

**THE IMPACT OF PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND CHILD NEGLECT IN PAKWACH TOWN COUNCIL, PAKWACH DISTRICT**

SUNDAY PATRICK JAMUNDU

M23B15/068

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

May, 2026



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

DECLARATION

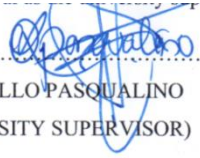
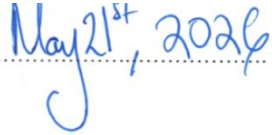
I, SUNDAY PATRICK JAMUNDU hereby declare that this dissertation “*The impact of parental alcohol abuse on domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District.*” is my original work and has not been submitted for any academic award in any institution of higher learning.

Sign: *SP*

Date: *21/05/2026*

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation was written under my guidance as the University Supervisor.

Signature.......... Date..........
MR. OKELLO PASQUALINO
(UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR)

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents and family members for the love, prayers, guidance and encouragement throughout my education journey. Their sacrifices and support have shaped who I am today.

I also dedicate this work to all children and families in Pakwach District who are affected by parental alcohol abuse, domestic violence and neglect. May this study contribute to improving their wellbeing and promoting peaceful families in Pakwach.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank the Almighty God for giving me life, strength and wisdom throughout my education journey and during the completion of this research study.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my research supervisor Mr. Okello Pasqualino for his professional guidance, patience and feedback throughout the research process.

I also wish to express my special thanks to my brother Kucel Newton for his financial assistance during the study. His support made it possible for me to carry out data collection and complete this research successfully.

I appreciate the support of my lecturers, classmates and all respondents who willingly participated in the study. Their cooperation made this research possible.

May God bless you all abundantly

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	I
APPROVAL	II
DEDICATION	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	IV
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	VIII
ABSTRACT	IX
CHAPTER ONE	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the study.....	1
1.2 Problem statement	3
1.3 Research purpose.....	3
1.4 Specific objectives.....	3
1.5 Research questions	4
1.6 Scope of the study	4
1.6.1 Content scope	4
1.6.2 Time scope.....	4
1.6.3 Geographical scope.....	4
1.7 Justification of the study	5
1.8 Significance of the study	5
1.9 Conceptual framework	6
1.10 Operational definitions.....	6
CHAPTER TWO	8
2.0 Introduction	8
2.1 Theoretical framework	8
2.2 Empirical evidence	9
2.3 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse	10
2.4 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence	11
2.5 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect.....	12
2.6 Literature gap	12
CHAPTER THREE	14
3.0 Introduction	14
3.1 Research design.....	14
3.2 Study approach.....	14
3.2.1 Quantitative approach.....	14
3.2.2 Qualitative approach.....	15
3.3 Area of study	15
3.4 Study population	15
3.5 Sample size and sample determination	16
3.6 Sampling techniques	16

3.6.1 Simple random sampling	16
3.6.2 Purposive sampling.....	17
3.7 Data collection methods	17
3.7.1 Questionnaire	17
3.7.2 Interview guide	17
3.8 Data collection instruments	18
3.9 Data quality control	18
3.9.1 Validiy	18
3.9.2 Reliability	18
3.10 Data processing and analysis.....	18
3.10.1 Quantttative data analysis	18
3.10.2 Qualitative data analysis	19
3.11 Ethical considerations	19
3.12 Methodology Challenges	19
CHAPTER FOUR.....	20
PRESENTATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF FINDINGS	20
4.0 Introduction	20
4.1 Response rate.....	20
4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS	20
4.2.1 Age of respondents	20
4.2.2 Sex of respondents.....	21
4.2.3 Category of respondents	21
4.2.4 Education level of respondents.....	22
4.3 FACTORS INFLUENCING PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE IN PAKWACH TOWN COUNCIL	22
4.4 CONTRIBUTION OF PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PAKWACH TOWN COUNCIL	25
4.5 CONTRIBUTION OF PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE TO CHILD NEGLECT.....	27
CHAPTER FIVE	29
DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	29
5.1 Introduction	29
5.2 Demographic information of respondents.....	29
5.3 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse	30
5.4 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence	32
5.5 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect.....	33
5.6 Summary of discussion	35
CHAPTER SIX.....	37
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	37
6.0 Introduction	37
6.1 Summary of findings.....	37

6.1.1 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council	37
6.1.2 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council	38
6.1.3 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council	38
6.2 Conclusion.....	39
5.2.1 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council	39
6.2.2 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council	39
6.2.3 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council	40
6.3 Recommendations	40
6.3.1 To government and policy makers	40
6.3.2 To social workers and community leaders	40
6.3.3 Areas for further research	41
References	42
Questionnaire	44
Interview guide	47
Informed consent form.....	49
Introductory letter	50

LIST OF ABBREVIATION

MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UDHS	Uganda Demographic and Health Survey
UCU	Uganda Christian University
WHO	World Health Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CBO	Community Based Organization
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
PTC	Pakwach Town Council
TC	Town council

ABSTRACT

The research examined the impact of parental alcohol abuse on domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District. The research was guided by social learning theory and ecological theory. The researcher used a descriptive survey design with mixed methods. Data was collected from 60 respondents including parents, children, social workers, probation officers and community leaders through questionnaires and interviews.

Findings revealed that parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council was influenced by poverty, stress, social acceptance of drinking, easy availability of alcohol, peer influence and weak law enforcement. The research showed that alcohol abuse contributes to domestic violence through increased conflicts between partners, physical aggression, emotional suffering and children witnessing violence. It further contributes to child neglect through failure to provide basic needs such as food and clothing, lack of proper supervision, school absenteeism and emotional neglect.

The research concludes that parental alcohol abuse significantly contributes to domestic violence and child neglect and recommends strengthened control policies, community sensitization, family counseling services and child protection interventions.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presented the introduction and background to the study, problem statement, research purpose, objectives, research questions, scope of the study, justification, significance, conceptual framework and operational definitions. The study focused on examining the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District.

1.1 Background to the study

Alcohol abuse was identified as a major social and public health problem worldwide. According to (WHO, 2023), harmful use of alcohol contributed to over 3 million deaths globally each year and was linked to family breakdown, violence and poor child care. When parents abused alcohol, they often failed to fulfill their responsibilities which resulted in domestic violence and neglect of children.

Domestic violence was defined as any form of physical, emotional, sexual or psychological abuse that occurs within the home. Studies showed that alcohol abuse increased aggression, reduced self control and impaired judgment which led to conflicts and violence between partners (WHO, 2022). Children who grew up in violent homes were more likely to experience emotional trauma, fear, poor academic performance and behavioral problems as reported by (UNICEF, 2021).

In Africa, alcohol consumption was influenced by cultural practices, poverty and easy access to local brews. Research in countries such as Kenya, South Africa and Uganda indicated that excessive alcohol use among parents contributed greatly to domestic violence and child neglect (Nabaggala et al., 2021; Parry & Morojele, 2020). In many

communities, locally brewed alcohol was cheap and easily available which made it difficult to control its misuse.

