

**IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PUPILS IN
SELECTED SCHOOLS IN OSUKURU TOWN COUNCIL**

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE
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DECLARATION

I GAMBIA CAROLINE hereby declare that this work is original and has never been submitted in for any award or degree of academic profession in any institution of higher education.

Signed: *G.C.*.....


Date: *12th February, 2024*.....

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(Researcher)

APPROVAL

This report has been submitted for examination with my approval as the candidate's

Signed.....

Date ...13/02/2024.....

Mr. ONYANGO GODFREY WANYAMA

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family members especially my dear husband Okello Geoffrey my brothers and sisters; Rose Mary Obette, Billi Richard Robert, Awio Charles, Daniel Aluko and my children; Philemon Owit , Isaac Katimbo , Otim Gerald, Rhoda Bridget, Nyapendi, Okello Daniel for their contributions in all aspects of life throughout my years at Busitema University.

I extend my thanks to my academic supervisor, who has supported me to make sure that I complete my work appropriately and in time.

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I thank the almighty God for the gift of life, wisdom, knowledge and understanding which has enabled me excel throughout my education.

I humbly appreciate my husband, parent's efforts especially my brothers, sisters and the entire family for both moral and financial support towards the completion of this research proposal.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

WHO	World Health Organization
(CDC)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
HIV	Human immune virus
TPO	Travelling post office
STD's	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UNICEF	United Nations International children's Emergency Fund.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish the impact of child abuse on pupils' academic performance in selected schools and suggest solutions to this problem. The study was guided by three specific objectives and these included; to assess the various forms of child abuse, to examine the impact of child abuse on pupils' academic performance and to establish possible solutions to child abuse on pupils' academic performance in selected schools in Osukuru town council. The research used both quantitative and qualitative study. The study results show that participants understand child abuse differently. Some as a result of Covid 19 pandemic, call it child abuse when the perpetrators are punished well as others weakness of stakeholders. The risk factors for abuse identified included domestic violence, drug abuse, misconceptions about the rights and limited sex education. Children that are abused experience emotional difficulties, have suicidal thoughts, night mares, think of revenging and experiences moment of denial. As such, much has been done to understand the risk factors that predispose children to abuse. These were studied from a socio-economic perspective so as to map the individual, interpersonal, communal and institutional factors that increase the likelihood of child abuse. From the findings, children were beaten when the father comes back drunk, abused at school by teachers and at home by their parents and sexual abuse, rape, defilement and forced early marriages were among the abuse mentioned. Lessons from the study pointed the need for strong community wide campaigns aimed at addressing various forms of child abuse. In order to tackle the issue of child abuse in relation to domestic violence, the minority group, the families should handle with strong penalties and punishments so that they are able to learn and completely have fear of child abuse cases.

CHAPTER ONE

I.0. Introduction

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

1.1. Background

Children who are aged between 11 and 14, once they are treated badly, like being beaten every day and getting heavy punishment, affect their academic performance (Falaye, 2013). The students who are going to school because they work hard at home have no willingness of paying attention while the teacher is teaching. This means that they take time for breaking at school (Umoren et al., 2010).

Axmaher (2010), defined child abuse as taking a child in bad conditions which lead to being injured like physical injury (being beaten) and emotional injury. Obekpa (2011) defined as any harm to physical or emotional health of children.

Globally, The Positive Care of Children (ASPCC, 2016) established that in America, the majority of children corresponding to 4.1 million were treated negatively. However, some of them got some opportunities of being prevented though their rights were not enough maintained and enhanced. ASPCC also presented the report indicating that 74.9 percent, 18.3 percent and 8.6 percent were abused in terms of being neglected as well as physical and sexual perspective respectively.

According to Axmaher (2010), indicated that children can also be abused when they are still under age as were experienced to be at the rate of 25.3 percent. According to Obekpa (2011), multiple factors linked to a child's inadequate care were elevated to the highest level of child abuse in the United States, with 49.6% of cases resulting in death. Even though the majority was for boys rather than girls, the rate of 41.6 percent may be physically abused, resulting in poor growth and development. Despite this, the exploitation of children has resulted in the country's low socioeconomic progress as well as a high population growth rate due to early pregnancies of some girls who have been sexually abused.

In South Africa, the poor treatment of children is experienced by children who are in middle age as was indicated by the government of South Africa (2016) that 40 percent of children who are in

middle age, get sexual abuse as well as getting other abusing factors in terms of their emotion, physical characteristics and being neglected in the community. This also may reduce the social welfare of the youths as well as their economic status.

According to Dale (2003), the children's violence and abuse across a whole country of South Africa, were noted to be at the high level however, in some African countries but not many, children may be treated equally. In Nigeria, the exploitation of children was indicated to be at the lower level as able to sustain the lives of children and protecting them various violence (UNICEF, 2015). Therefore, the children's sustainability could be enhanced so as to support their living conditions and being accommodated in a conducive environment effectively as was established in children' rights (Motte, 2016).

In East African Countries (EAC) like in Kenya, got sexual violence before the adult age which affect them to be early pregnant which may lead to both poor school performance and school dropout and also 18 percent of boys under 18years old, also experience gender based violence (UN, 2010). Nevertheless, there were 20 percent of girls more than boys that indicated the problem of being abused in EAC due to the fact that boys' abuse may vary from 5-10 percent (UNICEF, 2010).

In other part of the country, the prevalence of violence against children was equally confirmed by EICV 4 whereby 24.4% and 28.2% girls and boys respectively age 14 to 16 have ever experienced physical violence. The situation is echoed by the recent Democratic Healthy Survey (DHS) which shows that 32.6 % and 29.2% girls and boys respectively age 14 to 16 have ever experienced physical or sexual violence (UNICEF, 2010). Household poverty increases the risk of children being exposed to abuse, neglect and exploitation.

