

**IMPACT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON CHILDREN'S WELFARE IN BUSIU
SUB-COUNTY MBALE DISTRICT**

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DECLARATION

I **Muzaki Esther**. Hereby declare that the work in this research study has not been submitted before for a degree or any award in any university or any other higher institution of learning. It's entirely my original work except where acknowledged.

Signed.......... Date.....30th / 8 / 2024.....

APPROVAL

This research Report has been submitted for examination with my approval as the candidate's supervisor.

Mr. Nabende Wamakote Danny

Signature.....

UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR

Date.....

DEDICATION

I **MUZAKI ESTHER** do dedicate this research to all my family members for the good work and encouragement render to me throughout my academic life

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks and praises go to the Almighty God who has been with me from the beginning up to the end.

I also thank the management of Uganda Christian University - Mbale Campus for giving the opportunities to the students in undertaking the Research in different fields.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CFO	Chief Finance Officer
DFO	District Finance Officer
FY	Financial Year
GoU	Government of Uganda
IMF	International Monetary Fund
BDLG	Butaleja District Local Government
BTC	Mbale city
LG	Local Government
LGA	Local Government Act
LGDP	Local Government Development Programme

ABSTRACT

Despite of government interventions through policy and legislation, children's welfare is still low. Children are known of school dropout, lack of decent shelter and are affected and infected by diseases such as HIV/AIDS. The main objective of this study will be to assess the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district. Specifically, the study was guided by the following objectives namely, to identify the factors contributing to sexual harassment of children in Busiu Sub county in Mbale district, to examine the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub county in Mbale district and to assess strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare in Busiu Sub county in Mbale district. Data was collected from 80 respondents in Busiu Sub County who included opinion leaders, child welfare officers and parents. Data was collected using surveys and interviews. Study participants were identified using probability and non-probability sampling. The study employed a mixed research approach using descriptive study and case study designs and data processing was done through editing of the data which will be coded for further data analysis. Data from questionnaires was analyzed using both descriptive statistics while interview data was analyzed using frequency analysis by counting the number of times of responses had by the respondents. Findings showed that stressful home environment contributed sexual harassment. Other factors contributing to sexual harassment are lack of self-esteem, poor communication, misunderstanding boundaries and tension among family members. Findings further revealed that sexual harassment increases risks and psychological difficulties, depression and anxiety disorders. Behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children may also be caused by sexual harassment. Other effect of sexual harassment on children welfare found by the study included increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS and school dropout of children. Further, the study found that improving communication, teaching children the importance of body privacy and about boundaries may help to curb sexual harassment. Other measures of curbing sexual harassment revealed by the study are improving policy and legislation to protect children's right as well as teaching children appropriate boundaries and privacy. The study recommended undertaking community mobilization and awareness creation on the dangers of sexual harassment and to increase community vigilance against the vice as well as increasing budgetary funding for child protection and welfare services

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter describes the background of the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study and the conceptual frame work.

1.1 Background to the Study

Globally, countless young individuals are victims of sexual misconduct and exploitation since early years of 16TH century. Such violations are pervasive, cutting across all nations and societal strata. Children, especially girls, are at a greater risk of experiencing forced sex and sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, including both online and offline, and it's also a common situation during armed conflicts. In the global context of multiple challenges the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate change and disasters – the inadequate action, or measures to address the root causes, such as rising inequalities, deepening poverty, and structural discrimination on intersecting grounds, continue to exacerbate the situations that expose children to sexual harassment, exploitation, abuse and violence. Child victims and survivors of such crimes can face long-lasting negative impacts on their physical, mental, and sexual health and development. Such trauma on children may even amount to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment which are not good for children's welfare. The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2002 estimated that 73 million boys and 150 million girls under the age of 18 years had experienced various forms of sexual violence.

Child sexual abuse does not only impact the welfare lives of the victims but as well the lives of their primary caregivers. Some of these impacts include anger, deep sadness, anxiety, helplessness, frustration, functional impairment and sometimes shame (WHO, 2022). Psychiatric disorders that can possibly result are borderline personality disorder, somatization disorder, major depression (and dysthymia), substance misuse disorders, dissociative identity disorders and related dissociative conditions, bulimia nervosa (and other eating disorders) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). An estimated 7.9% of males and 19.7% of females universally faced sexual harassment before the age of 18 years, The highest prevalence rate of

child sexual harassment was seen in Africa (34.4%), Europe, America and Asia had prevalence rate of 9.2%, 10.1% and 23.9%, respectively, With regards to females, seven countries reported prevalence rates as being more than one fifth i.e., 37.8% in Australia, 32.2% in Costa Rica, 31% in Tanzania, 30.7% in Israel, 28.1% in Sweden, 25.3% in the US and 24.2% in Switzerland with reduced levels of child welfare service access and provision.

Child sexual harassment has been categorized by different researchers across the world as representing a global human rights violation of vast proportions with severe immediate and long-term child welfare consequences (Hillis et al., 2016). The World Health Organization (WHO) “World Report on Violence and Health” (2002) and the United Nations (UN) “UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence against Children” (2006) have both reported the existence of an alarming number of children across the globe who are sexually harassed every year. According to WHO 2006, about 20% of women and 8% of men in 39 countries worldwide were reported to have been sexually abused as children (Chan et al., 2013). Current data suggests that approximately 4% of girls and 2% of boys experience some forms of sexual harassment each year (Martin and Silverstone, 2013).

Sexual harassment is a behavior characterized by the making of unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances in a workplace or other professional or social situation. African Child Policy Forum (2012) further opined that sexual harassment is any form of an sexual attention which results into early marriage and that is uninvited and unwelcome. It can be a single incident or a persistent pattern of unwelcome behavior with the intention of gaining attention. Although it often occurs in relationships of unequal power, it results into unintended decisions about sexuality and eventual early marriages among school going girls. The majority of sexual harassment is directed at women and child sexual harassment can range from subtle behavior to explicit demands for sexual activity which may result into unintended pregnancy without room for contraceptive consideration by a woman.

Acts of sexual harassment include asking girls for a date, touching their body parts, giving persistent remarks on physical appearance and body size (body attractiveness, fat, boring), threatening by marks (i.e., some teachers threaten girls with low marks if they refuse for date) (Holden, Cathie, and Nick Clough et. al., 2021). Sexual harassment on the way to and from

school is committed against school girls by non-school boys who roam around the neighborhoods (such as jobless youth), unmarried men looking for suitable partners or to satisfy their sexual desires, married men wanting for young girls. Some family members (e.g., stepfathers, male cousins, uncles) also participate in harassing school girls. Child welfare services and institutions concerned with the physical, social, and psychological well-being of children, particularly children suffering from the effects of poverty or lacking normal parental care and supervision.

