>	15	25
C	<del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del>	40	67
D	<del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del>	47	78
E	<del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del>	55	91
F	<del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del>	30	50
G	<del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del> <del>    </del>	45	75

H	<del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del>	50	80
I	<del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>////</del> <del>///</del>	58	96

**Source: Primary data**

The greatest effect of child maltreatment mentioned by the respondents is drop out of school, coded as A, closely followed by aggression coded as I, with percentages as 97 and 96 respectively. These are followed by isolation with code it can has percentage of 80. The least rated effect of child abuse is death coded as B, with percentage of 25, followed by unusual interest in sexual matters with percentage as 5 and 30 people named it.

Figure 4.3 indicated that, codes "A" and "I" represented the greatest child mistreatment with 97% and 96% respectively, that was, aggression and drop out. Code "A" was for isolation with 80%.

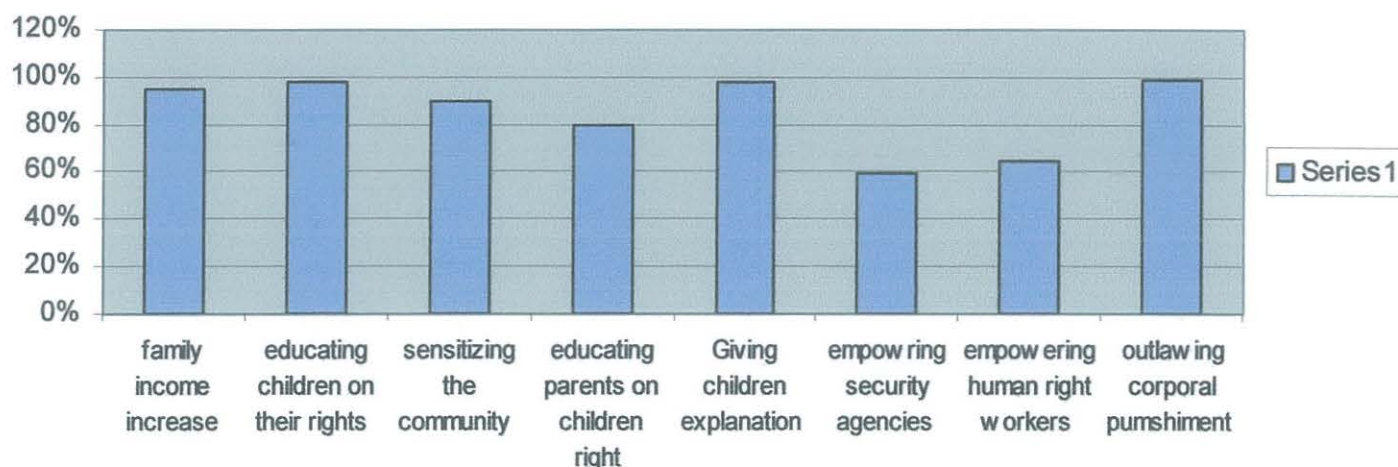
The community of Aber sub county did not very much experience death because it was only 25%, and 30% for sexual matters respectively.

#### 4.4 How to prevent child abuse

Those involved in the research project pointed out the following strategies which were calculated in percentage form and were presented herein as followed: Family income (94%), sensitizing the community (90%), educating parents about children rights (80%), giving children explanation (98%), empowering security agencies (60), empowering human right workers (67%) and outlawing corporal punishment at home and in the school (99%).

That information was presented in a figurative form using the following bar graphs;

**Fig 3: Strategies to stop child maltreatment.**



**Source: Primary Data**

In the figure 3 above, the strategy with the highest rating was the outlawing of corporal punishment with 99% rating, followed by educating children on their rights and giving children explanation both



with 98%, the lowest rating was empowering security agencies with 60%.

Figure 3 above revealed that corporal punishment was 99%, followed by sensitizing children on their rights, and was represented by 98%. But the lowest rating was empowering security agencies which was only 60%. This meant that the security agencies in Aber should be empowered so as to alleviate the child mistreatment.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

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

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This study was about child mistreatment in Aber sub county Oyam District, it was set to find out the causes and effects of child maltreatment in the sub county . The results collected was analyzed and interpreted using numerical figures, tables, percentages, graphs and short descriptive statements.