It's upon this background that the researcher seeks to investigate the impact of child abuse on the academic performance of pupils in the selected schools in Osukuru town council

1.2. Problem statement

Universal declaration of human rights states that education should be directed to the full development of human personality to improve the respect towards human rights (Johan, 2014). Researchers have stated that education is a bridge which leads people to their better future as well as the development of the country where its development in based on level of learners' outcomes (Johan, 2014). The school outcomes like academic performance in primary schools may be affected by various factors including abusing children (UNICEF, 2010). Though, the government

of Uganda puts much emphasis on the management of children rights based on their educational development (Human right watch report, 2015). However, in Ugandan society, the right of some children are not respected effectively where some are being given heavy works and punishment as well as getting sexual harassment and considered as one of child abuse which may affect educational background including academic performance (World Health Organization, 2010). The numbers of children who are abused keeps increased day to day and many of these young victims are subjected to heavy punishment, getting heavy works as well as getting sexual harassment (Dale, 2013). Therefore, this paper seeks to investigate the impact of child abuse on pupil's academic performance in selected schools in Osukuru council

1.3 Objectives of study

1.3.1. General objective

To assess impact of the child abuse on pupil's academic performance in selected schools in Osukuru Town council.

1.3.2. Specific objectives

- To assess the various forms of child abuse on pupils academic performance in selected schools in Osukuru Town Council.
- To examine the impacts of child abuse on pupils academic performance in selected schools in Osukuru town council.
- To establish possible solutions to the impact of child abuse on academic performance of pupils in selected schools.

1.4. Research questions

This study was guided by the following questions;

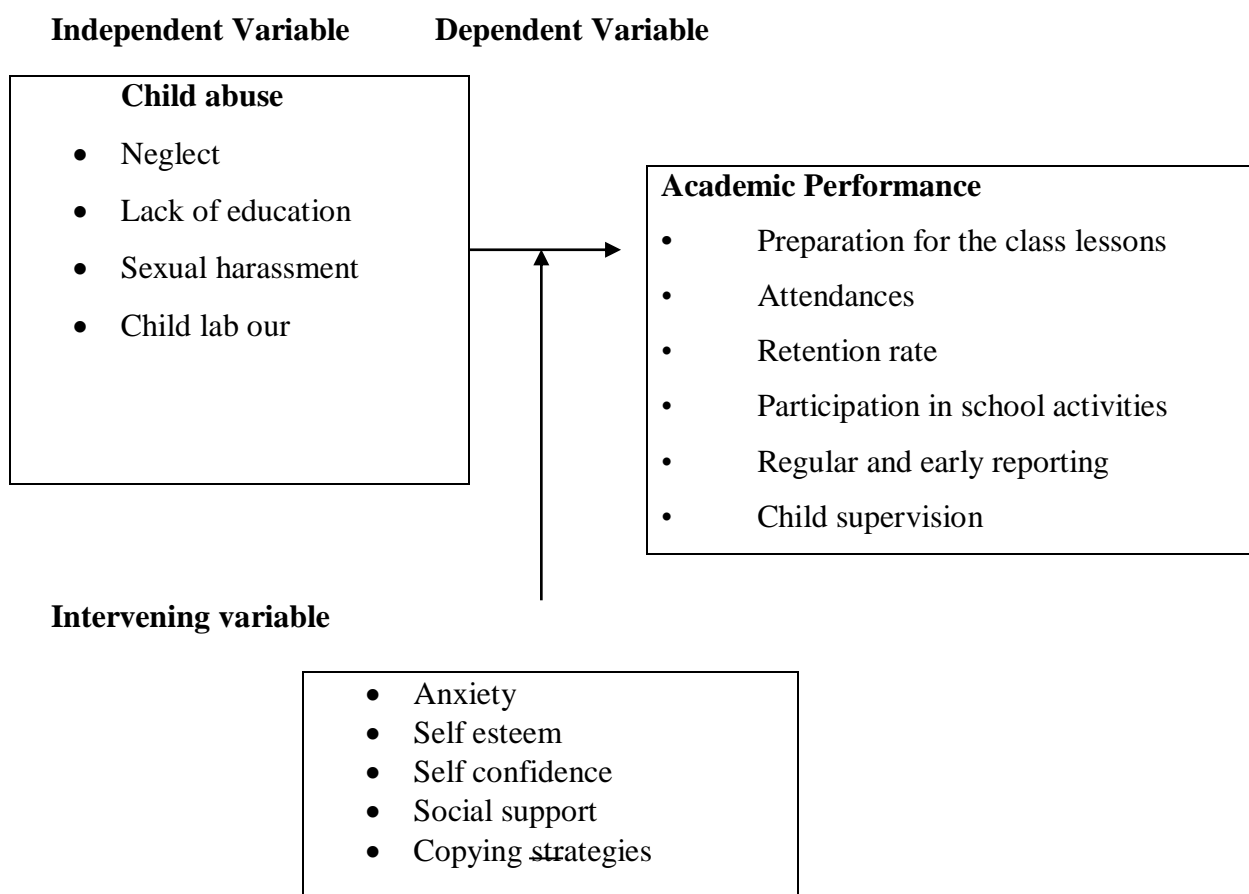
- What are the various forms of child abuse on pupil's academic performance in selected schools in Osukuru town council?
- What is the impact of child abuse on the academic performance of learners in selected schools in Osukuru town council?
- What are the solutions to the causes of child abuse in selected schools in Osukuru town council?