On the African scale, accurate information on the extent of adolescents' abuse is unavailable for many reasons. Child sexual harassment usually occurs in the privacy of the home. Further, abusing parents may be isolated from community life by poverty, geography, or social class. Often, the child victims are too young to either complain or understand that their treatment is inappropriate (Mushemeza, 2017). A study on economic burden of child maltreatment (inclusive of sexual abuse) in the Asia Pacific region indicates that the burden of disease attributable to child maltreatment is costing the region of about 1% and 3% of national GDP per annum (Fang et al., 2015). A systematic review of 55 studies from 24 countries found the rates of child sexual harassment to be between 8% and 31% for females and 3% and 17% for males (Barth et al., 2013). The same study found nine girls and 3 boys out of 100 have experienced forced penetration. It is also reported that the chances of experiencing sexual victimization are high during pre-pubertal period and peak in adolescence (Martin and Silverstone, 2019). Despite the consequences and magnitude of the problem, data does not even suggest that over 95% of cases of sexual harassment are never disclosed to authorities (Martin and Silverstone, 2019). Majority of studies on child sexual harassment have been conducted in the western world largely in North America, Western Europe and Australasia with relatively very few in Africa. As part of its thematic work on SRHR, ICRW Africa is prioritizing efforts to end child sexual harassment in the region. For instance, in Tanzania and Ethiopia, the incidence of child sexual harassment among girls is reported to be between 2.1% and 68.7%, while it is between 4.1% and 60% among boys in South Africa.

Today, many challenges are unfolding before our eyes: pandemics, armed conflicts, natural disasters. Children are frequently targeted, and their rights are often violated, sometimes under

the justification of custom, culture or security and other measures. More than 30 million children have been displaced by conflict and many are enslaved, trafficked, and abused. In the last 20 years, more than 315,000 grave violations were verified against children in more than 30 conflict situations across Africa. However due to chronic underreporting, the actual number is undoubtedly much higher. Children are ten times more likely to become victims of conflict-related sexual harassment. As the most neglected and marginalized survivors and victims of sexual violence, child victims continue to be invisible, and their perpetrators remain unpunished. In the African culture, children have low decision making and bargaining power coupled with the fact that sex is a taboo subject for discussion in families the numbers of child sexual harassment cases in the continent may be underreported. However, the prevalence of child abuse in the African continent might still be high due to its numerous beliefs, customs and taboos and has largely affected children's welfare.

In Uganda, Most children in Uganda have experienced physical violence that threatens and halts their holistic and positive development – 59 per cent of girls and 68 per cent of boys. Gender-based violence and sexual harassment are also pervasive, with some 35 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys having experienced sexual harassment during childhood. Girls are especially at risk of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and female genital mutilation. Today, 4 in 10 women aged 20 to 49 years are married by 18 years, and at least 1 in 4 teenage girls are either pregnant or have a child. Child sexual harassment has both short and long term effects on the health of the victims. With the exception of sexualized behavior (Intrusive, Abusive, Aggressive, Excessive), the majority of short-term effects noted in literature are symptoms that characterize child clinical samples in general. Among adolescents, commonly reported sequel includes sexual dissatisfaction, promiscuity, homosexuality and an increased risk for re-victimization. Depression and suicidal ideation or behavior also appears to be more common among victims of sexual harassment compared to normal and psychiatric non-abused controls (UNECIF, 2022). Frequency and duration of harassment and a close relationship to the perpetrator appear to be the most harmful in terms of long-lasting effects on the children's welfare.

In Busiu Sub County, 50 children are harassed sexually daily (Sub County Report, 2023). However, family integrity is of paramount importance in people's culture. Sexual harassment is

pervasive, with some 35 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys having experienced sexual harassment during childhood. Girls are especially at risk of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and female genital mutilation (ANPPCAN Chapter in Uganda, 2023). As such, several victims rarely report the abuse, as several opined that no potential husband would marry a lady who was raped as an adolescent or a child. Disclosing a case of rape is perceived to shed shame and dishonor on the family (Sub County Report, 2023). Victims of child sexual abuse will hardly want to report their experience to the police or at the hospital because of social stigma. It is believed that no potential husband would marry a lady who was raped as an adolescent or a child

In Busiu sub-county, there are mountains of research on the identification of child abuses and an equally large number of studies showing degrees of relationship between sexual harassment and children's welfare. However, Amoni (2019) and Nuwagaba (2018) had a different view noting that what is lacking in most cases since the previous decade is any convincing evidence that policy makers can fine-tune policy during policy debates to help address the issue of child sexual harassment in such a way as to produce significant improvements in measured achievement in children welfare. In fact, the entire vein of social research called "attribute-treatment interaction studies" is generally conceded to have been a failure through paying little attention to the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare and this has created a research opportunity for this study

1.2 Statement of the problem

Children are supposed to live meaningful and productive lives. They should attend school, live in safe home environments and stay health. The should also have access to safe and notorious foods and communicate well with peers, parents and family members. Moreover, children should from all times understand and maintain boundaries and develop acceptable relationship with significant others.

But in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district, data from 2019 to 2023 shows that 2% of boys and 4% of girls experience some sexual harassment every year (Probational Report, 2023). Another report (Busiu Sub County Annual report, 2023) revealed that more than 200 in Busiu Sub County face forced sexual acts during their childhood. Most are females (89%), and 11% are males. In Busiu Sub County, this statistic is much higher as every one out of four girls and one in every six

boys during the early years of their lives (Mbale District Report, 2023). Similarly, sexual harassment of children is possible in almost every social setting and location, i.e., schools, roads, justice institutions, and homes. Also, it is prevalent equally among all socio-economic classes and age groups within In Busiu Sub County in Mbale district. Despite the interventions in Busiu Sub County through strengthening laws, prosecution of offenders and community sensitization, sexual harassment is still on the rise and if nothing is done there would be a likelihood of high illiteracy, constant morbidity, death and poor child welfare, therefore strong and focused strategies are needed to reverse poor child welfare which is determined by sexual harassment. There is also lack of information regarding impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district and this has resulted into distortions and limitations in literature.

It is therefore upon the above background that the researcher will conduct a research study on the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district.

1.4 Objectives of the study

1.4.1 General objective

The main objective of this study was to assess the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district.

1.4. 2 Specific Objectives

This study was guided by the following objectives;

- i. To identify the factors contributing to sexual harassment of children in Busiu Sub county in Mbale district.
- ii. To examine the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub county in Mbale district.

- iii. To assess strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare in Busiu Sub county in Mbale district.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. Which factors contribute to sexual harassment in Busiu Sub County - Mbale district?
- ii. What is the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district?
- iii. Explain strategies which can be adopted to prevent sexual harassment and improve children's welfare in Busiu Sub County, Mbale district.

1.5 Scope of the study

1.5.1 Content Scope

The study looked at the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district.

1.5.2 Geographical Scope:

The study was carried out in Busiu Sub-county which is located in mbale district. It is bordered by Bukiende sub-county on the north, Busiu town council on East, Busoba Sub-count on its south and Bumasikye sub-count on its eastern direction

1.5.3 Time scope.

The study focused on a period of 3 years and these included 2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2023. This is because during this the period when Busiu Sub-county has had trending issues that greatly impended on sexual harassment on children's welfare

1.6 Significance of the study

The study may have the following significance upon completion.

The results of the study may go a long way to help strengthen the implementation of rules and regulation regarding children's rights.

It may also help to form a basis for future planning and negotiations with various stakeholders on prevention of sexual harassment.

The findings of the study might provide useful and practical information to planners and decision makers that would inform policy thinking and practice as far as the elimination of sexual harassment is concerned

The study could also contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

The study could provide information to future researchers who intend to carry out research on sexual harassment on children's welfare.