In Uganda, alcohol abuse remained common among both men and women. The Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS, 2022) reported high levels of alcohol consumption especially among men. In many districts including those in the West Nile region where Pakwach is located, local brews such as waragi and malwa were widely consumed. Reports from community leaders and probation offices in Pakwach District indicated increasing cases of domestic violence and child neglect linked to alcohol abuse (Pakwach District Local Government Report, 2024). Many parents spent their income on alcohol leaving little for food, school fees and medical care for their children.

Reports from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2021) indicated that domestic violence cases in Northern and West Nile regions were largely associated with alcohol abuse. In Pakwach district, local government reports (2024) showed increasing cases of family conflict, domestic violence and child neglect linked to alcohol consumption. Many parents spent household income on alcohol instead of providing basic needs such as food, school fees and health care for their children.

Despite the presence of laws such as the Children Act (2016) and policies aimed at controlling alcohol abuse, enforcement at community level remained weak. There was limited research focusing specifically on how parental alcohol abuse contributed to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council. This study therefore sought to explore this relationship in order to generate evidence that would guide interventions to protect children and strengthen families.

1.2 Problem statement

Ideally, parents were expected to provide love, care, protection and basic needs to their children. They were also expected to maintain peaceful relationships at home to ensure a safe environment for family members.

However, in Pakwach Town Council, cases of domestic violence and child neglect had continued to increase. Many of these cases were associated with parental alcohol abuse. Some parents spent most of their time drinking, misused family income and became aggressive when drunk. This led to conflicts, physical fights between partners and neglect of children's basic needs such as food, education and health care.

Children from such homes suffered emotional pain, poor supervision, school dropout and sometimes physical abuse. Although Uganda had laws and programs promoting child protection and prevention of domestic violence, the problem still persisted in many communities including Pakwach. There was limited documented research examining the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence and child neglect in the area. This study therefore aimed to fill this gap.

1.3 Research purpose

The main purpose of this study was to assess the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District.

1.4 Specific objectives

1. To identify the factors that influenced parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council.
2. To examine how parental alcohol abuse contributed to domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council.

3. To assess the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council.

1.5 Research questions

1. What factors influenced parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council?
2. How did parental alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council?
3. In what ways did parental alcohol abuse contribute to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council?

1.6 Scope of the study

1.6.1 Content scope

The study focused on examining how parental alcohol abuse contributed to domestic violence and child neglect. It explored issues such as physical violence between partners, emotional abuse, financial neglect, poor supervision of children and failure to provide basic needs.

1.6.2 Time scope

The study reviewed literature between 2015 and 2024 in order to capture recent research and policy developments related to alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child neglect.

1.6.3 Geographical scope

The study was conducted in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District in the West Nile region of Uganda in Puvungu parish, Puvungu kakawoi B village. Pakwach Town Council has trading centers, fishing activities and several bars and local

brewing sites where alcohol is easily accessible. The area had reported cases of domestic violence and child neglect which made it suitable for this study (Pakwach District Local Government, 2024).

1.7 Justification of the study

Parental alcohol abuse had been identified as a major contributor to domestic violence and child neglect globally and in Uganda (WHO, 2022; Nabaggala et al., 2021). However, there was limited research specifically focused on Pakwach Town Council. This study was important because it provided local evidence on how alcohol abuse among parents affected family welfare. The findings helped in designing appropriate interventions such as counseling services, community awareness programs and strengthening child protection systems.

1.8 Significance of the study

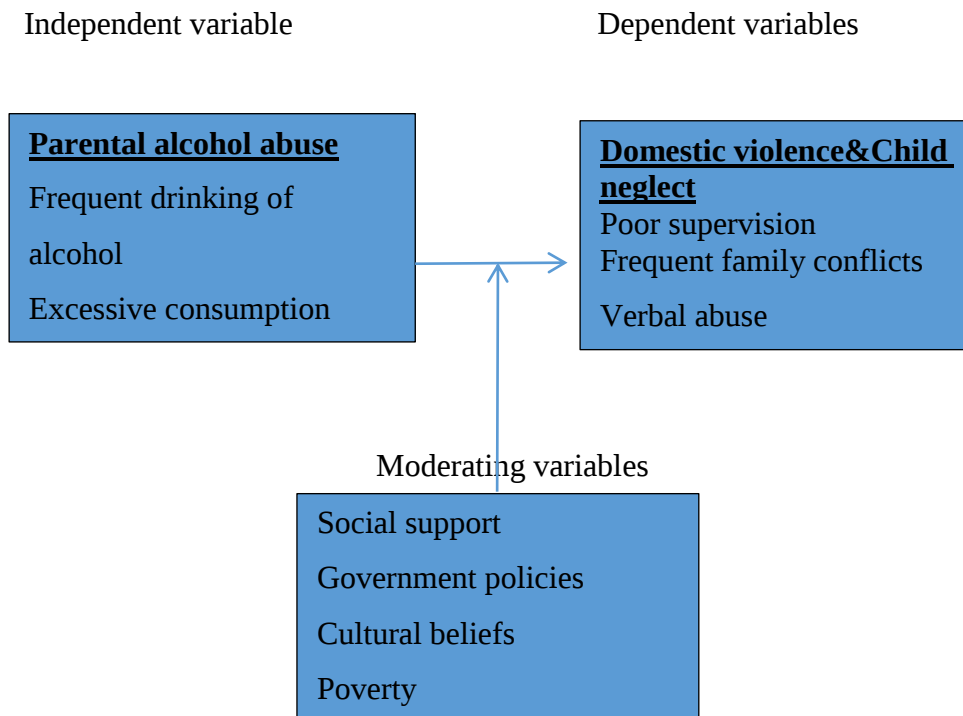
To researchers and academicians. The study added knowledge on the relationship between alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child neglect and will served as reference for future research.

To the community. The study raised awareness about the negative effects of alcohol abuse on families and encouraged responsible parenting.

To social workers and practitioners. The findings helped in designing effective programs such as family counseling, rehabilitation and community sensitization.

To policy makers. The study provided evidence to support stronger enforcement of alcohol control policies and domestic violence prevention laws.

1.9 Conceptual framework



NB.

The conceptual framework showed that parental alcohol abuse influenced domestic violence and child neglect. However, this relationship was affected by moderating factors such as poverty, cultural beliefs, social support and effectiveness of government policies.

1.10 Operational definitions

Parental alcohol abuse. Excessive and frequent consumption of alcohol by parents that interfered with their family responsibilities.

Domestic violence. Any form of physical, emotional, sexual or psychological abuse occurring between partners or family members within the home.

Child neglect. Failure of a parent or caregiver to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education and emotional support.

Alcohol related aggression. Violent or harmful behavior displayed by a person as a result of alcohol consumption.

Family conflict. Frequent disagreements or fights among family members that disturbed peace at home.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviewed existing literature related to the study topic. The review was based on books, journal articles, government reports and previous studies conducted in Uganda, Africa and other parts of the world. It contained the theoretical framework that guided the study and empirical evidence from past research. The literature was discussed according to the study objectives which included factors that influenced parental alcohol abuse, the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence and the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District.

2.1 Theoretical framework

This study was guided by social learning theory by Albert Bandura (1997) and ecological systems theory by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1994).