1.5. Scope of the study

This study is focused on impacts of child abuse, the common causes, and its impact on the academic performance of learners in selected schools in Osukuru town council.

1.5.1. Contextual scope

The conceptual framework arranged the key concepts that represent the main ideas, theories, and findings obtained from conducting thorough research on the topic and literature to clarify the direction and focus of this research study (Shikalepo 2020). The topic of the study will focus on the impact of child abuse in Osukuru town council in Tororo district. It will be guided by the objectives, what are the causes of child abuse in selected schools in Osukuru Town council.



Source: Adopted from Koontz and Wehrich (1988:12)

1.5.2 Geographical scope

Geographically, the study was to be carried out in selected schools of Osukuru Primary School, UCI Primary School, TICAF Primary school, Ma's Junior school and Ngelechom Primary school in Osukuru town council. According to the district report of 2022, it showed that there is rampant child abuse in Osukuru town council due to the big population and the nature of economic activities carried out in the environment hence poor academic performance of pupils.

1.5.2. Time scope

The research took a period of one year. This period was chosen because it was sufficient enough to help the researcher determine the cause of increasing cases of child abuse.

1.6. Significance of the study

The study of the impact of child abuse in Osukuru town council was a learning paradigm to local leaders which can enhance their knowledge and hence developing insights in their slow responses towards child abuse cases. The goals of the study are designed to help minimize the cases of child abuse in the area.

The study is also meant to make parents develop insights in their deeds that are related to child abuse. It provides information to a range of stake holders like policy makers, researchers, local leaders and community members especially on the causes of child abuse hence a basis for setting up policies that will protect children from abuse and related practices and may act as a source of literature to those who will be making research in child abuse.

This research generated information to be used as basis for further research about child abuse, public awareness about the causes and probably finding possible lasting solutions to the problem.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0. Introduction

This section presents the review of the existing literature and theoretical underpinning on the subject basing on the objectives of the study. The study acknowledges the work done by other scholars and also identifies the gaps that exist on their studies and also shows how these gaps will be filled by the current study.

2.1. Forms of child abuse on pupils academic performance

Abusing children physically, emotionally as well as any action that can lead to neglecting the children' right or abusing children sexually as the cause of poor treatment the child (Ndifon, 2011). The risks that can be experienced by children who are abused, mostly experience high level of poor school performance and such types of abusing children are indicated as below.

Children can be abused physically in case they get physical harmful that can cause an impact to their development. According to Axmaher (2010), the family children and their corresponding class teachers, are the one to be responsible in the protection of children' rights and also being prevented against any harm. Therefore, the close collaboration of teachers and students' parents and society could be enhanced so that youths become protected to any external circumstance that may lead to physical harmful and reinforcing punishment to those who abuse children.

According to Ndifon (2011), anything that can destroy or discourage an individual working brain can be named as mental abuse. Therefore, this kind of abusing children done mentally, may lead to poor development of children's mental capacity as well as social adaptation due to being isolated at most of the time.

According to Apebende (2010), the loose of children mental development may affect them poor physical development and lack of social confidence and unconditional attitudes. However, Ndifon (2011) added that any loose of psychological development to a child, can experience some factors related to being isolated and become passive in society.

This is done to a person by another individual's forces for the purpose of being satisfied sexually and emotionally. Therefore, any kind of abusing children or youths could be indicated by any person for the purpose of improving the children's care and welfare and reducing children's loss of lives. Despite, Apebende (2010) revealed that children are attracted to observe pornography as

automatically lead them to engaging to sex unconditionally when they are still young. However, some children may be forced or given some attractive gifts and become abused that can also lead them to getting some genital diseases. Rapping children could be considered to be the highest factor of abuse to a child as it also affects their future development and mental well-being. Therefore, this type of child abuse affects them in physical and psychological perspectives.

According to Apebende (2010), various forms of child abuse especially sexual abuse as experienced by children, may cause harm to their genital organs and getting some genital diseases such as AIDS, Syphilis, gonorrhoea and so on or having early pregnancy as well as lack of confidence and psychological problem.

This can be defined as poor treatment given to a child by family members or caregivers as well as and family that adopted that child. According to Ukpepi (2012) Such neglecting young children or treating children negatively can be determined by lack of some physiological needs like lack of lunch (food), being out of family (shelter) as well as lack of effective cares from siblings and clothes.

Apebende (2010) revealed that, the children can be neglected in various ways by both families and out of their families. The lack of providing basic needs to children by their households with their willingness, affect the children's physical development as well as moral development and reduce their confidence of their lives. This can also be caused by households who do not respect the children's rights due to taking alcohol and conflict in family (Apebende, 2010).

2.2.Impacts of child abuse on pupils academic performance

There is a close relationship between child abuse and anxiety disorders. There are majority of survivors of sexual abuse who show higher levels of anxiety symptoms or disorders especially post traumatic disorders (Maniglio 2013). Most of the findings showed a causal association between child sexual abuse and anxiety problems, some indicating that such association persists when controlling for other variables that may be independent independently related to the development of anxiety disorders. (Cicchetti&Rogosch, 2001)

Babies and young infants exposed to abuse and neglect are more likely to experience insecure or disorganized attachment problems with their primary caregiver (Dhudwar, & Kurtz, 2011) Without the security and support from a primary caregiver, babies and infants may find it difficult to trust others when in distress, which may lead to persistent experiences of anxiety or anger (AIFS, 2014)

Strong associations have been made between child maltreatment and learning difficulties and/or poor academic achievement (Gilbert et al., 2009; Mills, 2004; Veltman & Browne, 2001). Abuse and neglect in the early years of life can seriously affect the developmental capacities of infants, especially in the critical areas of speech and language.