1.7 Conceptual Frame work

Independent Variable

Sexual harassment

Sexual comments

Sexual gestures

Sexual innuendos

Unwanted sexual advances/flirting

Dependent Variable

Children's welfare

Health

Education

Shelter

Socio-emotional wellbeing

Intervening Variables

❖ Government policies,

School rules

❖ Community sensitization

Source; Researchers Model, (2024)

Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework showing relationship between variables

Form the above conceptual framework, sexual harassment as an independent variable (IV) involves sexual comments, sexual gestures and sexual innuendos and unwanted sexual

advances/flirting. The dependent variable in this case is children's welfare with parameters of health, education, shelter and socio-emotional wellbeing. The framework assumes that when sexual harassment is prevented, it is likely to transform performance of the welfare of children. Nevertheless, this may not be automatic as other factors may come into play. These may include government policies and community mobilization. These factors have been dully coined as intervening variables by the study and are being isolated to avoid making wrong conclusions

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the review of the past literature related to the area under investigation. The review was conducted according to objectives of the research study as seen below:

2.2 Factors contributing to sexual harassment of children

Stressful home environment

According to Barnes & Josefowitz (2018), children with low self-confidence in their surroundings, particularly at home, are vulnerable to an adult who promises stability and security, even if the stability comes with other unwanted behaviors. Children with a stressful home life may also feel that they cannot confide in a parent because the parent is already burdened with so many problems and may not respond well and this study found out whether this phenomenon is applied to Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

Low self-esteem

Okiria et al. (2020) found that children with low self-esteem are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment due to needs for affection, admiration and acceptance. This is especially true for children who are targets of bullying or whose parents also display low self-esteem. Children with low self-esteem are more likely to be drawn to those who offer flattery, gifts, and special attention (Almuneef, 2021). This will investigate whether without feelings of self-worth, a child may not see the value in the boundaries, respect, and consent they are entitled to in phenomenon is applied to Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

Unmonitored access to technology

According to Almuneef (2021, technology provides limitless ways to nurture your child's education, creativity, and communication. Unfortunately, technology is also a perpetrator's playground. The internet provides them with significantly greater access to potential targets along with added anonymity and the ability to keep things secret. The phones, tablets, or

laptops in your home can be gateways for interaction between a perpetrator and your child. Not only do these devices greatly expand a perpetrator's reach, but they remove many barriers to perpetration (such as trying to isolate a child or being able to send inappropriate material). This study will in particular try to establish whether technology is a perpetrator's playground for sexual harassment of children Busiu Sub County of Mbale district and whether this affects the welfare of such children

Poor communication

Barnes & Josefowitz (2018) asserted that children who do not feel that they can be open with their parents may become distant, isolated, and insecure, and therefore more susceptible to a perpetrator's grooming. They are less likely to confide in their parents about important topics such as the new adults in their life, inappropriate behavior they are witnessing or experiencing, or physical changes their body is going through. If or when sexual abuse begins, a child who has poor communication with their parents will likely keep it a secret. They may live in fear of getting in trouble, being judged or shamed, overburdening their parents, or being ignored. The current study will establish whether Busiu Sub County of Mbale district, children who do not feel that they can be open with their parents may become distant, isolated, and insecure, and therefore more susceptible to a perpetrator's grooming and whether such children are likely (or less likely) to confide in their parents about important topics such as the new adults in their life, inappropriate behavior they are witnessing or experiencing, or physical changes their body is going through and establish any possible relationship to children's welfare.

Loneliness

Loneliness is a powerful emotion. It can lead to feelings of neglect, isolation, and alienation. A crucial step in a perpetrator's grooming is isolating the child from their loved ones, both emotionally and physically. If a child is already feeling isolated, this step will be much easier for a perpetrator to achieve. Also, if a child is left alone or unsupervised on a frequent basis, a perpetrator has more opportunities to get close to that child (Almuneef, 2021).

Therefore this study will investigate whether this is a common phenomenon in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district and determine whether this is related to children's welfare.

Misunderstanding Boundaries

Almuneef (2021) found that one of the most significant risk increasers for child sexual abuse is insufficient education or understanding about boundaries. Children who do not have a clear understanding of boundaries are highly unlikely to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behavior. They may not understand when someone has violated their personal boundaries or when they have violated the boundaries of someone else. With an unclear understanding of what constitutes abuse, they are less likely to disclose any sexually abusive behavior they witness, experience, or hear about (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2015). They may also engage in or demonstrate inappropriate behavior that could draw the attention of potential perpetrators. This study will assess whether one of the most significant risk increasers for child sexual abuse is insufficient education or understanding about boundaries in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district and its possible relationship to children's welfare.

Disabilities

According to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2015), children with a disability are at least three times more likely to be sexually harassed. There are multiple reasons behind this statistic, including the child's need for personal care, a desire for acceptance, a reliance on others, an inability to escape due to physical limitations, an inability to disclose abuse due to limitations in communication, and a lack of education on healthy sexuality and sexual abuse. The researcher will find out whether in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district, children with a disability are at least three times more likely to be sexually harassed and how far can this affect children's welfare in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

Blended Families

Barnes & Josefowitz (2018) argued that in a blended family, communication and relationship dynamics are complicated. There may be disagreements among parents on how to educate

about boundaries, conflict resolution, privacy, and healthy sexuality. Tension among family members and stepfamily members may lead to more conflict in the home, which may lead to children having lower confidence in their environment. Blended families also increase a child's chances of encountering a perpetrator, be it an adult (a stepparent, a live-in partner) or a peer (a stepsibling). This study will therefore examine whether in a blended family, communication and relationship dynamics are complicated in in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district and disagreements (or lack of it) among parents on how to educate about boundaries, conflict resolution, privacy, and healthy sexuality can pose a risk factors to sexual harassment and how these variable are related to children's welfare.

2.3 Impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

In a review of the impacts of institutional child sexual harassment, Blakemore and colleagues (2017) likened institutional child sexual harassment to intra-familial sexual harassment, noting similarities in terms of its chronicity, severity and relational aspects, and described impacts as "pervasive, numerous and connected". These authors noted negative impacts across psychological (e.g. post-traumatic stress symptomology, depression, anxiety), physical (e.g. self-reported quality of health, sleep problems), social (e.g. relationship, parenting and sexual difficulties), educational (e.g. school completion, engagement) and economic (e.g. obtaining and maintaining employment) domains. This study will assess whether these attributes affect children's welfare.in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

Child sexual harassment is associated with a range of detrimental and often inter-related outcomes. While child sexual harassment has been shown to be associated with individually increased risks for public mental health service contacts, offending, subsequent victimization and deaths by suicide or drug overdose, a study by Papalia and colleagues (2017) has shown that these adverse outcomes also tend to co-occur among survivors. For example, this Papalia and colleagues (2017) research showed a three-way interaction between public mental health service contact, criminal history and subsequent victimization – notably, the presence of a psychiatric history increased the likelihood of co-occurring offending and further victimization among survivors of child sexual abuse (Papalia, Luebbers, Ogloff, Cutajar & Mullen, 2017). An

umbrella review synthesising meta-analytical findings on the outcomes of child sexual abuse found evidence for associations between sexual abuse and a wide range of psychiatric diagnoses, as well as negative psychosocial and physical health outcomes in adulthood, with particularly strong evidence existing for links between child sexual harassment and later post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, and substance misuse (Hailes, Yu, Danese & Fazel, 2019). The current study will investigate whether in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district. Child, sexual harassment is associated with individually increased risks for public mental health service contacts, offending, subsequent victimization and deaths by suicide or drug overdose.