Then below was the discussion of results, conclusion and recommendations.

#### **5.1 Discussions**

The results on table 1.3 showed that child beating was the most rated form of child maltreatment in the sub county of Aber. Of the 60 people sampled, 58 of them i.e. 97% mentioned child beating as the greatest child abuse in the sub county. The reasons given (fig 2) for child beating were the undisciplined and device to correct the children's behaviour. Here, elders (parents and teachers) mostly meant well but hurt the children out of ignorance. This was agreed with what Imanglet (1994) wrote: "Adults who hurt children only intended to correct them and they did not realize how easily the children could be injured".

Beating injured children physically, psychologically and emotionally. The effects of beating as shown in figure 3 included: drop out of school, (97%), aggression (96%) emotional uneasiness (91%). Death

the last related consequence of child beating and other forms of child abuse.

Child soldiering was the second highly rated form of child abuse with 93% of which 56 people named it. The two decades long rebel war in the Northern Uganda, of which Aber Sub-county was part, could have been the major cause. Otherwise, as Rodziguiz (2007) said, children were recruited because they were seen as cheap and useful, easily brutalized into fearless, killing and unquestioning obedience. Njenga (2007) added that they were forced to carry ammunitions, fund and prepared food for their bosses.

Many child soldiers were killed and beaten. Girls endured frequent rapings and were forced into sexual slavery. Others had unwanted pregnancies and children, and some caught the deadly HIV/AIDS for example Aboke girls were the issue frequent in point as an illustration.

The problems of sexual abuse was yet another form of child maltreatment with high frequency. 48 people (80%), spelt it out. As Njenga rhetorically put it, child as young as 4 years of age were abused right at home by their fathers, stepfathers, uncles, cousins and grandfathers, for Otim (2009) defilement in the courts constituted the criminal offense with the highest frequency in Uganda. The nature of the young girls, poverty and madness of the male adults led to defilement. The effects of defilement included the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, trauma, unusual interest in sexual matters, inappropriate expression of affection and death.



Other forms of child maltreatment mentioned were: child neglect, child labour, child trafficking which had the lasting (12%) i.e. only 07 people scored it. Poverty, high population poor education, domestic violence indiscipline and among others were the causes of the child maltreatment. The results were: fall out of school, attempted suicide, isolation poor peer relationships among others.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The study confirmed that child maltreatment existed in Aber sub county, Oyam District. Children suffered numerous forms of abuse in the hands of adults and fellow children. The reasons for maltreating children vary depending on the type of child abuse. The effects of child maltreatment, according to the research, also were many fold again, depending on the nature of the maltreatment. Unless deliberate efforts were made to combat child maltreatment in Aber sub county, many children therein could not enjoy their childhood and their future and the future of the society could easily be endangered.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Following the importance of children in society and due to the abuse of the same, it was therefore, necessary to observe that::

Punishment given to children should be rational. To punish someone disproportionate to crime committed was unfair. Banning of corporal punishment by the government should be further enforced in schools and at homes.

Government should help families increase their incomes and children's educational opportunities as poverty and ignorance would give way to child workers.

Wars should be shunned as a means of sorting problems and conflicts. As Obama (2004) social conflicts should be resolved peacefully.

There was need for security agencies and human rights activities not to tolerate child abuse. Perpetrators had to be brought to books.

Positive disciplining should be enforced both in schools and at homes.

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## **APPENDIX A**

### **WORK PLAN**

Activity	Time
Proposal writing	May –June, 2009
Questionnaire development	2 <sup>nd</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> , June 2009
Piloting the instrument	9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> , June 2009
Submission of proposal	4 <sup>th</sup> July, 2009
Defence of proposal	20 <sup>th</sup> July, 2009
Data collection	1 <sup>st</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> , August 2009
Data entry and analysis	20 <sup>th</sup> August, 2009
Report writing and typing	25 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> August, 2009
Submission of final report	September 2009