There is a wide relationship between child abuse and mental disorders. Although not all maltreated children develop maladaptation and psychology, there is a high probability that their functioning is likely to face various challenges and disturbances. (Cicchetti & Rosch, 2001) specifically, child maltreatment has been linked with clinical levels of internalizing and externalizing symptoms as well as higher levels of psychological disorder

Research suggests that abuse and neglect significantly increase the risk of suicidal ideation and attempted suicide for young people (Weismore, & Renshaw, 2013). Miller and colleagues (2013) found that although all forms of maltreatment were associated with adolescent suicidal ideation and suicide attempts, child sexual abuse and emotional abuse might be more important than physical abuse or neglect.

The psychological effects of child abuse and neglect may lead to alcohol and drug abuse problems in adolescence and adulthood (Perkins & Jones, 2004).

Researchers have found that child abuse and neglect is associated with behavior problems in childhood and adolescence (Ethier et al., 2004; Mills, 2004; Shaffer, Huston, & Egeland, 2008). The earlier children are maltreated the more likely they are to develop behavior problems in adolescence (Frederico et al., 2008)

In addition to feeling pain and suffering themselves, children exposed to abuse and neglect are at increased risk of inflicting pain on others and developing aggressive and violent behaviors in adolescence (Trickett et al., 2011).

Research suggests that children and young people may encounter homelessness or housing instability as a result of abuse and neglect (Edidin, Ganim, Hunter, & Karnik, 2012)

Adverse consequences of teenage pregnancy and risky sexual activity may also be associated with experiences of abuse and neglect (Gilbert et al. 2009).

2.3.Solutions to child abuse on pupils academic performance

Research showed that there are three levels of prevention (Larry 2001) of child abuse namely:

This consists of activities at the community level and is meant to impact families prior to any allegations of abuse and neglect. They include public education activities, parent education classes that are open to anyone in the community on how parents should interact with the child family support program.

It consists of activities targeted to families that have one more risk factor including families with substance abuse, teenage parents, parents of special needs, children with single parents and low-income families. They include parents' education classes targeted for high-risk parents, home visiting programs for new parents.

This is for families who have already demonstrated the need for intervention with or without the court supervision, the prevention supporters usually consider it same as treatment and entirely different with prevention through primary support.

The following are empirically supported treatment of child trauma. Abuse focused cognitive behavioral therapy designed for children who have experienced Physical abuse: it targets externalizing behavioral and strengthening pro-social behavioral offending parents are included in the treatment to improve parenting skills.

It targets trauma related symptoms in infants, toddlers and preschool children including aggressions defiance and anxiety. Reporting of child abuse:

According to Byrne, Carrie (2011), all professionals who work with children such as teachers, health professionals are required to report to the social services like the police, children's unit in the ministry of gender who will take appropriate action against the culprits hence protecting the children rights A support-group structure is needed to reinforce parenting skills and closely monitor the child's well-being. Visiting home nurse or social-worker visits are also required to observe and evaluate the progress of the child and his/her caretaking situation. The support-group structure and visiting home nurse or social worker visits are not mutually exclusive. Many studies have demonstrated that the two measures must be coupled together for the best possible outcome.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0. Introduction

In this chapter, research design, data collection and analysis was used to arrange the information in such a way that will enable the researcher to come up with the reliable recommendations and conclusions. The following are the areas of concentration in the methodology starting with the research design, study population, sample selection and size, research instruments and data analysis.

3.1 Research design

The research used both quantitative and qualitative study. Quantitative methods was used since it was most likely to give the number of abused pupils attending different primary schools, while qualitative methods was used to collect the teachers and pupils' views on the matters of child abuse.

3.2 Area and population of study

The study was conducted in five primary schools in Osukuru town council namely; Osukuru primary school and UCI primary school, Tororo district. The targeted respondents are teachers, pupils and parents or community members.

3.2 Sample and selection methods

The study sample size comprised of 80 (eighty) respondents which included twenty (20) parents, 45 pupils and fifteen (15) teachers. The sample size of 80 respondents was regarded as researcher's saturation point, the same sample size was also be considered big enough to make the findings representative to the study population.

The sample size was determined using Solven's formula

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N (0.05)^2}$$

Where n is the required is sample size.

N is the targeted population size

n =?

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N (e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{100}{1 + 100 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{100}{1+100(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{100}{1+0.25}$$

$$n = \frac{100}{1.25}$$

$$n = \frac{100}{1.25}$$

$$n = 80$$

3.4. Instruments for data collection

Self-administered and unstructured questionnaires will be issued mainly to the teachers and parents and some pupils, key informant interviews will also be conducted on parents and teachers who have dealt with the abused children and the abused children themselves. Then as the researcher carries out the interviews and questionnaire instruments, observation will be done in the process.

3.5. Procedure of collecting data

The researcher picked an introductory letter from the university which was meant to introduce the researcher to all the five primary schools. Permission to conduct the research was obtained from the head teachers of the five primary schools. An appointment was then be made by the head teachers to meet the teachers and pupils and he was to communicate with the researcher on when he can come to conduct his research. While on the side of the parents, the researcher presented the introductory letter from the University to the local councils of Osukuru as a way of asking for their permission to conduct the research. When the head teacher communicates and the local councils grant permission, the researcher then carryout the distribution of questionnaire and interview the concerned person

3.6. Data analysis

Once the data has been collected the researcher analyzed it both qualitatively and quantitatively. The results from the questionnaires and interviews was also analyzed separately. Making comparisons between the performances of the abused children and those children free from abuse. Determining the causes and effects of child abuse on academic performance in the selected primary schools. It was from the analysis and observation that the researcher came up with a

comprehensive conclusion and recommendations on the impacts of child abuse on the general academic performance of pupils in selected primary schools

3.7.Ethical considerations

For the sake of respect and protection of the integrity of the participants, the researcher observed high level of confidentiality of the data he collected. Some aspects of confidentiality which will be observed include.