Many reviews have described the various long term impacts of child sexual harassment, while indicating that child sexual assault does not reliably predict any one condition or set of difficulties (Barnes & Josefowitz, 2018). In this way, the experience of child sexual abuse has been described as a non-specific risk factor for a multitude of adverse outcomes (Cashmore & Shackel, 2015). Barnes and Josefowitz (2016) listed a number of outcomes that have been associated with experience of child sexual assault, include psychological difficulties such as depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, personality disorders and psychotic disorders, behavioral problems such as substance abuse, self-harm, eating disorders, conduct disorders and antisocial behaviour, as well as relationship difficulties, poorer physical health, and poorer educational and occupational achievement and these will form the focus of the current study in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district and their possible relationship to children's welfare.

A study of over 1,000 children with both objective court-documented evidence of sex harassment and subjective reports of childhood maltreatment made as adults, found that, even for severe cases of maltreatment identified in court records, psychopathology was less likely when these children, as adults, did not also make subjective reports of maltreatment. Risk of psychopathology increased, however, when children made subjective reports of maltreatment as adults (Danese & Spatz Widom, 2020). This research will find out whether the impact of childhood sexual assault emerges as a result of subjective experiences, rather than objective experiences of childhood maltreatment in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

Research has identified several key factors that are predictive of increased negative impact into adulthood, including a child's younger age at first experience, greater number of sexual assault episodes, longer duration of the harassment, the presence of coercion, force or threats, more invasive sexual contact, more than one perpetrator, parental mental illness, criminal activity and substance use, and perpetration by a father or father figure (Barnes & Josefowitz, 2017; Martin & Silverstone, 2018). Social support, meanwhile, has been shown to mediate the effect of trauma and reduce the likelihood of negative outcomes resulting from experiences of child sexual harassment (Charuvastra & Cloitre, 2018). This study will analyze whether in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district, greater number of sexual harassment is characterized with the presence of coercion, force or threats, more invasive sexual contact, more than one perpetrator, parental mental illness, criminal activity and substance use.

Children exposed to complex trauma may experience impacts and show impairment across seven primary domains – attachment (e.g. development of insecure attachment patterns), biology (e.g. failure to develop brain capacities necessary for modulating emotions), affect regulation (e.g. inability to discriminate among and label affective states), dissociation (e.g. detachment from awareness of emotions and self), behavioral regulation (e.g. under-controlled and over-controlled behaviour patterns), cognition (e.g. lower grades and poorer academic achievement), and self-concept (e.g. self-perception as defective, helpless, deficient) (Cook et al., 2015). Data from children involved in a US-based panel study found that youth who had experienced sexual abuse had lower grades in school, were more likely to drop out, and had lower levels of education than those who had not experienced sexual harassment. Child sexual harassment was found to have an impact on positive future orientation, which in turn impacted on academic outcomes for these children (Ochoa & Constantin, 2023). This study will therefore investigate whether in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district, victims of sexual harassment experience impairment and interpersonal relationship problems.

The experience of sexual harassment during childhood is a key antecedent of complex trauma symptoms. Research has shown that the symptoms of complex trauma most often result from prolonged exposure to multiple forms of interpersonal trauma (including sexual abuse), typically during childhood, by caregivers who are expected to provide a safe, predictable, and secure

environment (Courtois & Ford, 2016). Sexual harassment perpetrated by a caregiver is associated with particularly severe complex trauma symptoms into adulthood (Kluft, 2020). The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (Cloitre et al., 2019) task force's definition of complex trauma includes the core symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder alongside disruptions in self-regulatory capacities across five domains: (a) emotion regulation, (b) self/relational capacities, (c) alterations in attention and consciousness, (d) belief systems, and (e) somatic symptoms and/or medical problems and this study will investigate these and related variables and whether sexual harassment during childhood is a key antecedent of complex trauma symptoms.

2.4 Strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare

Okiidi et al., (2019) found that it is impossible to avoid stress, especially as a parent. But being aware of how your stress affects your child and how you can manage it will go a long way. Continually assure your child that they can always confide in you, no matter how stressed you may appear. If your child does confide in you, follow through on those assurances you made. If you are in a situation or relationship that is unsafe for you and your child, get help immediately. It is important to remove a child (and yourself) from a harmful environment as soon as possible (Barnes & Josefowitz, 2018). This study will find out whether it is possible to avoid stress and prevent sexual harassment in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

Whiel Almuneef (2021) argued that starting at an early age, teach children about boundaries. This doesn't necessarily mean discussing mature topics such as intercourse or sexual abuse with your toddler. Rather, it means teaching them their bodies are important, and certain parts of their bodies shouldn't be touched by anyone without their permission (in the case of a doctor or a parent at bath time). It also means communicating right and wrong behaviors in how your child interacts with others. Clear and consistent boundaries will empower and protect your child with the knowledge and confidence they need to stay safe. Children need boundaries in order to develop self-confidence and self-esteem. Within these boundaries, however, allowing your child certain age-appropriate freedom is vitally important. This study

will find out whether starting teach children as an early age will help prevent sexual harassment in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

According to Barnes & Josefowitz (2018), with children who have disabilities, teach them the importance of body privacy, appropriate boundaries, and the role of consent. Establish open communication habits by having ongoing discussions about healthy sexuality. For children with communication difficulties, provide a way they can report abuse that sufficiently meets their communication needs. If a child is displaying significant changes or new challenges in behavior, consider the possibility that they are responses to harassment. If sexual harassment does occur, report it immediately an issue that this study will find out in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district.

With more variables at play in a blended family, more effort may need to be put into consistent and open communication. To ensure consistency and clarity, all caretakers involved need to be on the same page regarding education on safe boundaries, appropriate behavior, and healthy sexuality. Be attentive and alert toward all family members and the new dynamics that develop (Almuneef, 2021). The study will find out in Busiu Sub County of Mbale district whether children ask open-ended questions about their experiences, feelings, and interactions with the rest of the family. If you notice any red flag behavior among family members, address it immediately.

There is need to help children build their self-esteem by identifying a hobby, activity, or skill they enjoy. Examples may include sports, performing arts, academic teams, crafts, or other extracurricular activities. Engage in these activities with your child; encourage and praise their participation (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2015). Another useful technique is assigning your child responsibilities around the house and rewarding them when those responsibilities are carried out. This will reinforce your child's identity as a valued and contributing member of the household. If you discover your child is being bullied, address the issue immediately. Also, try to be cognizant of how you talk about yourself around your child. The child is number one example. If you model having a positive self-image and positive self-talk, your child will likely follow suit.