Social learning theory explained that people learn behavior by observing others, imitating their actions and modeling what they see around them. According to this theory, behavior is influenced not only by personal choice but also by the environmental factors and experiences.

In relation to parental alcohol abuse, children who grew up in families where drinking alcohol was common observed alcohol misuse and perceived it as normal behavior. They may also imitated aggressive and violent behavior displayed by drunk parents. When parents drink excessively, they became angry, violent and irresponsible. Children who observed such behavior learned that violence was an acceptable way of resolving conflicts. This led to a cycle of violence within families.

The theory also explained that alcohol reduce self-control and proper judgment. As a result, parents who abused alcohol shouted at their partners, beaten their children or failed to provide adequate care. Studies showed that parents who abused alcohol were likely to use harsh punishment and neglect their children's needs (Kumpfer & Alvarado, 2020).

Ecological systems theory explained that child development is influenced by different environmental systems such as family, community and society. Bronfenbrenner (1994) explained that a child lives within nested systems including immediate environment such as family, interaction between family and community, cultural beliefs, norms and laws.

In relation to this study, parental alcohol abuse occurred within the family surrounding but was influenced by other factors such as poverty, cultural acceptance of drinking alcohol and availability of alcohol in the community. These factors increased domestic violence and child neglect and negatively affected child development.

2.2 Empirical evidence

Globally, many studies showed that alcohol misuse was closely linked to domestic violence and child neglect. World Health Organization (2022) reported that harmful use of alcohol increased aggressive behavior, weakened parental responsibility and contributed to violence within families.

In the United States, study conducted by Smith and Wilson (2020) found that families where parents abused alcohol had higher cases of partner violence and child neglect compared to families without alcohol problems.

In South Africa, Parry and Morojele (2020) reported that alcohol abuse played a major role in domestic violence cases. The study found that many incidents of partner violence occurred when one or both partners were under the influence of alcohol.

In Kenya, Akinyi et al. (2019) found that excessive alcohol use among parents was linked to high rates of family conflict, poor supervision of children and child abandonment.

In Uganda, research by Nabaggala et al. (2021) found that parental alcohol abuse weakened family functioning and increased domestic violence. The study reported that children from such families often suffered food insecurity, school absenteeism and emotional distress. Reports from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2021) also indicated that many domestic violence cases reported at community level involved alcohol related circumstances.

2.3 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse

Globally, factors such as stress, poverty, unemployment and cultural acceptance of drinking increased the likelihood of alcohol abuse (WHO, 2022). In many African societies, alcohol was commonly consumed during social gatherings, ceremonies and celebrations. This cultural acceptance sometimes made excessive drinking appear normal.

In Uganda, poverty and unemployment were identified as major contributing factors to alcohol abuse. Many parents used alcohol as a way of coping with stress and financial difficulties (MGLSD, 2021). In communities where alcohol was cheap and easily available, parents were more likely to drink frequently.

Family related factors such as marital conflict, divorce, lack of emotional support and poor communication also increased alcohol misuse. Parents who grew up in homes where alcohol abuse was common were likely to repeat similar patterns. Low levels of

education and weak enforcement of alcohol control laws further increased the problem (Parry & Morojele, 2020).

In areas like Pakwach Town Council where trading centers, fishing activities and bars are common, alcohol was easily accessible. This easy availability contributed to increased alcohol alcohol consumption among parents and negatively affected family stability.

2.4 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence

Many studies confirmed that alcohol abuse increased the risk of domestic violence. Alcohol affected the brain's ability to control anger and make sound decisions. As a result, intoxicated individuals may became more aggressive and violent.

The WHO (2022) identified alcohol as a major risk factor for intimate partner violence. Drunk parents argued more frequently, used harsh words and physically assaulted their partners.

In Uganda, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2022) reported that many women who experienced domestic violence indicated that their partners were under the influence of alcohol during the incidents.

Domestic violence also had negative effects on children who witnessed such incidents. Children living in violent homes develop fear, anxiety and emotional problems. Some children ran away from home due to continuous conflict and instability. Therefore, parental alcohol abuse contributed directly and indirectly to family instability and domestic violence.

2.5 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect

Child neglect was identified as one of the most common effects of parental alcohol abuse. When parents spent most of their income on alcohol failed to provide basic needs such as food, education, health care and clothing.

Alcohol also reduced parental responsibility. Intoxicated parents failed to prepare meals, monitor school attendance and left children unsupervised for long hours (WHO, 2022). This exposed children to accidents, exploitation and poor academic performance.

Research conducted in Uganda showed that many neglected children came from families affected by alcohol abuse (Nabaggala et al., 2021). reports from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2021) showed that some children were found wandering in trading centers late at night while their parents were drinking. Emotional neglect was also common because intoxicated parents failed to show love, guidance and support to their children.

In communities like Pakwach Town Council where alcohol is easily available, parental alcohol abuse contributed to malnutrition, school dropout and poor child supervision.

2.6 Literature gap

Many studies had examined alcohol abuse and its effects on families in Uganda and other countries. Research showed that parental alcohol abuse increased domestic violence and child neglect (WHO, 2022; Nabaggala et al., 2021). However, most of these studies focused on general effects of alcohol at national and regional level.

There was limited research specifically examining how parental alcohol abuse contributed to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District. Local evidence was necessary because community specific

conditions such as poverty levels, cultural practices and availability of alcohol differ from other communities.

Therefore, this study aimed to fill this gap by examining the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council. The findings provided area specific evidence that could guide local interventions, policy implementation and child protection strategies.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter described the methods that guided the study. It includes the research design, study approach, area of study, study population, sample size and determination, sampling techniques, data collection methods and instruments, data quality control, data processing and analysis, ethical considerations and anticipated challenges.

3.1 Research design

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. A research design refers to the overall plan that guides how the study will be carried out including how data are collected and analyzed (Jain, 2023).

The design was used because it allowed the researcher to collect detailed data about parental alcohol abuse and its contribution to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council.

3.2 Study approach

The study used a mixed method approach which combined quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

3.2.1 Quantitative approach

The quantitative approach was used to measure patterns of alcohol abuse, frequency of domestic violence and occurrence of child neglect among households. It included demographic information such as age and education level of respondents.

3.2.2 Qualitative approach

Qualitative approach provided deep understanding of respondents experiences, perceptions and views regarding parental alcohol abuse and its effects on family welfare. According to John Creswell and J. David creswell (2018), using mixed methods helps to compare and confirm findings from different sources which improved the reliability of the study.

3.3 Area of study

The study was carried out in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District in the West Nile region of Uganda. Pakwach Town Council has trading centers, fishing activities and farming along River Nile and several bars and local brewing sites.

The area was selected because of reported high levels of alcohol consumption and increasing cases of domestic violence and child neglect linked to alcohol abuse. Reports from local leaders and community development officers indicated that alcohol abuse was a major challenge affecting family stability in the area (Pakwach District Local Government, 2024).

3.4 Study population

The study population consisted of parents, children from 12-17 years, social workers and community leaders in Pakwach town council. These respondents were selected because they had knowledge and experience about parental alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child neglect.