The identities of the participants were kept secret. Sharing information about the participants with other purposes other than research will be unethical, therefore in this aspect, the researcher ensured that the information participants provided was kept anonymous, furthermore after the information was collected, the researcher ensured that its source cannot be identified and, in a situation, where he interacted with the participants repeatedly, he will be extra careful that others cannot have access to the information he collected before because he informed the respondents about the non-disclosure principle.

The researcher avoided being bias. In the field, she ensured that there is no bias when interviewing participants and when reporting the findings. This means that he reported the findings as they truly exist and no information is hidden.

Verbal consent was also obtained from the stakeholders prior to engaging them in key informant interviews whereas the researcher ought for assent for the children before he conducts an interview.

The respondents were assured that the information provided was only used for the purpose of this study and treated with the utmost confidentiality as in the presentation of the results their real names were not to be revealed.

The researcher obtained a letter from the Department of education to permit him as well as introduce him to where the study will be conducted for easy access to the respondents and not create any suspicions.

3.8 Limitations

Financial constraints, the researcher faced a challenge of financial constraints such as money during data `collection which delayed the making the final research reports. She solved this challenge by seeking financial assistance from the parents, brothers and sisters.

Limited time was also a challenge, as data collection goes through many processes and this requires a lot of time compared to the limited time scheduled on university academic calendar.

The researcher solved this challenge by working tirelessly to meet the deadline.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and analyses the empirical findings of the research survey. It comprises a detailed interpretation of collected data and seeks information brought afore based on the research topic: the impact of child abuse on pupil's academic performance in Osukuru town council. This chapter reviews the study findings in line with the study objectives that included; To examine the forms of child abuse, to assess the impact of child abuse on pupil's academic performance and to establish possible solution to child abuse on pupil's academic performance in selected schools of Osukuru town council.

The analysis and interpretation follows tabular presentation at some stages and the interview results from the respondents are also presented to supplement the quantitative presentation.

The background information of the respondents however is also presented. Out of the questionnaires distributed to the targeted area 80 questionnaires were returned this enhanced the researcher to come up with a report based on factual information.

4.1 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Gender of the Respondents

Gender of respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	35	44
Female	45	56
Total	80	100

Source: primary data

As reflected in table 1 of the 80 respondents given questionnaires, 56 percent were women and 44 percent men. Even during the face to face interviews the gender distribution in all sectors was equal because the researcher endeavored to interview teachers, pupils and parents from. Disparities in age groups though noted, were not pronounced as almost all age brackets were represented; See table 2. This allowed for a balanced collection of views, ideas and opinions considering both sexes and different age brackets were substantially represented. It asserts the argument that child abuse and academic performance is not a preserve for women or men or specific age brackets but rather the human person as a whole irrespective of sex and age.

Child abuse is a serious disaster to human rights; community and families are entitled to living in an environment that is devoid of elements that promote unethical challenges. Promoting and protecting communities is inextricably linked with promoting and developing the community. This is because communities are a major institute in developing the youth's initial stages of understanding as well as behavioral change. Further still it offers a societal level framework for identifying and responding to underlying societal determinants of development in the community. (Beauchamp et al, 1999, 90)

Table 2. The Age Group of Respondents

Age group of respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 14	10	12
14-15	15	19
16-17	35	44
Over 18	20	25
Total	80	100

Source: primary data

The study found out that out of the 80 respondents used; 10(12 percent) were below 14 years, 15(19percent) were between 14-15 years, 35(44percent) were between 16-17 years and 20(25percent) were over 18 years. Basing on the graph above the researcher found it easier to collect data from respondents age bracket 16 - 17 years and over 18 years, this was because they were cooperative and the fact that they had been in community for a substantial period of time they were well informed about families community life. Most of them knew about the issues of child abuse in their communities as well as in the home setting and a large percentage of them have experienced or participated in violence in their respective communities. Age brackets below 14 years and 14-15 were relatively new in community and most of them were shy to answer the questionnaires and very few had experienced child abuse in their communities

4.2 Causes of child abuse in Osukuru Town Council

Table 3: Reasons that influence child abuse

s/n	Causes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Inadequate protection	15	24
2	Poverty	5	6
3	Family separation	10	12.5
4	Alcohol and drug abuse	20	25
5	Ignorance of the law and government polices	30	37.5
		80	100

Source: primary data 2024

From the table above, 15 (24 percent) of the respondents reported inadequate protection as the leading cause of child abuse in Osukuru town council. According to respondents, the protection needs of Osukuru town council, regardless of whether they remain at home, are on the move, or relocate, remain an urgent concern. The current justice system in Osukuru town council particularly in ensuring the protection of children against human rights abuses is grossly inadequate.

Although police are supposed to provide the town council with protection and a secure environment against child abuse, most respondents reported negatively about the police responses to cases of child abuse. During the group discussions with the community leaders, one member narrated a story on lack of protection and how rape and sexual violence took place in Osukuru town council. He said: “here once it is night time, girls cannot go to the latrine because they can be sexually harassed. For example, a 12 year old girl was raped on her way to the latrine at night last week and this happens all the time.