According to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2015), communication is key to preventing child sexual abuse. You can make all the difference by initiating continuous, two-way, age-appropriate discussions with your child that fit their level of maturity and understanding. Ask open-ended questions about the child's feelings, interactions, and day-to-day experiences. Answer whatever questions your child has with age-appropriate sensitivity, no matter how uncomfortable the conversation may be. If this pattern of open communication is established with your child early, they will make it a habit of confiding in you for support when they need it most.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In order to achieve the desired outcomes of a non-biased study report, this chapter presents the methods that the researcher employed while conducting the study. It shows the research design, study population, sample size and selection, sampling techniques and procedures, data collection methods and techniques, validity and reliability of instruments, procedure of data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.1 Research Design

The research study used a mixed research approach (qualitative and quantitative) with the help of descriptive research design to analyze data. This design helped the researcher to generate more sufficient data and relevant information that support the variables and objectives of the research study.

3.2 Sample size

The total population (N) was 100 people and therefore the sample population was 80 respondents, that is to say; 69 , 05 local leaders, 4 head teachers and 06 child welfare officers using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) methods of determining sample size from the population (Sarmah & Hazanka, 2012). The sample size was reached at by means of a table for ascertaining sample size by Krejcie and Morgan(1970) (see attached Appendix II). The sample size from each category of respondents was ascertained by simple random sampling as shown in table 3:1 below.

Table 3.1 Summary of the Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Category	Target population	Sample size	Sampling technique
Parents	85	69	Simple random sampling
Local leaders	05	05	Purposive sampling
Child welfare officers	10	06	Purposive sampling
Total	100	80	

Source: Primary data, 2024

3.3 Sampling Techniques

3.3.1 Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling method. This is a form of sampling technique that allows the researcher to use cases that have the required information with respect to the objectives of the study (Creswell, 2014). In this study, subjects were therefore be handpicked they are informative and they possess the required characteristics. Purposive sampling technique was used to 05 local leaders and 06 child welfare officers. These respondents purposively sampled because of their positions and the researcher was able to get in-depth information that helped to answer the research questions.

3.3.2 Simple Random sampling

Simple random sampling is a type of probability sampling in which the researcher randomly selects a subset of participants from a population. Each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected. Data is then collected from as large a percentage as possible of this random subset (Mugende and Mugenda, 2016). Simple random sampling was used to get 69 parents from Busiu Sub County in Mbale district. The goal of simple random sampling technique is to give every participant a chance to participate in the study. It involved giving a number to every subject of the accessible population, placing the numbers in the container and then picking any number at random. The subject corresponding to the numbers was then included in the sample. This sampling technique was used because it enabled the researcher to get a representative sample for the research study and it allowed generalizability to a larger population with a margin of error that was statistically determinable.

3.4 Research Instruments

The researcher used both questionnaires and interview.

3.4.1 Questionnaire Survey

The research used questionnaire survey data collection method. The questionnaire survey comprised closed ended questions which were answered by teachers. Questionnaires are

regularly used in social research. This method allowed the researcher to cover the respondents rapidly and cheaply (Bordens & Abbott, 2014). The researcher used self-administered questionnaire as a research tool to collect data from 69 parents. The questionnaire consisted of an introductory note. Section A for respondents' demographic information, Section B, C and D had questions on study variables. The researcher got a list of 69 parents identified through probability sampling to whom the questionnaires were administered.

According to Fisher (2004), a questionnaire is used because it is easy to administer, not so expensive, and helped to collect unbiased data. The nature of the questions were in form of structured and close ended questions where by a 5 Likers scale of measurement was on close ended questions based on a scale of strongly agree (5), agree (4), unsure (3), disagree (2), strongly disagree (1). Questionnaires were used because they allowed respondents to provide firsthand information which is free of bias and it is also easy to use.

Table 3: 2 Likert Scale, Coding, and Interpretation

Scale	Coding	Mean	Interpretation
Strongly agree	5	4.20-5.00	Very high
Agree	4	3.40-4.19	High
Unsure	3	2.60-3.39	Moderate
Disagree	2	1.80-2.59	Low
Strongly disagree	1	1.00-1.79	Very low

Source: Primary Data 2024

3.4.2 Interviews

Other data was collected through interviews with the help of an interview guide. An interview guide is a research instrument that contains a set of questions on defined issues under study that are put to respondents on face to face basis (Saunders, et al, 2019). An interview guide collects data that supports the researcher through directing an interview process towards the objectives and issues regarding the study (Etyang, 2018). The interview guide consisted of open-ended questions and it was answered by local leaders and child welfare officers. The interview guide helped the researcher to assess whether all questions had been asked or not. Interviews were

administered in local leaders and child welfare officers because this category of study population had more knowledge that could not be fully captured using questionnaires.

3.5 Data Analysis

3.5.1 Quantitative data analysis

Any data that is presented in numerical form like statistics, percentages among others are referred to as Quantitative data. Quantitative data got from questionnaires was computed into frequencies, counts and percentages. The initial step in preparing this data is coding. This involved allotting numbers to the respondents' responses in order that they can be fed into a database (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). Responses were fed into a data base after they are coded. Raw data was entered using the SPSS Data Editor. Data was presented using different methods such as simple frequency tables which ultimately helped to measure the influence of culture on girl child education. This was because data presentation requires clear portrayal of the findings presented, and the listed methods above clearly fulfill that purpose.

3.6.2 Correlations and Regression Analysis

Correlations and regression analysis was used to analyze and measure the degree of relationship between sexual harassment and children's welfare because it is the most appropriate and presents minimal interference by the researcher and it give no room for manipulation of data. This type of inferential statistics is easy to compute and interpret and they also help in making conclusions. Descriptive statistical techniques (frequencies and percentages) were used to analyze field data from questionnaires and assist in the interpretation of data.

3.7.1 Qualitative data analysis

On the other hand, qualitative data gathered from open-ended questions in the interview guides was arranged into themes and presented in narrative format. A style called content analysis was used to test the validity and authenticity. Data in form of words is Qualitative data. The initial step in analysing this data is cutting it down through coding and categorization. Data reduction is the procedure of choosing, ciphering and placing data into categories. Coding is the analytic procedure by which the qualitative data that the researcher had gathered was cut down (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). The intention of ciphering is to help the researcher to make conclusions that

are meaningful on the data. Codes are labels assigned to units of text. These are then placed in groups made categories. Categorisation is the procedure of organising, arranging and classifying coding units. Codes and categories can be formulated both inductively and deductively. Data display comprised of displaying data that had been reduced in an organised, digested way. Drawing of conclusions was the last activity of analysis in the process of analysing data qualitatively..

3.7 Research procedures

The researcher got a letter from the department of social sciences to allow for data collection. Thereafter, the researcher sent consent letters to the responders requesting for them to participate in the study. Raw data was then be compared and coded before data analysis was done. During editing, points of views of the responders that seemed unclear were returned to them for checking so as to make certain of the meaning of the seemingly ambiguous replies. Thereafter, the researcher writes a report that was submitted to the department for examination.

3.9 Ethical considerations

The following ethical considerations were looked at by the researcher during the research.

3.9.1 Informed consent and voluntary participation: The researcher sought consent from the respondents to involve in the research not just forcing them to participate. Informed consent is the basis of ethical research (Denzin & Lincoln, 2016). The people participating in the study was made aware of what the study was about, it's purpose, usage of the data, and any consequences that could arise from it (Fleming, 2018). The researcher furnished the respondents with information on the reason for the research and the procedure of collecting data. The participants were allowed enough time to ask questions and have any concerns addressed. The respondents exercised free will in deciding whether to participate in research activity or not. All people to be involved in the research gave written informed acceptance.