According to records from the Community Development Office in Pakwach Town Council (2024), 76 households and community members reported cases related to alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Therefore, the target population for the study was 76 respondents from selected households and community leaders.

3.5 Sample size and sample determination

The sample size was determined using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table. A population of 76 required a sample size of 63 respondents.

Table 1. Showing sample size determination method

<i>Table for Determining Sample Size of a Known Population</i>									
N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	346
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	354
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	170	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	180	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	190	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	200	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	370
65	56	210	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	220	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	230	144	550	226	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	240	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	250	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	260	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	254	2600	335	100000	384
<i>Note: N is Population Size; S is Sample Size</i>					<i>Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970</i>				

3.6 Sampling techniques

The study used both simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques.

3.6.1 Simple random sampling

Simple random sampling was used to select parents and children. This technique gave each member of the population an equal chance of being selected. List of households was obtained from Pakwach Town Council, Community Based Services department

and Local Council 1. Respondents were selected using a lottery method to ensure fairness and eliminate bias.

3.6.2 Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling was used to select social workers and community leaders. According to Etikan et al. (2016), purposive sampling involved selecting respondent's base on their knowledge, experience and relevance to the study topic. These respondents were selected because they had professional knowledge and experience in handling cases related to alcohol abuse, domestic violence, child neglect and child protection.

3.7 Data collection methods

The study used questionnaire and interview guides to collect data.

3.7.1 Questionnaire

The study used questionnaire to collect quantitative data from parents and community members. Questionnaires contained structured questions on alcohol consumption, domestic violence and child neglect. This helped the researcher to collect data from large number of respondents efficiently.

3.7.2 Interview guide

Interview guides were used to collect qualitative data from social workers and community leaders. Interviews are structured conversations aimed at obtaining detailed information from participants (Purl, 2024). This helped the researcher to collect detailed information, opinions and experiences related to alcohol abuse and its effects on families.

3.8 Data collection instruments

The instruments for this study was structured questionnaires and interview guides. According to Bhandari (2021), questionnaires are tools used to collect standardized information from respondents. Questionnaires contained closed ended questions to collect quantitative data and interview guides consisted of open ended questions to allow respondents to express their views freely and give detailed explanations.

3.9 Data quality control

The study ensured validity and reliability of data.

3.9.1 Validity

Validity refers to the extent to which the instruments measure what they are supposed to measure (Drost, 2011). Validity was ensured by designing research tools based on the objectives of the study. The research supervisor reviewed the tools to ensure clarity and gave permission to proceed with the interview.

3.9.2 Reliability

Reliability refers to the consistency of the research findings over time (Baingan & Watson, 2009). This was ensured by using standardized questionnaires for all respondents. A pilot study was conducted to test the data collections tools and corrections were made before the real data collection.

3.10 Data processing and analysis

3.10.1 Quantitative data analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics such frequencies and percentages. Data was entered into Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis and presented in tables.

3.10.2 Qualitative data analysis

Qualitative data from interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis. According to Braun and Clarke (2006), thematic analysis involved identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns and themes within qualitative data. The researcher transcribed interview responses, coded the data, identified common themes and interpreted the findings according to the objectives of the study. The results was then presented in narrative form with direct quotations from respondents.

3.11 Ethical consideration

The researcher observed ethical principles throughout the study. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents before data collection. Participation was voluntary and respondents were free to withdraw at anytime during the study.

The researcher maintained confidentiality by not recording respondents names. Introductory letter was obtained from the head of department, school of Social Sciences at UCU with permission from the research supervisor to seek permission to conduct the study. Permission was also obtained from the Town Clerk, Pakwach Town Council Local Government to conduct the study.

3.12 Methodology Challenges

The study faced challenges such as limited time, financial constraints, language barriers and reluctance of respondents to discuss sensitive issues like domestic violence. Some respondents were not available at the time of data collection.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and interprets the findings from the field on the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District.

Quantitative data collected from parents and children were presented using Likert scale tables showing frequencies and percentages in tables according to section A, B, C and D of the questionnaire. Qualitative data collected from community leaders, social workers and probation officers was analyzed using thematic analysis and presented in narrative form with direct quotations.

4.1 Response rate

The sample size for the study was 63, questionnaires were distributed to 63 respondents and only 60 were fully answered. This represented a response rate of 95.2% which showed that the response rate was good

4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

4.2.1 Age of respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
12-17	14	23%
18-25	16	27%
26-35	18	30%
36 and above	12	20%
Total	60	100%

The findings showed that most respondents 30% were between the ages of 26-35 years followed by those between 18-25 years 27%. This indicated that the majority of the respondents were adults and parents who had experience about family life and effects of alcohol abuse.

4.2.2 Sex of respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentages
Male	35	58%
Female	25	42%
Total	60	100%

The findings in this table showed that both men and women participated in the study but the majority of the respondents were men 58% and females 42%. this gender distribution reflected the reality in Pakwach Town Council, men were more frequently the primary respondents in household surveys.

4.2.3 Category of respondents

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Parent/guardian	38	63%
Children	22	37%
Total	60	100%

The table shows that most respondents 63% were parents and guardians who had direct experience with family responsibilities and alcohol related issues. Children represented 37% which stands as a witness to domestic violence and victims of neglect.

4.2.4 Education level of respondents

Education level	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	24	40%
Secondary	19	32%
Tertiary	8	13%
None	9	15%
Total	60	100%

The findings in this table shows that most respondents 40% had primary education. 15% had no formal education. This low level of education was relevant to the findings because limited education reduced awareness about the dangers of alcohol abuse and effective parenting styles.

4.3 FACTORS INFLUENCING PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE IN PAKWACH TOWN COUNCIL

STRONGLY DISAGREE (1), DISAGREE(2), NEUTRAL(3), AGREE(4), STRONGLY AGREE(5)

NO	STATEMENT	SD(1)	D(2)	N(3)	A(4)	SA(5)	TOTAL
6	Poverty pushes many parents to drink alcohol	(2) 3.3%	(4) 6.7%	(6) 10.0%	(24) 40.0%	(24) 40.0%	(60) 100%
7	Stress and family problems lead parents to drink alcohol	(1) 1.7%	(5) 8.3%	(6) 10.0%	(23) 38.3%	(25) 41.7%	(60) 100%
8	Alcohol is easily available in this community	(1) 1.7%	(3) 5.0%	(4) 6.7%	(24) 40.0%	(28) 46.7%	(60) 100%

9	Drinking alcohol is socially accepted in this community	(2) 3.3%	(4) 6.7%	(7) 11.7%	(27) 45.0%	(20) 33.3%	(60) 100%
10	Parents copy drinking behavior from friends or relatives	(3) 5.0%	(5) 8.3%	(6) 10.0%	(25) 41.7%	(21) 35.0%	(60) 100%
11	Weak law enforcement encourages alcohol abuse	(2) 3.3%	(4) 6.7%	(7) 11.7%	(28) 46.7%	(19) 31.7%	(60) 100%

Regarding poverty as a factor influencing parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council, 40% of respondents agreed and another 40% strongly agreed and only 10% disagreed. 80% of respondents affirmed that poverty pushes many parents to drink alcohol.