Furthermore, 5(6percent) of the respondents reported Poverty. According to them, Economic pressures and poverty have increased child abuse in the town council. Interviews with the religious leaders confirmed that forced and early child marriages have largely been motivated by lack of economic resources and have led to the increased vulnerability of the girl-child to child abuse. They noted that poverty and lack of income generating activities have forced girls into prostitution and early marriage. The police officers explained that sometimes girls are forced into marriage by parents who need bride price/wealth to solve their problems of lack of basic items. They further noted that many girls engage in survival sex’ to obtain food or ‘transactional sex’ in exchange for money or obtaining basic needs such as food for themselves and families. In the

process, the perpetrators make them wives however young they might be. Due to frustrations, lack of services and opportunities in the camp, poverty is likely to increase child abuse.

In addition, 12.5 percent of the respondents reported Family Separation. The most common cause of child abuse reported was family separation due to the death of parents, An interview with the sub county elder observed that: orphaned children whose parents died of HIV/AIDS found life more difficult in the in the district. He noted that many orphaned children rely on themselves to struggle for survival. They are the bread winners; they do not go to school because they are heads of households and are responsible for their young brothers, sisters and at times grandparents. Sometimes they try to get support from peers who are equally helpless. In most cases the girls are forced into prostitution to support their siblings.

In this study, respondents believed that the consumption of alcohol and drugs was described as one of the causes of child abuse in the town council. One district leader observed that: the district consume too much alcohol and drugs. He noted that child abuse in the district in most cases is a result of boredom, depression and stress among the residents. Girls are particularly at risk, and are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse from the drunken men.

Discussions with respondents revealed that ignorance of the international and national laws regarding children and high levels of illiteracy were causes of child abuse. He observed that many authorities have not dealt with human rights violations in the town council successfully due to lack of knowledge on child abuse. The district officials also lack sensitization or education on Guiding Principles on the international, regional and national laws that protect children

Are you aware of your rights as a child?

Table 4: shows respondents own view on whether they know children’s rights on children

Respondent	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	59	74
No	21	26
Total	80	100

Source: primary data 2024

Out of the 80 respondents 59(74percent) reported being aware of the children’s rights in their community while 21(26percent) did not know. This therefore implies that majority of respondents know the children’s rights as this was witnessed by majority of the total respondents.

4.3 Impacts of child abuse on pupils academic performance

In an interview, a social worker noted that the impact of sexual abuse, rape, defilement and forced early marriages were severe health consequences such as severe abdominal pain, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, premature delivery, miscarriage, abortion, social breakdown, increased number of child mothers and are also at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS infection. She observed that this is a common phenomenon in the town council most men have several sexual partners. This makes pupils dropout of school.

During the group discussions, the LCs themselves noted that the child brides usually have lower levels of education than girls who get married at an older age. Their education is terminated upon marriage and with repeated pregnancies and a lot of time spent on household chores, they lose the opportunity to go back to school and cannot make personal decisions about their life, As a result, the safety and dignity of such a child is eroded, traumatized and rendered helpless.

The district official examined that the effects of physical abuse were: disability and fractures in some limbs of children's bodies due to severe beatings by some teachers, parents and guardians. Children therefore feel both physical and emotional pain and become sad, withdrawn, behave aggressively, fear the abusers, lag in physical development and suffer from psychological trauma. If children have been repeatedly beaten by the parents or guardians, they can run away to towns or stay with some relatives elsewhere. Another district official noted that the abused children in experience psychological trauma and are paralyzed by terror from the abusers. They experience denial and deep depression leading to chronic mental disorders and suicide. He noted that psychologically abused children tell lies, resent and retaliate instead of loving, trusting and listening.

In addition, children who have been neglected in their homes are aggressive, uncooperative and rude because they feel unworthy to talk with their fellow youth or the community. Community property is greatly destroyed as communities face a problem of buying new property, things like chairs and tables, beds are all broken and sometimes put on fire, buildings are all destroyed this lives the community authority in suspense as it can become very expensive to put back everything .Many families end up being expelled from community hence disorganizing their education career, as others especially the young ones lose their lives, this also affects innocent families as the community can close for some time hence staying at home or looking for alternatives which can be very expensive for their parents

4.4 Solutions to child abuse on pupils academic performance

It should be noted that the community or areas of residence is where the child's behavior begins from and therefore, without the community's consent then there is nothing much that can be done to reduce child abuse and for this matter the communities should be the basic or major role in providing instrumental knowledge to tackle the issue of child abuse in Uganda and this can only be done when the community leaders together with the parents of this young generation come together as one and embark upon this deadly act.

Community leaders should sensitize the youths in their areas of residence about the dangers of child abuse this could be the only way of reducing the issue of child abuse within communities. They should set up projects and constant demonstrations tackling the issue of child abuse by doing so families or the youths will learn the dangers and the effects of using these marriage vows.

The communities should engage themselves in non-paying activities like voluntary work especially counseling activities. This is because voluntary action is typically inadequate for providing what is called public services. These services are universal in their impacts and effects, affecting everyone equally especially the youths.

Selected individuals working as part of the communities should be sent to different homes to carry out counseling services and they must be rewarded salary for their adequate service because they tackle most of the behavioral change or youths ongoing activities. It's only through communities that child abuse can be eradicated in households. However, parents should welcome these volunteers to their homes such that they carry out their activities smoothly.