3.9.2 Confidentiality: Confidentiality is looked at by Walford(2018) to mean information that is private and is not to be divulged to others. Whatever has been said in confidence must remain confidential. The researcher assured the respondent that information offered by the respondent was not to be passed on to another party (third party) without consent of the respondent. Their

identity and response was made confidential and anonymized through the use of numbers or through pseudonyms.

3.9.3 Anonymity: Anonymity, termed more appropriately as pseudonymity, is defined by Wiles (2013) as a major means used by the researcher to safeguard the confidentiality of responders by using pseudonyms. Anonymisation is one of the kinds of confidentiality, comprising of identity concealment of research responders (Saunders, Kitzinger, & Kitzinger, 2015). The researcher ensured that all respondents are anonymous implying that their identities are not known and not salient in the study. Withholding the identity of respondents is a guarantee that their statements are authentic (Taylor, 2015).

3.9.4 Plagiarism: The researcher ensured that all written work was original and without any borrowed and manipulated texts, results or even expressions. The researcher made sure that, all words and publications of the author were given their due acknowledgement (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2016). The researcher subjected the written works to the turn it in software and made sure it was 15% or less compliant of plagiarism material.

3.7 Validity of data

The validity of the instrument was established using the content it entails. The researcher in consultation with the supervisor conducted a first session in which critical assessment of each item to be rated for relevancy. Adjustments on the questions were made until validity is achieved. Content validity was established through expert judges using content validity index (CV1) given by the formula below (Amin, 2005).

$$CV1 = \frac{\text{No of items declared valid}}{\text{Total no of items}}$$

3.8 Reliability of data

In the case of reliability, the Cronbach Alpha coefficient method of internal consistency was used to calculate the reliability co-efficient of the questionnaire.

The formula was as follows:

$$\alpha = \frac{K - \sum SD_i^2}{K - 1} \quad 2$$

$$K - 1 \quad SD_i^2$$

Where α = the alpha coefficient $\sum SD_i^2$ = sum of the variance of individual items in the questionnaire SD_i^2 = variance of entire questionnaire

K = number of items in the questionnaire

Reliability of the questionnaire was .911 and this therefore warranting the researcher to proceed. (See Appendix VI).

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents information on data presentation, analysis and interpretation which based on the objectives of the research study

4.1 Background characteristics of the respondents

The first part of this chapter is a presentation and analysis of preliminary data obtained from the study. It includes the background information of the respondents and the variables involved are age (in years), gender of respondents, educational level and marital status. Data obtained has been presented in tables below.

Table 4.2: Frequency and percentage distribution of Respondents' background information

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percent (%)
Age	21- 29	17	21
	30-39	20	25
	40-49	43	54
Marital Status	Single	18	23
	Married	26	55
	Widow	21	33
	Separated	15	19
Education level	Primary	31	39
	Secondary	38	48
	Post-Secondary	11	14
Sex	Male	51	64
	Female	29	36

Source: *(Primary Data, 2024)*

The respondents were asked to indicate their sex by ticking the appropriate column they belonged. The purpose was to find out the number of males and females who actually participated in the study.

Table 4.2 contains the age distribution of respondents who participated in the study. The purpose was to find out the average age of respondents in the study area. Table 2 show that the majority 54% of the study respondents were between 40 to 49 years of age. The findings of the study imply that since majority of the respondents were 40 years above, this mean that they were mature enough and information acquired from them was reliable and trustable.

Findings in table 4.1 above show that the majority (55%) of respondents were married. Marital status has an implication on data collected for the research study as married people gave their opinions from an informed point of view on issued associated with early child hood education. Further, according to the findings of the study in table 4.1 shows that majority of the respondents have attained some level of education whose opinions and views regarding access to reproductive health can be trusted. This is in line with Umar (2021) who argued that it is important in social investigation research to involve people that have attained an acceptable level of literacy and numeracy in order to be in position to understand and interpret content in the questionnaire and give valid responses.

The study findings revealed that out of the 80 respondents who participated in the study, majority 64% were males. The finding means that there are more male than females who participated in the study, studies have revealed that males and females have different attitudes and views towards the early marriages and since females are home makers, they tend to remain at home and this explains their low level of access to reproductive health (Singer, 2020).

4.2 Factors contributing to sexual harassment of children

The first objective in this study was to establish the factors contributing to sexual harassment of children. The findings from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were summarized as follows:

Table 4.3: Showing factors contributing to sexual harassment of children

Statements	SD (%)	D (%)	N (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Deviation
Stressful home environment	3	9	16	49	3	3.500	.8859
Lack of self esteem	4	30	22	23	1	2.838	.9473
Poor communication	5	6	14	38	17	3.700	1.083
Misunderstanding boundaries	2	12	22	41	1	3.387	.8786
Tension among family members	1	3	5	49	22	4.100	.7730
Average Mean						3.60	0.806

Source: primary data, (2024)

Table 4.3 above shows a summary of respondent opinion on factors contributing to sexual harassment of children. The finding from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were discussed and explained as follows:

Stressful home environment

The study investigated whether stressful home environment contributes to sexual harassment of children. According to the findings in table 4.3 above, 49% of the respondents agreed that stressful home environment contributes to sexual harassment of children, 3% disagreed, 16% were neutral, while 9% disagreed and 3% strongly agreed to the statement.

Therefore from the above findings, it is noticeable that stressful home environment contributes to sexual harassment of children with similar findings obtained from interviews conducted with district officials. In support of this finding Greinert (2019) opined that stressful home environment contributes to sexual harassment of children

Lack of self esteem

The study also investigated whether lack of self-esteem contributes to sexual harassment of children and from the findings, 23% who were the majority agreed that dowries lead to discrimination in different areas against daughters, 1% strongly agreed, 22% were neutral and 30% disagreed while 4% strongly disagreed to the statement.

From the above findings it means that lack of self-esteem contributes to sexual harassment of children. Even the data collected from interviews show that lack of self-esteem contributes to sexual harassment of children. Greinert (2017) equally agrees with the findings that lack of self-esteem contributes to sexual harassment of children.

Poor communication

On whether poor communication contributes to sexual harassment of children 38% of the respondents agreed to the statement noting that poor communication contributes to sexual harassment of children, 6% disagreed, 14% were neutral and 17% strongly agreed and 5% strongly disagreed.

This finding implies that poor communication contributes to sexual harassment of children as majority of the respondents (38%) agreed and data collected from interviews also show that poor communication contributes to sexual harassment of children. In line with the above findings, Bray, et al. (2019) opined that poor communication contributes to sexual harassment of children

Misunderstanding boundaries

This variable investigated whether misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children and results show that 41% and 1% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed to the statement noting that misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children while 22% were neutral. However, 2 % strongly disagreed to the statement.

Therefore, the findings of the study imply that misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children. Even findings obtained from interviews show that

misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children. This is in line with the findings of Okiiria and Okiidi (2017) who opined that misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children.