The results showed 80% agreed that stress leads parents to alcohol abuse. 38.3% agreed and 41.7% strongly agreed.

86.7% of respondents acknowledge that alcohol is easily available in Pakwach Town Council. 40% agreed, 46.7% strongly agreed and 6.7% disagreed.

On social acceptance of drinking, 45% agreed and 33.3% strongly agreed making 78.3% who confirmed that drinking alcohol is socially accepted in the community.

Regarding peer influence, 41.7% agreed and 35% strongly agreed showing 76.7% who agreed that parents copy drinking behavior from friends and relatives.

78.4% agreed that weak law enforcement encourages alcohol abuse. 46.7% agreed and 31.7% strongly agreed.

Qualitative findings

Local council 1 said *“alcohol is everywhere in Pakwach even in small shops near homes you find cheap local waragi which makes it easy for parents to drink daily.”*KII-02-2026

An elder in the community explained..... *“drinking alcohol is seen as normal here. During ceremonies and gatherings, alcohol is always present for everyone so people grow up thinking it is acceptable.”*KII-05-2026

Probation officer said..... *“some parents copy drinking habits from friends. When they meet in trading centre, they encourage one another to drink.”*KII-01-2026

Probation officer also explained..... *“there are laws about alcohol sales but they are rarely enforced you find bars operating late at night without any restriction.”*KII-01-2026

A social worker explained..... *“many parents drink because they are frustrated by poverty and unemployment. When they fail to provide for their families, they turn to alcohol as a way to cope with the stress.”*KII-03-2026

Probation officer also said, *“when parents experience conflicts in their marriage of financial pressure, they use alcohol to reduce stress but in the end it worsens the situations.”*KII-01-2026

4.4 CONTRIBUTION OF PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PAKWACH TOWN COUNCIL

NO	STATEMENT	SD(1)	D(2)	N(3)	A(4)	SA(5)	TOTAL
12	Alcohol abuse increases conflict between parents	(2) 3.3%	(4) 7.0%	(6) 10.0%	(23) 38.3%	(25) 42.0%	(60) 100%
13	Many domestic violence cases happens when parents are drunk	(3) 5.0%	(3) 5.0%	(4) 6.7%	(22) 36.7%	(28) 47.0%	(60) 100%
14	Alcohol makes parents aggressive and violent	(2) 3.3%	(4) 7.0%	(5) 8.3%	(25) 41.7%	(24) 40.0%	(60) 100%
15	Children often witness violence when parents drink	(2) 3.3%	(3) 5.0%	(1) 1.7%	(25) 41.7%	(29) 48.3%	(60) 100%
16	Alcohol causes emotional suffering in the family	(1) 1.7%	(3) 5.0%	(4) 6.7%	(22) 36.7%	(30) 50.0%	(60) 100%

The table shows that 80.3% of respondents agreed that alcohol abuse increases conflict between parents, 38.3% agreed, 42.0% strongly agreed and 8.3% disagreed.

83.7% agreed that many domestic violence cases happens when parents are drunk. 36.7% agreed and 47.0% strongly agreed.

81.7% agreed that alcohol makes parents aggressive and violent. 41.7% agreed and 40.0% strongly agreed.

9.0% confirmed that children often witness violence when parents drinks. 41.7% agreed and 48.3% strongly agreed.

86.7% agreed that alcohol causes emotional suffering in the family. 36.7% agreed and 50% strongly agreed.

Qualitative findings

Local council 1 said, *“most domestic fights in this community happen when parents are drunk. When sober, they may argue but alcohol makes the violence worse.”*KII-02-2026

Probation officer also explained *“we see cases of beating, insults and abuse. Some women report being beaten at night when their husbands return home drunk”*KII-01-2026

Probation officer added..... *“alcohol reduce reasoning capacity. A small disagreement becomes a serious fight because the person is not thinking clearly.”*KII-01-2026

Social worker said,..... *“most children who see their parents fighting cry and hide but no one comforts them. This creates fear in the home.”*KII-03-2026

Social worker also explained, *“some children develop trauma because they grow up seeing violence as normal behavior.”*KII-03-2026

When asked whether most domestic violence cases are linked to alcohol abuse, Probation officer replied, *“in my experience, a big percentage of domestic violence cases reported here involve alcohol.”*KII-01-2026

4.5 CONTRIBUTION OF PARENTAL ALCOHOL ABUSE TO CHILD NEGLECT

NO	STATEMENT	SD(1)	D(2)	N(3)	A(4)	SA(5)	TOTAL
17	Parents who drink alcohol often neglect their children	(1) 1.7%	(6) 10.6%	(4) 6.7%	(24) 40.0%	(25) 41.6%	(60) 100%
18	Alcohol abuse reduces money available for food and clothes	(1) 1.7%	(3) 5.0%	(4) 6.7%	(21) 35.0%	(31) 51.7%	(60) 100%
19	Children from alcohol abuse homes lack proper supervision	(2) 3.3%	(3) 5.0%	(4) 6.7%	(22) 36.6%	(29) 48.3%	(60) 100%
20	Alcohol abuse makes parents irresponsible toward their children	(1) 1.7%	(3) 5.0%	(4) 6.7%	(25) 41.7%	(27) 45.0%	(60) 100%
21	Children from alcohol abuse homes often miss school	(2) 3.3%	(3) 5.0%	(5) 8.3%	(24) 40.0%	(26) 43.3%	(60) 100%
22	Alcohol abuse leads to emotional neglect of children	(5) 8.3%	(3) 5.0%	(4) 6.7%	(20) 33.3%	(28) 46.6%	(60) 100%

81.6% of respondents confirmed that parents who drink alcohol often neglect their children. 40% agreed and 41.6% strongly agreed.

86.7% affirmed that alcohol abuse reduces money available for food and clothes. 35% agreed and 51.7% strongly agreed.

84.9% agreed that children from alcohol abuse homes lack proper supervision. 36.6% agreed and 48.3% strongly agreed.

86.7% agreed that alcohol abuse makes parents irresponsible towards their children. 41.7% agreed and 45% strongly agreed.

On school absenteeism, 83.3% agreed that children from alcohol abuse homes often miss school. 40% agreed and 43.3% strongly agreed.

79.9% confirmed that alcohol abuse leads to emotional neglect of children. 33.3% agreed and 46.6% strongly agreed.

Qualitative findings

Probation officer explained,..... *“I always see parents who seriously ignore their children. They just leave them at home even babies are not always carried by their mothers to create that natural bond.”*KII-01-2026

A social worker also shared similar observation,..... *“some parents do not even talk to their children. When children cry, they are ignored and shouted at.”*KII-03-2026

Local council 1 explained,..... *“some children stay hungry because their parents prioritize alcohol over family responsibilities.”*KII-02-2026

Local council 1 also explained,..... *“Children are left alone at night when parents go to drink. Even small children move around without guidance.”*KII-02-2026

Local council 1 added,..... *“parents who drink daily spend money on alcohol than buying food and clothes for children.”*KII-02-2026

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings presented in chapter four in relation to the literature reviewed in chapter two. The discussion is organized according to objectives of the study. The focus is on explaining how the findings from Pakwach Town Council compares with previous studies and what new insights they bring.