The community together with the local government should get involved in formulation and enforcement of tough laws against domestic violence. The law may reflect a society's moral consensus on issues, providing limits on what can and cannot be done. Laws, rules, regulations are important instruments that not only protect the youths behavior but the community as a whole.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter therefore presents the summary of the major findings. Conclusions and recommendations for child abuse on pupils academic performance in selected schools

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 Findings on demographic characteristics of respondents

56 percent were women and 44 percent men participated. Even during the face to face interviews the gender distribution in all sectors was equal because the researcher endeavored to interview teachers and parents from both the two sexes. Out of the 80 respondents used; 10 (12percent) were below 14 years, 15(19percent) were between 14-15 years, 35(44percent) were between 16-17 years and 20(25percent) were over 18 years.

Basing on the graph above the researcher found it easier to collect data from respondents age bracket 16 - 17 years and over 18 years, this was because they were cooperative and the fact that they had been in community for a substantial period of time they were well informed about families community life.

5.1.2 Findings on causes of child abuse in Osukuru Town Council

The protection needs of Osukuru town council, regardless of whether they remain at home, are on the move, or relocate, remain an urgent concern. The current justice system in Osukuru town council particularly in ensuring the protection of children against human rights abuses is grossly inadequate. Economic pressures and poverty have increased child abuse in Osukuru town council, Interviews with the religious leaders confirmed that forced and early child marriages have largely been motivated by lack of economic resources and have led to the increased vulnerability of the girl-child to child abuse. The most common cause of child abuse reported was family separation.

An interview with the elder observed that: orphaned children whose parents died of HIV/AJDS found life more difficult. He noted that many orphaned children rely on themselves to struggle for survival. They are the bread winners; they do not go to school because they are heads of households and are responsible for their young brothers, sisters and sometimes grandparents. Sometimes they try to get support from peers who are equally helpless. Sometimes the girls are forced into prostitution to support their siblings.

In this study, respondents believed that the consumption of alcohol and drugs was described as one of the causes of child abuse. One district leader observed that: the district consume too much alcohol and drugs. He noted that child abuse in most cases is a result of boredom, depression and stress among the residents. Girls are particularly at risk, and are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse from the drunken men.

Discussions with an official revealed that ignorance of the international and national laws regarding children and high levels of illiteracy were causes of child abuse. He observed that many authorities have not dealt with human rights violations successfully due to lack of knowledge on child abuse. The district officials also lack sensitization or education on Guiding Principles on the international, regional and national laws that protect children.

5.1.3 Findings on impacts of child abuse on academic performance

In an interview, a social worker noted that the impact of sexual abuse, rape, defilement and forced early marriages were severe health consequences such as severe abdominal pain, STDs, premature delivery, miscarriage, abortion, social breakdown, increased number of child mothers and are also at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS infection. She observed that this is a common phenomenon most men have several sexual partners. This makes pupils dropout of school.

During the group discussions, the LCs themselves noted that the child brides usually have lower levels of education than girls who get married at an older age. Their education is terminated upon marriage and with repeated pregnancies and a lot of time spent on household chores, they lose the opportunity to go back to school and cannot make personal decisions about their life. As a result, the safety and dignity of such a child is eroded, traumatized and rendered helpless.

The district official examined that the effects of physical abuse were: disability and fractures in some limbs of children's bodies due to severe beatings by some teachers, parents and guardians. Children therefore feel both physical and emotional pain and become sad, withdrawn, behave aggressively, fear the abusers, lag in physical development and suffer from psychological trauma. If children have been repeatedly beaten by the parents or guardians, they can run away to towns or stay with some relatives elsewhere.

Another district official noted that the abused children in experience psychological trauma and are paralyzed by terror from the abusers. They experience denial and deep depression leading to chronic mental disorders and suicide. He noted that psychologically abused children tell lies, resent and retaliate instead of loving, trusting and listening.

In addition, children who have been neglected in their homes are aggressive, uncooperative and rude because they feel unworthy to talk with their fellow youth or the community.

Community property is greatly destroyed as communities face a problem of buying new property, things like chairs and tables, beds are all broken and sometimes put on fire, buildings are all destroyed, this lives the community authority in suspense as it can become very expensive to put back everything.

Many families end up being expelled from community hence disorganizing their education career, as others especially the young ones lose their lives, this also affects innocent families as the community can close for some time hence, staying at home or looking for alternatives which can be very expensive for their parents.

5.2 Conclusions

The widespread child abuse reveals that the role of the stakeholders and police to protect the children was a major gap. Negative police attitudes, inadequate protection of victims of child abuse and non-achievement of justice are debilitating. These acts therefore discourage, frustrate and create fear in the victims from reporting cases of child abuse to the police officials. Therefore, the victims will not guarantee that police will take their cases seriously instead they will remain traumatized, confused and unable to understand the role of the police in assisting them in these matters.

The community administration and the government are the main actors in fighting child abuse and child abuse in households, child abuse can never be prohibited if the community administration themselves fail to play their role as the initial role models of these families.

Despite the formation of bodies at community like the prefects and councilors inactivity of these structures is especially high. Many of these structures are redundant as selected members go about doing their personal work as opposed to what they are assigned to do instead they just use their positions to implement the matter more than before. Individuals are only active during specific times like meetings. This is therefore the main motivation of families to keep in child abuse than prohibiting them.

Sensitization and education of the families about the effects of child abuse in relation to the child abuse is on a low pace. Despite the education and knowledge acquisition about child abuse in

communities, its effects and bad practices it's clearly seen that this education has not affected long term behavior change amongst the families in households.

The working relationship between the community administration and the government is good and works smoothly. However, the horizontal relationship amongst communities is strained and there is less co-ordination and co-operation amongst the different communities.

5.2 Recommendations

In order to tackle the issue of child abuse in relation to domestic violence, the minority group ,the families should handle with strong penalties and punishments so that they are able to learn and completely have fear of breaking marriage vows.