Tension among family members

Respondents were also asked to find out whether tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children.. Table 4.6 above shows 49% of the respondents who agreed that tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children, 22% of the respondents strongly agreed and 5% were neutral. 3% agreed and 1% of the respondents strongly disagreed that tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children.

The above findings of the study therefore imply tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children and similar results were obtained from face to face interviews. In a related study, Gupta (2019) further commented that tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children.

4.3 Impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

The second objective in this study was to investigate the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare. The findings from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were summarized as follows:

Table 4.3: Showing the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

Statements	SD (%)	D (%)	N (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Deviation
Increases risks mental problems	3	5	10	50	2	3.5	.8859
Psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders	4	15	1	38	22	2.8	.9473
Behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children	5	3	14	51	7	3.7	1.0838
Increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS	2	9	2	54	13	3.4	.8786
Leads to school dropout of children	14	7	8	40	22	3.5	
Average Mean						3.5	0.871

Source: primary data, (2024)

Increases risks mental problems

The researcher investigated whether increases risks mental problems affect is a result of sexual harassment. From the study findings presented in table 4.3 above shows that increases risks mental problems affect is a result of sexual harassment as majority of respondents (50%) of the respondents agreed to the statement noting that increases risks mental problems affect is a result of sexual harassment. 2% strongly agreed and 10% of the respondents was neutral, 15% disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed.

As evidenced from the above findings, majority of the respondents (50%) strongly agreed that increases risks mental problems affect is a result of sexual harassment and similar data was obtained from interviews. As Abagi (2017) noted increases risks mental problems affect is a result of sexual harassment.

Psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders

Respondents were asked whether psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders is a result of sexual harassment and 38% of the respondents agreed noting that psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders is a result of sexual harassment, 22% of the respondents agreed, while other respondents who constituted 1% were neutral, 15% who were the majority agreed and 4% strongly disagreed that psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders

Therefore from above findings, psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders is a result of sexual harassment with similar results obtained from interviews. This is in support of the study done by Bayrak (2020) he opined that psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders is a result of sexual harassment

Behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children

Also, respondents were asked on whether behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children is a result of sexual harassment, according to the findings, 8.8% of the respondents disagreed that behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children is a result of sexual harassment, 28.8% of the respondents were neutral, whereas 48.8% agreed and 13.8% strongly agreed that behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children is a result of sexual harassment

Furthermore, results from interviews also indicated similar opinions that behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children is a result of sexual harassment. The above findings are in agreement with Khan (2021) where he observed that behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children is a result of sexual harassment

Increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS

The study further investigated whether increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual harassment and from the research findings in table 4.7, 54% of the respondents agreed noting that increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS

is a result of sexual harassment, 13% disagreed, 2% were neutral, while 9% of the respondents disagreed and 2% of the respondents strongly agreed that increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual harassment.

The findings of the study imply that an increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual harassment. This discovery is in line with the findings of Okumbe (2019) who opined that increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children

The study also investigated sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children as strongly agreed and agreed by 12% and 40% of the respondents respectively. Only 7% of the respondents disagreed with 14% strongly disagreed to the statement that sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children

The above findings thus show that sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children. Kaplan (2023) equally agrees with finding arguing that sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children

4.4 Strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare

The third objective in this study was to establish strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare. The findings from respondent's opinion accompanying variables under this objective were summarized as follows:

Table 4.3: Showing Strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare

Statements	SD (%)	D (%)	N (%)	A (%)	SA (%)	Mean	Std. Deviation
Improve communication	9	6	5	67	3	3.4	.8786
Teach children the importance of body privacy	1	3	2	58	21	4.1	.7730
Teach children about boundaries	17	16	11	44	22	3.6	.7252
Improve policy and legislation to protect children's rights	3	2	5	42	28	3.5	.8098
Teach children appropriate boundaries and privacy	5	14	6	38	17	3.4	1.0838
Average Mean						3.4	0.870

Source: Primary data (2024)

Improve communication

Results in table 4.4 above show that 67% of the respondents agreed with the statement noting that improving communication may help curb sexual harassments, 3% agreed, 5% of the respondents were neutral and 6% disagreed while 9% of the respondents strongly disagreed that improving communication may help curb sexual harassments.

Thus from the above findings, it is true improving communication may help curb sexual harassments as majority of respondents (42.5%) agreed to the statement. Similar findings were obtained from face to face interviews where it was found out improving communication may help curb sexual harassments. In support of these findings, research by Musaazi, (2019) found that improving communication may help curb sexual harassments.

Teach children the importance of body privacy

On whether teaching children the importance of body privacy helps curb sexual harassments. The study found that 58% of the respondents agreed with the statement noting that children the importance of body privacy helps curb sexual harassments. While 21% strongly agreed and 2% were not sure. Other respondents who constituted 3% disagreed and 1% strongly disagreed.

The findings therefore imply that children the importance of body privacy helps curb sexual harassments. Even the findings obtained from interviews show those children the importance of body privacy helps curb sexual harassments. Okojie (2020) also argued that children the importance of body privacy helps curb sexual harassments.

Teach children about boundaries

It was agreed by 44% of the respondents that teaching children about boundaries helps curb sexual harassments. 22% agreed while 11% were neutral. Other respondents who constituted 22% disagreed and 17% strongly agreed that teaching children about boundaries helps curb sexual harassments.

The above findings thus imply that teaching children about boundaries helps curb sexual harassments. Results obtained from interviews also show that teaching children about boundaries helps curb sexual harassments. Abdullah (2018) also opined that teaching children about boundaries helps curb sexual harassments.

Improve policy and legislation to protect children's rights

Further, the study investigated whether improving policy and legislation to protect children's rights may help curb sexual harassments. It was agreed by 42% of the respondents noting that improve policy and legislation to protect children's rights, 2% disagreed, 5% were not sure, while 3% strongly disagreed to the statement that improving policy and legislation to protect children's rights may help curb sexual harassments

From the research findings, the majority of the respondents (42%) agreed improving policy and legislation to protect children's rights may help curb sexual harassments and similar findings

were found by Ojangole et al., (2020) that improving policy and legislation to protect children's rights may help curb sexual harassments

Teach children appropriate boundaries and privacy

The researcher also investigated whether teaching children appropriate boundaries and privacy may help curb sexual harassments. From the findings therefore, 38% of the respondents agreed that teaching children appropriate boundaries and privacy may help curb sexual harassments, 17% of the respondents strongly agreed while 6% of the respondents were neutral, 14% of the respondents disagreed and 5% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

The study finding means that teaching children appropriate boundaries and privacy may help curb sexual harassments as agreed by 38% and this is in line with the data collected from face to face interviews. Research by Maria (2018) also found similar results where she argued that teaching children appropriate boundaries and privacy may help curb sexual harassments

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion, and recommendations about the study. It also looks at areas for further research.

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 Factors contributing to sexual harassment of children

The study found that stressful home environment contributes to sexual harassment of children

Even lack of self-esteem according to the findings contributes to sexual harassment of children

Findings also indicate that poor communication within the family contributes to sexual harassment of children

Additionally, misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children as revealed in the findings

Study findings also revealed that Tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children

5.1.2 Impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

The findings of the research study revealed that increases risks mental problems is a result of sexual harassment.