5.2 Demographic information of respondents

The study found that most respondents 30% were between 26 to 35 years. This finding was relevant because this age group represents parents who are actively raising children. Previous studies by Nabaggala et al. (2021) in rural Ugandan also found that alcohol abuse was common among parents in this age bracket. This suggest that middle aged parents face the highest pressure from family responsibilities and financial stress which may push them to drink alcohol.

Regarding gender, the study found that male respondents 58% outnumbered female respondents 42%. this finding is supported by UDHS (2022) which reported that men in Uganda consume alcohol at higher rates than women.

The study found that 63% of respondents were parents/guardian and 37% were children. The distribution was appropriate because parents provided information about their own drinking behavior while the children provided information about what they observed at home. UNICEF (2021) recommends including children's voices in research that affects their wellbeing.

5.3 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse

Objective one sought to identify factors that influence parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council. The study found that 80% of respondents agreed that poverty pushes parents to drink alcohol. This findings strongly supports the WHO (2022) report which stated that poverty and financial stress are major drivers of alcohol abuse worldwide. When parents cannot provide for their families, they may drink to forget their problems. The qualitative response from a social worker that “many parents drink because they are frustrated by poverty and unemployment” matches with what Nabaggala et al. (2021) found in other parts of Uganda.

The study also found that 80% of respondents agreed that stress and family problems lead parents to drink alcohol. This finding is consistent with Kumpfer & Alvarado (2020) who explained that people use alcohol as a coping mechanism when facing difficult life situations. In Pakwach Town Council, marital conflicts, financial difficulties and lack of emotional support create stress that pushes parents towards drinking. this finding does not contradict any previous studies but adds specific local evidence from a rural Ugandan community.

The study found that 86.7% of respondents agreed that alcohol is easily available in Pakwach Town Council. This finding strongly supports ecological systems theory developed by Bronfenbrenner (1994) which explains that environmental factors influence individual behavior. When alcohol is sold everywhere even in small shops near homes, parents find it easy to buy and drink daily. The qualitative response that “alcohol is everywhere in Pakwach” confirms what the Pakwach District Local Government Report (2024) stated about easy access to local brews like waragi and malwa. This finding is similar to what Akinyi et al. (2019) found in Kenya where easy availability of cheap alcohol increased parental drinking.

The study found that 78.3% of respondents agreed that drinking alcohol is socially accepted in the community. This finding support social learning theory by Bandura (1997) which states that people learn behavior by observing and imitating others. When children see adults drinking at ceremonies and gathering, they grow up thinking alcohol use is normal. This finding is consistent with Parry & Morojele (2020) who found that cultural acceptance of drinking in South African communities contributed to high rates of alcohol abuse. The qualitative response that alcohol is always present for everyone shows that social norms in Pakwach encourage rather than discouraging drinking.

The study found that 76.7% of respondents agreed that parents copy drinking behavior from friends or relatives. This finding support social learning theory and is consistent with research by Smith & Wilson (2020) in the United States which found that peer influence strongly predicts alcohol abuse. In Pakwach Town Council, when parents meet friends in trading centers, they encourage each other to drink.

The study found that 78.4% of respondents agreed that weak law enforcement encourages alcohol abuse. This finding is new and important because most previous studies focused on individual and social factors rather than enforcement of laws. The qualitative response that “there are laws about alcohol sales but they are rarely enforced” shows a gap between policy and practice. The MGLSD (2021) noted that weak enforcement of alcohol laws is a problem throughout Uganda but this study provide specific evidence from Pakwach. This finding suggest that strengthening law enforcement could reduce parental alcohol abuse.

5.4 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence

Objective two examined how parental alcohol abuse contributes to domestic violence. The study found that 80.3% of respondents agreed that alcohol abuse increases conflicts between parents. This finding strongly support WHO (2022) which identified alcohol as a risk factor for intimate partner violence. The qualitative response that “most domestic fights happen when parents are drunk” confirms that alcohol does not cause conflicts by itself but make existing conflicts worse. This finding is consistent with UBOS (2022) which reported that 85% of women who experienced domestic violence said their partners were drunk during the incidents.

The study found that 83.7% of respondents agreed that many domestic violence cases happen when parents are drunk. This finding is directly supported by Nabaggala et al. (2021) who found similar patterns in rural Uganda. The qualitative response that “some women report being beaten at night when their husbands return home drunk” shows that alcohol related violence is a common experience for women in Pakwach.

The study also found that 81.7% of respondents agreed that alcohol makes parents aggressive and violent. This finding support the physiological explanation that alcohol impairs judgement and reduces self-control (WHO, 2022). When a person is drunk, a small disagreement can become a serious fight because they are not thinking clearly. The qualitative response that “alcohol reduces reasoning capacity” matches with what medical research has shown about how alcohol affects the brain. This finding is consistent with Parry & Morojele (2020) in South Africa where alcohol related aggression was a major cause of domestic violence.

The study found that 90% of respondents agreed that children often witness violence when parents drink. This finding is very concerning and strongly support UNICEF (2021) which reported that millions of children worldwide witness domestic violence.

The qualitative response that “most children who see their parents fighting cry and hide but no one comforts them” shows that children suffer emotional harm even when they are not directly beaten. This finding also supports ecological systems theory by Bronfenbrenner (1994) which explains that the family environment directly shapes child development. Children who grow up seeing violence may learn that violence is normal which continues the cycle into the next generation.

The study found that 86.7% of respondents agreed that alcohol causes emotional suffering in the family. This finding support the MGLSD (2021) report which stated that domestic violence includes not only physical harm but also emotional and psychological abuse. The qualitative response that “some children develop trauma because they grow up seeing violence as normal behavior” shows that emotional suffering can last for many years. This finding adds to existing knowledge by showing that in Pakwach, emotional suffering is just as common as physical violence.

5.5 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect

Objective three assessed how parental alcohol abuse contributes to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council. The study found that 81.6% of respondents agreed that parents who drink alcohol often neglect their children. The finding support WHO (2022) which identified parental substance abuse as a major risk factor for child neglect. The qualitative response that “parents seriously ignore their children” shows that neglect is common in alcohol affected families in Pakwach. This finding is consistent with Nabaggala et al. (2021) who found similar patterns in other parts of Uganda.

The study found that 86.7% of respondents agreed that alcohol abuse reduces money available for food and clothes. This finding support Smith & Wilson (2020) who found that alcohol abusing parents in the United States spent up to 30% of household

income on alcohol. In Pakwach, the situation maybe even worse because families have very little money to begin with. The qualitative response that “some children stay hungry because their parents prioritize alcohol over family responsibilities” shows that alcohol competes with children's basic needs. This finding is new and it provides specific evidence from a low income Ugandan community where even small amount of money spent on alcohol can mean the difference between children eating and going hungry.

The study found that 84.9% of respondents agreed that children from alcohol abusing homes lack proper supervision. The finding support Akinyi et al. (2019) who found that Kenyan children from alcohol abusing homes often wandered unsupervised. The qualitative response that “children are left alone at night when parents go to drink” shows that lack of supervision exposes children to dangers sch as accidents, exploitation and risky behaviors. In Pakwach where there are few child protection services, unsupervised children are vulnerable. This finding does not contradict previous studies but adds local evidence from the West Nile region of Uganda.