The community authorities should also consider their needs and put them in consideration, they will have more leverage to push for their demands and have their opinions taken into consideration. As their demands are prioritized, implementing authorities like the government can then be conscious of constructing serious auditing companies to check the issue of funds provided by the government they completely reach the needs of the families.

Frequent aggressive continuous sensitization of the families about the effects of marriage vows in relation to the strikes should be encouraged especially in the face the communities' phenomena. This extensive sensitization should be a basis through which behavior change is encouraged. It acts as a platform through which families issues can be addressed on a daily basis as community heads are in touch with the families and are therefore able to follow-up different community concerns. This can be through meetings, use of media and drama shows.

Uganda has ratified and signed various international conventions and declarations. There has also been some progress, though slow to domesticate these and also to revise others for instance those relating to sexual offences. The President recently signed the Domestic Relations Law, which outlaws widow inheritance and marital rape. There is also the law on genital mutilation. There is need, however, for commitment by all relevant sectors to make these laws operational by developing appropriate policies and strategic plans.

There is need to develop a sense of ownership of child abuse programs in the various communities. This means active participation by the community in identifying the necessary strategic interventions, allocating resources especially human resource and in monitoring services.

Policy makers and service providers in the area of child abuse need to be empowered to carry out operational research and direct studies to be able to appropriately plan and to deliver quality services for survivors of child abuse. There is need for instance for studies into the current preventive strategies and the current counselling approaches used.

To be able to have child abuse policies and strategic plans that are effective, information is vital. This requires child abuse plans to be incorporated into the existing management information systems. This information should not only be collected but should be analyzed and disseminated to the key actors

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APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONARE FOR THE PUPIL

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Please tick the appropriate box.

Gender

(i)Male (ii)Female

Educational Level

Class

SECTION B: FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE

Tick on the best alternative

1. Which of the following are the forms of child abuse in schools

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a)Beating | <input type="checkbox"/> | (b)Denying the child food | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c)Sexual abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d)Chasing a child away from home | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e)Child neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> | (f)Denying the child education | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Which of the following are the forms of child abuse in homes?

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| (a)Physical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d)Emotional abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b)Sexual abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> | (e)Medical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c)Child neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> | (f)Mental abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. Identify the impact of child abuse on your academic performance

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a)Parental stress | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b)Divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c)Alcoholism/Drug addict | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d)A child's indiscipline | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. What is the impact of child abuse in your academic performance?

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| (a)School drop out | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b)Absenteeism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c)Poor performance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d)Early marriages | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. What are the causes of child abuse in schools?

- (a) Harsh teachers
- (b) Strict laws
- (c) Hunger in school

6. How can parents help to reduce child abuse in schools?

- (a) By reporting cases of child abuse
- (b) Being aware for signs of child abuse
- (c) Instilling discipline in children
- (d) Monitor progress and give guidance

7. What can you do to help reduce child abuse?

- (a) Report child abuse cases to the authorities
- (b) Seek help from a friend's parents
- (c) Call a help line
- (d) Talk to an adult for help

8. What can parents do to help you improve on your academic performance?

- (a) Report cases of child abuse
- (b) Provide scholastic materials
- (c) Educate children about personal safety
- (d) Participate in school programs e.g., Class days

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE TEACHER

Dear teacher, I am GAMBA CAROLINE, a student of Busitema University carrying out research on the topic;

Impact of child abuse on academic performance of pupils in selected schools in Osukuru Town council.

This is an academic work and your views will be treated with at most confidentiality.

SECTION A: Demographic Data

Please tick the appropriate box.

Gender

(i)Male (ii)Female

Educational Level

(i)Grade III (ii)Diploma (iii)Degree

(iv)others specify.....

Length of stay in the school

(i)Less than 5 years (ii) 6-10 (iii) 15

(iv) 16 years and above

Experience in years

(i)1-5years (ii) 6-10 years (ii) 15 years

(iv) 16 years and above

SECTION B

Tick on the best alternative

1. Which of the following are the forms of child abuse in schools

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| (a)Physical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> | (b)Sexual abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c)Medical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d)Emotional abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e)Child neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> | (f)Mental abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Which of the following are the forms of child abuse in homes?

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| (a)Physical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> | (d)Emotional abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b)Sexual abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> | (e)Medical abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c)Child neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> | (f)Mental abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. Do these forms of child abuse have effects on academic performance of learners?

- (i)Yes (ii)No

If yes, how does it affect the learners academic performance in schools?

.....

4. What are the causes of child abuse in schools?

.....

.....

5. State the causes of child abuse in pupils' academic performance

.....

.....

6. How can parents help to reduce child abuse in schools?

- (a)By reporting cases of child abuse
- (b)Being aware for signs of child abuse
- (c)Instilling discipline in children
- (d)Monitor progress and give guidance

7. What can you do to help reduce child abuse?

.....
.....

8. What can parents do to help improve on children's academic performance?

.....
.....



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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

20th September, 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION, PRIMARY

MR/Ms. ✓ GAMBA CAROLINE



Permission granted
[Signature]
 is a student

of Bachelor of Education, Primary of Busitema University, Faculty of Science and Education,

Nagongera Campus. His/her Registration Number is BU/UP/2020/2690

The purpose of this letter is to formally request you to allow him/her to access any information in your organisation which is relevant to his/her research.

His/her research topic is IMPACT OF CHILD ABUSE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PUPILS IN SELECTED SCHOOLS IN OSUKURU TOWN COUNCIL.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Kaweesi Muhamad
 Ag Head of Department, Education