Study findings also showed psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders is a result of sexual harassment.

Further, findings showed that behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children are a result of sexual harassment.

Increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual harassment. And this was mentioned by study participants during data collection

Finding also revealed that sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children

5.1.3 Strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare

The study found that improving communication may help curb sexual harassments

It was also revealed during the study that teaching children the importance of body privacy may help curb sexual harassments of children and improve their welfare

Teaching children about boundaries may help curb sexual harassments as this was noted in the findings

It was also revealed during the study that improving policy and legislation to protect children's rights may help curb sexual harassments

Lastly, the study found that teach children appropriate boundaries and privacy may help curb sexual harassments

5.2 Conclusions

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn based on study objectives:

5.2.1 Factors contributing to sexual harassment of children

As found out by the study, stressful home environment contributes to sexual harassment of children which affect children's welfare

It is also true that self-esteem according to the findings contributes to sexual harassment of children and this was mentioned by study participants during the study

It is also true that poor communication within the family contributes to sexual harassment of children as noted in study findings

Misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children which affect children's welfare as revealed in the findings

As revealed in study findings, tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children and ultimately affect children's welfare

5.2.2 Impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

As revealed in study findings, increased of mental problems is a result of sexual harassment.

Psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders are a result of sexual harassment which affects children's welfare
and this was found by the study.

As revealed in the findings, behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children which affect children's welfare are a result of sexual harassment.

Increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual harassment which affects children's welfare and this was mentioned by study participants during data collection

Also as the findings revealed, sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children which affect children's welfare

5.2.3 Strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare

As revealed in the study findings, improving communication may help curb sexual harassments of children and improve their welfare

Teaching children the importance of body privacy may help curb sexual harassments of children and improve their welfare as this was revealed in the findings

Teaching children about boundaries may help curb sexual harassments of children and improve their welfare as this was noted in the findings

It was also revealed during the study that improving policy and legislation to protect children's rights may help curb sexual harassments and help to improve their welfare

Lastly, the study found that teach children appropriate boundaries and privacy may help curb sexual harassments

5.4 Recommendations

From the findings and conclusions of the research study, the following recommendations are made:

5.4. 1 Factors contributing to sexual harassment of children

Stressful home environment should be avoided as they lead to sexual harassment

Self-esteem according to the findings contributes to sexual harassment of children

Poor communication within the family contributes to sexual harassment of children

Misunderstanding boundaries contributes to sexual harassment of children which affect children's welfare

Tension among family members contributes to sexual harassment of children and ultimately affects children's welfare

5.4.2 Impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

Increased of mental problems is a result of sexual harassment.

Psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders are a result of sexual harassment which affects children's welfare

Behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children which affect children's welfare are a result of sexual harassment.

Increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS is a result of sexual harassment

Also as the findings revealed, sexual harassment leads to school dropout of children which affect children's welfare

5.4.3 Strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare

Improving communication may help curb sexual harassments of children and improve their welfare

Teaching children the importance of body privacy may help curb sexual harassments of children and improve their welfare

Teaching children about boundaries may help curb sexual harassments of children and improve the welfare of children

Improving policy and legislation to protect children's rights may help curb sexual harassments and help to improve their welfare

Teach children appropriate boundaries and privacy may help curb sexual harassments

5.5 Areas for further study

1. Socio-economic factors contributing to sexual harassment
2. Cultural factors influencing children's welfare
3. Social-demographic factors children's welfare

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

I am **Muzaki Esther** a student of Uganda Christian University, currently undertaking a research on a topic ‘Impact of sexual harassment on children’s welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district. You are privileged to participate in this research and your selection has been based on random sampling. Please feel free as you respond because the information you give will only be used for academic purposes, treated confidential and will be held anonymous before publication.

Thank you

SECTION A: REpondent's BIO - DATA

INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill in the blank spaces or tick (✓) in the boxes provided where necessary.

1. Name: (optional)

.....

2. Age: 15 – 30 31 – 45 ☐ 46 – 60 ☐ 60 + ☐

3. Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

4. Marital status: Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated ☐ Widowed ☐

5. Location:

Cell Parish Sub – county

6. Levels of education:

None ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Tertiary and above ☐

Other (please specify)

.....

.....

7. Religion: Protestant ☐ Catholics ☐ Muslims ☐ Born again ☐

Others (please specify).....

RESPONSE SCALE

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree

SECTION B: Factors contributing to sexual harassment of children

1.	Stressful home environment	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Lack of self esteem	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Poor communication	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Misunderstanding Boundaries	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION C: Impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare

8.	Increases risks mental problems	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Psychological difficulties such as depression and anxiety disorders	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Behavioral problems such as substance abuse and antisocial behavior among children	1	2	3	4	5
11.	Increased risk of disease infection like HIV/AIDS	1	2	3	4	5

SECTION D: Strategies for preventing sexual harassment and improve children's welfare

16.	Improve communication	1	2	3	4	5
17.	Teach them the importance of body privacy,	1	2	3	4	5
18.	Teach children about boundaries	1	2	3	4	5
19.	Improve policy and legislation to protect children's rights	1	2	3	4	5
20.	Teach children appropriate boundaries and privacy					

APPENDICES II

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR LOCAL LEADERS AND CHILD WELFARE OFFICERS

- 1) What is your position?
- 2) How long have you worked here?
- 3) What are some of the challenges children face?
- 4) What are the factors contributing to sexual harassment in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district?
- 5) What is the impact of sexual harassment on children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district?
- 6) Explain strategies that can be adopted to prevent sexual harassment and improve children's welfare in Busiu Sub County in Mbale district.

APPENDIXES III: WORK PLAN SCHEDULE

Duration Activity	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Developing Questionnaires												
Data collection												
Data processing and analysis												
Writing Draft and Final Report												
Submission of Report												

APPENDIX IV: BUDGET ESTIMATES

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
Stationary			
Ruled paper	2 reams	10,000/=	20,000/=
Note book	4	3,000/=	12,000/=
Printing	37 pages	500/=	18,500/=
Photocopying	74 pages	150/=	11,100/=
Pens	10	500/=	5,000/=
Bag	1 bag	35,000/=	35,000/=
Sub Total			101,600/=
Date collection			
Transport	5 days	20,000/=	100,000/=
Sub Total			201,600/=
Report writing			
Secretarial services			
Typing	64 pages	500 per page	32,000/=
Printing	64 pages	150 per page	9,600/=
Photocopying	150 pages	150per page	22,500/=
Binding	3books	20,000/= each	60,000/=
Sub Total			124,100/=
TOTAL SUM			325,700/=



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Office of the Academic Registrar

To T.....

TO SACAO-BUKU SUR-GUNY

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Academic Research

Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss TAUZAKI ESTHER
Of Registration Number HS21/19401/BU/029 pursuing a Masters
Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree

He/ she is required to carry out academic research on the topic

IMPACT OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT ON
CHILDREN IN BUKU SUR-GUNY

and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for
undergraduate and three (BLACK) copies for Postgraduate students as a university
requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he /
she is pursuing.

We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.
Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Akampurira Timothy
Academic Registrar



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