The study found also that 86.7% of respondents agreed that alcohol abuse makes parents irresponsible towards their children. This finding support MGLSD (2021) report which stated that alcohol impairs parental functioning. The qualitative response that “parents who drink daily spend money on alcohol instead of buying food and clothes for children” shows that irresponsibility is not just about forgetting but making wrong choices. This finding is consistent with what Kumpfer & Alvarado (2020) found about substance abusing parents neglecting their responsibilities.

The study found that 83.3% of respondents agreed that children from alcohol abuse homes often miss school. This finding support UBOS (2022) which reported that children from alcohol affected families had higher dropout rates. When parents spend

money on alcohol, they may not have money for school fees. When parents are drunk, they may not wake up to send children to school. Children may also stay at home because they are ashamed of their family situation. This finding is important because education is one of the main ways children can escape poverty. When alcohol abuse causes children to miss school, it keeps families trapped in poverty across generations. The study found that 79.9% of respondents agreed that alcohol abuse leads to emotional neglect of children. This finding support UNICEF (2021) which stated that emotional neglect is often overlooked but causes serious harm to children. The qualitative response that “when children cry, they are ignored and shouted at” shows that alcohol abusing parents fail to provide the love and attention children need. The response that “even babies are not always carried by their mothers to create natural bond” shows that alcohol interferes with attachment formation which is critical for a healthy child development. This finding add new knowledge by showing that in Pakwach, emotional neglect is just common as physical neglect.

5.6 Summary of discussion

The findings from Pakwach Town Council strongly support most previous studies on alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child neglect. The study confirmed that poverty, stress, easy availability of alcohol, social acceptance, peer influence and weak law enforcement all contribute to parental alcohol abuse. The study also confirmed that alcohol abuse increases domestic violence by making parents aggressive and reducing self-control. Children witness this violence and suffer emotional trauma. The study also confirmed that alcohol abuse leads to child neglect including failure to provide food and clothes, lack of supervision, school absenteeism and emotional neglect.

The study provided new evidence about weak law enforcement as a contributing factor which has received less attention in previous studies. This local evidence from

from Pakwach Town Council which was missing from the literature is important because community conditions such as poverty levels, cultural practices and availability of alcohol differ from one community to another.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

This chapter contained the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations for government and policy makers, social workers, community leaders and further research in Pakwach Town Council.

6.1 Summary of findings

6.1.1 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council

The study showed that parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council is influenced by many factors. Majority of respondents agreed that alcohol is easily available in Pakwach. Bars, local brewing sites and small shops sell alcohol at low prices which make it easy for parents to access alcohol on a daily basis.

The study also showed that drinking alcohol is socially accepted in the community. Alcohol is commonly used during ceremonies, social gatherings and celebrations. This makes alcohol consumption appear normal. Peer influence was another factor, many parents copy drinking behaviors from relatives and friends especially in trading centers.

Weak law enforcement on alcohol sale was another factor. Respondents reported that bars operate late at night without any strict regulation. Poverty, unemployment and family stress were repeatedly mentioned during interview as reasons why parents turn to alcohol as a copying mechanism.

6.1.2 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council

The study found that parental alcohol abuse significantly contributes to domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council. Most respondents agreed that alcohol abuse increases conflict between parents and that many domestic violence cases occur when one or both parents are drunk.

WHO (2022) reported that alcohol increases aggression, reduces self-control and impairs judgement. As a result, small disagreement often turns into serious fights and verbal abuse. Parental alcohol abuse also contributed to emotional suffering within families in Pakwach Town Council.

The findings also showed that children frequently witness violence when parents are under the influence of alcohol. This creates fear, trauma and emotional distress among children. The findings therefore show that alcohol abuse not only causes violence but also intensifies existing family conflicts and affects family stability.

6.1.3 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council

The study found that parental alcohol abuse strongly contributes to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council. Most respondents agreed that parents who abuse alcohol often fail to provide basic needs of the family such as food, clothes, school fees and medical care. Respondents reported that alcohol consumption reduces the money available for family use because some parents prioritize drinking over family responsibilities.

Children in alcohol affected families were reported to lack supervision. Some parents leave their children at night when they go to drink which expose them to risks and

unsafe environments. School absenteeism was also common among children from such families.

The study also showed emotional neglect as a major contributor. Parents who abuse alcohol often fail to give love, attention and guidance to their children. As a result, children experience emotional pain and long term psychological effects.

6.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 Factors influencing parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council

The study concluded that parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council is influenced by different factors. Poverty, unemployment, stress, social and environmental factors push many parents to use alcohol as a coping mechanism.

Easy availability of alcohol, cultural acceptance of drinking alcohol, peer influence and weak law enforcement on alcohol sale also contributes to the problem by encouraging excessive consumption of alcohol.

6.2.2 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council

The study concluded that parental alcohol abuse significantly increases domestic violence in Pakwach Town Council. Alcohol reduces self-control and increases aggression which leads to fighting, verbal abuse and emotional suffering within families. Many domestic violence cases occur when one or both parents are under the influence of alcohol.

Children who witness violence suffer from trauma, fear and psychological problems. Therefore alcohol abuse weakens family stability and creates unsafe home environments.

6.2.3 Contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council

The study concluded that parental alcohol abuse is a major contributor to child neglect in Pakwach Town Council. Parents who abuse alcohol often fail to provide basic needs such as food, clothes, school fees and medical care. Alcohol abuse reduces family income and increases irresponsibility. Children from alcohol affected families lack supervision, emotional support and education stability since many miss school. As a result, their physical, emotional, psychological and academic development is negatively affected.

6.3 Recommendations

6.3.1 To government and policy makers

Government and policy makers should strengthen enforcement of alcohol control laws in order to reduce easy access to alcohol. There is also need to increase community sensitization programs about the dangers of alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child neglect. Programs on poverty reduction and unemployment should be promoted to reduce financial stress among families. The government should also strengthen the implementation of the Children Act to protect children from abuse and neglect and lastly, rehabilitation and counselling services should also be expanded in Pakwach District.

6.3.2 To social workers and community leaders

Social workers and community leaders should conduct regular awareness campaigns on responsible parenting and the effects of alcohol abuse. Family counselling and conflict resolution services should be put in place to help couples experiencing

domestic violence. Social workers should identify children at risk of neglect and give follow up support such as home visits and also community support groups for parents struggling with alcohol addiction should also be encouraged.

Community should promote responsible drinking behaviors and discourage excessive consumption of alcohol. Families should support members who are struggling with alcohol problems instead of isolating them. Child protection officers should strengthen their services and report cases of domestic violence and child neglect. Positive parenting styles and peaceful conflict resolution should be promoted within families.

6.3.3 Areas for further research

Future research should examine the effectiveness of community based rehabilitation programs in reducing parental alcohol abuse. Future studies should also examine the long term psychological effects of witnessing domestic violence on children in Pakwach District. Research can also be conducted on the role of cultural beliefs in influencing alcohol consumption in rural communities.