**APPENDIX B**  
**BUDGET FOR THE STUDY**

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST PER UNIT	TOTAL COST(UGX)
<b>Stationary</b>			
Reams	1	10,000	10,000=
Pens, notebooks, storage devices		25,000	25,000=
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>35,000=</b>
<b>Proposal writing</b>			
Typing and printing	1	50,000	50,000=
Printing 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft	1	30,000	30,000=
Photocopying 3 copies 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft	3	5,000	5,000=
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>85,000=</b>
<b>Data collection</b>			
Transport		100,000	100,000=
Researcher	1	100,000	100,000=
Feeding		50,000	50,000=
Accommodation		30,000	30,000=
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>280,000=</b>
<b>Report writing</b>			
Typing and printing research report	1	150,000	150,000=
Photocopying	3	50,000	50,000=
Binding	3		27,000=
<b>Sub total</b>			<b>227,000=</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>627,000/=</b>

## APPENDIX C

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE RESPONDENTS

Tick (✓) in the box to the right the correct answer of your choice.

Age: .....

Sex.....

The following questions will guide the researcher in the study.

1. What cases of child maltreatment are common in your areas?

(a) Physically ☐

(b) Emotionally ☐

(c) Neglect ☐

2. Causes of the child maltreatment in Aber Sub County:

(a) Children are tortured by their parent or other relatives because they are so forgetful.

(a) Agree ☐

(b) Disagree ☐

(c) Not agree ☐

(d) Not sure ☐

3. Child are maltreated because their parents are having misunderstanding.

(a) Agree ☐



(b) Disagree ☐

(c) Not agree ☐

(d) Not sure ☐

4. What are some symptoms of children who are maltreated?

(a) Happy ☐

(b) Un happy ☐

(c) Satisfied ☐

(d) Not sure ☐

5. Are the children who are victims of mistreatment able to performing any better in class?

(a) Agree ☐

(b) Disagree ☐

(c) Not agree ☐

(d) Not sure ☐

6. The forms of the child maltreatment in Aber Sub County are many.

(a) Agree ☐

(b) Disagree ☐

(c) Not agree ☐

(d) Not sure ☐

7. Which of these is not one of the causes of child abuse in Aber Sub County?

(a) Low population ☐

(b) Poverty ☐

(c) Poor education ☐

(d) Domestic violence ☐

8. Which of these effects is not a result of child maltreatment?

(a) Death ☐

(b) Drop out of school ☐

(c) No poor peer relationship ☐

(d) Attempted suicide. ☐

### **Preliminary information**

- a) Teaching qualification – Bachelor degree
- b) Year of qualification – 1989
- c) Teaching experience – 20 years

### **INTERVIEW GUIDES FOR HEADTEACHERS**

I am Ekii Maxclean Joe a student of Bachelor of Education in Primary of Kampala International University.

I wish to carry out a study on 'A' child Administreatment and Academic Performance.

You have therefore been selected for participation in this research study. Will you please, respond to the following questions; The research is purely supposed to be treated with a high spirit of professional integrity.

#### **A. (a) What are you doing to child mistreatment in your school?**

- Sensitizing pupils of the danger of child mistreatment ☐
- Having I don't care, attitude ☐
- Sending or punishing the victims. ☐

#### **B. How will you avoid and improve on this shameful acts?**

- Report to lawless authority ☐
- Not sure ☐
- Use strict rules and regulations of the school ☐

#### **C. Are you likely to use your job on this issue?**

- Not sure ☐
- Probably ☐
- No. I won't ☐

D. If no, how will you escape from this net?

Fly off ☐

Accept defeat ☐

Not sure ☐

E. Hoping that, this is a candidate for PLE 2009, how will you encourage her to complete heir primary education?

Encourage her to die ☐

Counsel and guide ☐

I am not sure of what to do ☐

### **Preliminary information**

- a) Teaching qualification – Bachelor degree
- b) Year of qualification – 1989
- c) Teaching experience – 20 years

### **INTERVIEW GUIDES FOR TEACHERS**

Name of school .....Age.....

Sex.....Male.....Female.....