In conclusion, the study showed that parental alcohol abuse is a serious social problem in Pakwach Town Council. It contributes significantly to domestic violence and child neglect. To address this issue, it requires combined efforts from government, social workers, community leaders and families to protect children and promote peaceful and stable homes.

References

- Akinyi, J, Otieno, P, & Mwangi, S. (2019). Parental alcohol abuse and child vulnerability in Kenya. *African Journal of Social Work*, 9(2), 45-58.
- Baingan, M, & Watson, R. (2009). Reliability and validity in research. *Journal of Nursing Research*, 17(3), 150-155.
- Bandura, A. (1997). *Self-efficacy: The exercise of control*. W.H. Freeman.
- Braun, V, & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), 77-101.
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1994). Ecological models of human development. In T. Husen & T. N. Postlethwaite (Eds.), *International encyclopedia of education* (2nd ed.). Elsevier.
- Creswell, J. W, & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Drost, E. A. (2011). Validity and reliability in social science research. *Education Research and Perspectives*, 38(1), 105-123.
- Etikan, I, Musa, S. A., & Alkassim, R. S. (2016). Comparison of convenience sampling and purposive sampling. *American Journal of Theoretical and Applied Statistics*, 5(1), 1-4.
- Jain, S. (2023). Understanding research design in social sciences. *International Journal of Research Methodology*, 8(1), 12-20.
- Krejcie, R. V, & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Determining sample size for research activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30(3), 607-610.
- Kumpfer, K. L, & Alvarado, R. (2020). Family based interventions for substance abuse prevention. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 55(6), 1025-1034.
- Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD). (2021). *National report on domestic violence and child protection in Uganda*. Government of Uganda.

- Nabaggala, S, Nuwaha, F., & Atkins, S. (2021). Alcohol misuse and family functioning in rural Uganda. *BMC Public Health*, 21(1), 1-10.
- Pakwach District Local Government. (2024). Community development and probation office annual report. Pakwach District.
- Parry, C. D. H., & Morojele, N. K. (2020). Alcohol use and domestic violence in South Africa. *African Journal of Drug & Alcohol Studies*, 19(2), 75-89.
- Purl, J. (2024). Interview methods in social research. *Journal of Qualitative Inquiry*, 30(1), 22-30.
- Smith, L, & Wilson, T. (2020). Alcohol abuse and child neglect in family households. *Journal of Family Studies*, 26(4), 560-575.
- Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). (2022). Uganda demographic and health survey 2022. UBOS and ICF.
- UNICEF. (2021). The state of the world's children 2021: On my mind Promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health. UNICEF.
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2022). Global status report on alcohol and health. WHO.
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2023). Alcohol and health fact sheet. WHO.

Questionnaire

(For parents and children in Pakwach Town Council)

Dear Respondent,

My name is Sunday Patrick Jamundu, a student at Uganda Christian University, Mukono pursuing a Bachelor Degree of Social Work and Social Administration . I am conducting a study on *the impact of parental alcohol abuse on domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District*.

This questionnaire is for academic purposes only. You are kindly requested to answer the questions honestly. Your responses will be kept confidential and will only be used for academic purposes.

Please tick (✓) only one answer in Sections B, C and D:

Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

SECTION A

Demographic information

1. Age

☐ 12–17 ☐ 18–25 ☐ 26–35 ☐ 36 and above

2. Sex

☐ Male ☐ Female

3. You are

☐ Parent/Guardian ☐ Child

4. Education level

☐ None ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Tertiary

SECTION B

To identify factors that influence parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council

NO	STATEMENT	A	SA	N	D	SD
6	Poverty pushes many parents to drink alcohol					
7	Stress and family problems lead parents to drink alcohol					
8	Alcohol is easily available in this community					
9	Drinking alcohol is socially accepted in this community					
10	Parents copy drinking behavior from friends or relatives					
11	Weak law enforcement encourages alcohol abuse					

SECTION C

To examine the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence

NO	STATEMENT	A	SA	N	D	SD
12	Alcohol abuse increases conflict between parents					
13	Many domestic violence cases happens when parents are drunk					
14	Alcohol makes parents aggressive and violent					
15	Children often witness violence when parents drink					
16	Alcohol causes emotional suffering in the family					

SECTION D

To assess the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect

NO	STATEMENT	A	SA	N	D	SD
17	Parents who drink alcohol often neglect their children					
18	Alcohol abuse reduces money available for food and clothes					
19	Children from alcohol abuse homes lack proper supervision					
20	Alcohol abuse makes parents irresponsible toward their children					
21	Children from alcohol abuse homes often miss school					
22	Alcohol abuse leads to emotional neglect of children					

Interview guide

(For community leaders, social workers and probation officers)

SECTION A

Demographic information

1. Age
2. Position
3. Years of experience

SECTION B

To identify factors that influence parental alcohol abuse in Pakwach Town Council

4. What do you understand by parental alcohol abuse?
5. How common is alcohol drinking among parents in Pakwach Town Council?
6. What are the main reasons why parents drink alcohol in this area?
7. How does poverty or stress contribute to alcohol abuse?
8. How does the community view alcohol drinking? Is it socially accepted?
9. What measures can be taken to reduce parental alcohol abuse?

SECTION C

To examine the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence

10. What forms of domestic violence are common in families where parents drink?
11. How does alcohol abuse contribute to violence between partners?
12. How does alcohol related conflict affect children in the home?
13. In your experience, are most domestic violence cases linked to alcohol? Please explain.

SECTION D

To assess the contribution of parental alcohol abuse to child neglect

14. What types of child neglect are common in families affected by alcohol abuse?
15. How does parental alcohol abuse affect provision of food, education and health care?
16. How does alcohol abuse affect supervision and emotional support of children?
17. What long term effects do children from alcohol affected homes face?
18. What interventions can be introduced to protect children from neglect in alcohol affected families?

Informed consent form

Dear Participant,

My name is Sunday Patrick Jamundu. I am conducting a study on *the impact of parental alcohol abuse on domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District*.

The purpose of this study is to understand how parental alcohol abuse affects families in Pakwach Town Council.

You are being asked to participate because your views are important. You are free to say yes or no. If you agree, you will answer some questions. There is no payment and you can stop at any time. Your name will not appear in the report.

Your answers will be kept private.

Name

Signature

Date:

Introductory letter



February 24th, 2026

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This is to introduce to you **SUNDAY Patrick Jamundu** Registration number **M23B15/068**, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Administration. He is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above-mentioned award.

Topic: "The impact of parental alcohol abuse to domestic violence and child neglect in Pakwach Town Council, Pakwach District"

The purpose of this communication is to request your office to allow him collect data from your organization. Any assistance rendered to him will be highly appreciated.


Doreen Kukugiza
Coordinator, Research & Fieldwork Programmes
Tel: 0773395349
Email: dkukugiza@ucu.ac.ug

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

P.O. Box 4, Mukono, Uganda (East Africa), Plot 67-173, Bishop Tucker Road, Mukono Hill, Tel: +256 (0) 31 235 0800, www.ucu.ac.ug
Ugandachristianuniversity @UCUniversity, Founded by the Province of Church of Uganda, Chartered by the Government of Uganda.