#### **1. Why do you think pupils of upper are fond of child mistreatment?**

Sexually active ☐

Proving their man and womanhood ☐

Generally ignorant about their carriers ☐

#### **2. How often do you counsel and guide, especially girl children?**

Every ten seconds ☐

Not sure ☐

Twice a day ☐

#### **3. How successful have you been monitoring this evil act?**

Promoting peer group activities ☐

Use of sarcastic works ☐

Not sure at all ☐

#### **4. How effective is the relationship between teachers and parents of Aber?**

Very wide gap ☐

Not sure at all ☐

Never the less ☐

5. Why just girl child education be compulsory in Aber sub county?

To teach and girl them on their future careers ☐

Play with their rights ☐

I can't tell ☐

6. What are the possible reasons for the causes and effects of child mistreatments in Aber Sub county?

Modern food value ☐

Drop out ☐

Not sure ☐

### **Preliminary information**

- a) Teaching qualification – Bachelor degree
- b) Year of qualification – 1989
- c) Teaching experience – 20 years

### **INTERVIEW GUIDES FOR THE PUPILS**

#### **1. What is your opinion on child mistreatment?**

It is very bad ☐

It is very good ☐

I can't tell ☐

#### **2. Can you name any one cause of child mistreatment?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

I don not know ☐

#### **3. State anyone effect of child mistreatment**

School drop out ☐

Appreciation by NGOs ☐

Not sure ☐

#### **4. How best will you be good ambassadors in combating the a child mistreatment your school?**

Portraying good morals ☐

Practicing prostitution ☐

Not sure ☐

5. Any vulnerable child is likely to be mistreated, comment on this statement.

Untrue ☐

True ☐

None of these sounds correct ☐

6. Do you live with your parents together ?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Not sure ☐

7. Why don't you live with them? Give reasons

.....

.....



### **Preliminary information**

- a) Year of qualification -1989
- b) Teaching qualifications – Degree Holder
- c) Teaching experience – 20 years.

### **INTERVIEW GUIDES FOR PEOPLE**

#### **a) MEN:**

1. How would you feel in case, your daughter has been defiled?

I do not care ☐

Feel deeply touched ☐

Commit suicide ☐

2. How do children live with parents in Aber Sub county?

Easily ☐

live as enemies ☐

Not sure ☐

3. Why do men mistreat children under the influence of alcohol?

They have no vision for their children ☐

They blame those who brew beer ☐

Sincerely they can't explain ☐

4. As committed Men, What have you done to combat child mistreatment in Aber sub county?

Holding regular meetings Advising girls to Marry early ☐

Having "I don't care attitude" ☐

5. How best can you counsel and guide your fellow men on child mistreat?

All regular meetings ☐

By living them to operate individually ☐

I cant suggest ☐

**(b) WOMEN**

1. What is your attitude towards this provocative action?

Too much painful ☐

To whom it may concern ☐

I have nothing to say at all ☐

2. When was child mistreated in Aber Sub county?

Just recently, ☐

Since last year, ☐

I don't know ☐

3. Why did you not demonstrate your feeling as women towards this evil practice?

I was shy ☐

It wasn't my duty ☐

I was not aware ☐

4. How can you advise the women in Aber sub county on this evil act?

Be close to their children ☐

Neglect their children ☐

I have really nothing to say about it ☐

5. Why is it bad to violate the feelings of a girl child?

Leads to drop out of school ☐

Builds their souls ☐

I am confused. ☐

**c) YOUTHS**

**a) Boys**

1. What causes child mistreatment in your area?

Ignorance ☐

Loggerheads ☐

Testing manhood ☐

2. How do you reduce child mistreatment in Aber sub county?

Frequenting disco hall ☐

Attending Sunday services ☐

Promoting leadership skills among boys ☐

Not reporting to the authorities. ☐

By using money so as to cure or attract the boy child. ☐

Avoiding bad companions ☐

3. Why do you fear your daddy but not your mum?

He is drunkard ☐

Not educated ☐

Not sure ☐

4. How do you advise your fellow boys on this bad act?

Forming peer discussion ☐

Promoting isolation life style ☐

I have no idea ☐

5. What do your fellow boys say about child mistreatment?

Nothing ☐

It is bad ☐

Quite good ☐

# A MAP OF OYAM DISTRICT, SHOWING THE SUB COUNTY AREA OF STUDY

