

**AN ANALYSIS OF STAKEHOLDERS PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF
PROBATION DEPARTMENT IN PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN KAYUNGA**

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S22B15/049

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

June, 2025

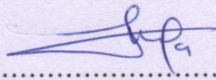


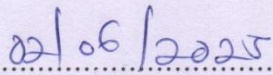
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DECLARATION

I Ezira Lwanga hereby declare that this research has been produced out of my own effort with the guidance of my supervisor and has never been submitted to any other institution for any award.

Signature.....

Date.....

EZIRA LWANGA

S22B15/049

APPROVAL

This research dissertation has been supervised and approved by me and is therefore ready for submission to Uganda Christian University.

Signature.. *Jackeline Bwiire*

Date.. *02/06/2025*

Dr. Jackeline Bwiire .

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my parents who advised, supported and mentored me throughout my education up to university level. Above all, I thank God for guidance and provision towards completion of this dissertation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am greatly indebted to Mrs.....my supervisor for her effective supervision, dedication, availability and professional advice.

I would also like to acknowledge my dear parents for always being there for me in all situations.

I would like extend my sincere gratitude to the entire community of people in Kayunga like the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders for giving me relevant information that made the study successful.

Lastly, I thank God who has given me good health and strength to carry out the research right away from the beginning to the end and successfully.

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at conducting an analysis of stakeholders' perspectives on the role of probation department in preventing and responding to domestic violence against children in Kayunga. The study was guided by three objectives: analyzing stakeholders' perspectives on the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children, assessing stakeholders' perspectives on resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children, and analysing the Stakeholders perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children.

The study was carried out using qualitative research design. Furthermore, data was collected from a sample of 30 stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders using interviews and questionnaires. These respondents were selected using purposive sampling method.

The findings highlighted the generally positive perception of stakeholders in Kayunga District regarding the collaboration of the probation department and other entities in preventing domestic violence against children. While stakeholders acknowledge the importance of legal frameworks, trained personnel, and resource mobilization, challenges such as inadequate funding, poor inter-agency coordination, & resource limitations hinder effective implementation. To address these challenges, stakeholders recommend improved funding, enhanced coordination, community awareness initiatives, and the introduction of electronic record-keeping systems to strengthen child protection efforts and ensure more efficient responses to domestic violence cases.

Finally, the study recommended the need for increased funding for child protection programs, enhanced inter-agency coordination, adoption of computerized record-keeping systems, continuous capacity development for probation officers, and the establishment of child-friendly spaces. These measures will improve case management, strengthen collaboration, ensure timely interventions, and provide safe environments for children affected by domestic violence.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The chapter consisted of background of the study, problem statement, study aimed, study objectives, research questions and the scope of the study, justification as well as definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

Domestic violence manifested a range of abusive practices directed against a victim by a family member or spouse. While considering children as victims, the scope included both emotional, physical abuse, sexual exploitation, and psychological harm (UNICEF, 2020). Given this holistic definition, it was important to quantify the extent of the concern. According to a report by the World Health Organisation (2020), it was estimated that 1 of 5 children aged 2 to 17 years worldwide experienced some form of violence. Significantly, domestic violence against children often came around with other social issues, such as poverty, drug addiction, and mental health issues (Finkelhor et al., 2015).

This statistic highlighted the existing reality that domestic violence was not attributed to any single culture or nation. But, it was a global crisis which needed immediate and collaborative intervention. In Asia, domestic violence against children was often compromised by cultural norms and socioeconomic factors. For example, a study conducted in India highlighted that 49% of children reported experiencing physical violence (International Child Abuse Trust, 2019). In Asia, domestic violence against children manifested variably across countries, contributed to by cultural norms and socio-economic conditions. A scathing report by UNICEF (2021) indicated that in South Asia, about 47 million children were subjected to violence annually. In countries like India and Pakistan, domestic violence was often defended on traditional grounds, severely by high levels of gender-based violence. The patriarchal structures prevalent in many Asian societies created an environment where children's rights were consistently overlooked (UNICEF, 2021).

In Europe, domestic violence against children was documented as a serious concern, with various countries reporting alarmingly high instances of child maltreatment. A report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA, 2020) stated that 18% of children in the EU have experienced some forms of violence at home. Factors such as immigration, economic hardships, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to perpetuate the situations. Some European countries came up with the framework that facilitated the strategies for addressing domestic violence against children as well as prevention measures which had continued lowering the issue such as the European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights, the problem still existed. According to reports from UNICEF, an estimated 17 million children in Europe suffered from some form of violence (UNICEF, 2019). To some parts of Europe, political unrests continued to rise the issues about domestic violence, for example limited resource for affected families. In North America, domestic violence against children were perpetuated with high poverty levels, challenges of mental health, as well as drug abuse. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported that approximately 678,000 children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect in 2019 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2020). This was too common in areas of disadvantaged population, where there was limited access to resources.

In North Africa, the attitude of some societies on children's rights continued to escalate the problem. The family roles in some of these countries gave powers to parents over children's rights. For example, in Egypt, around 90% of children reported experiencing some form of violence from their parents, predominantly in forms of physical punishment (UNICEF, 2019). However much, some international organisations had put around programs to promote children's rights, the existence of traditional beliefs were still perpetuating the domestic violence against children. By advocated for dialogues about children's rights and fostering for legislative reforms, it enhanced the reduction in domestic issues. North Africa faced number of challenges concerning domestic violence against children, largely contributed to by societal perspectives towards children's rights and limited legal protections. Reports indicate that over 1 in 3 children in countries like Morocco and Algeria experienced physical violence (UNICEF, 2017). Negative experiences of child abuse such stigmatization limited families to seek for assistance, perpetuated a cycle of silence and suffering.

In South Africa, domestic violence against children was alarmingly common. According to the 2016 General Household Survey, one in three children reported experiencing some form of violence (Statistics South Africa, 2017). The high prevalence of domestic violence was due to existing inequalities. South Africa presented a grim landscape concerning domestic violence against children. With high levels of domestic violence reported-23% of young women reported undergoing some physical violence by an intimated partner (HSRC, 2019)-South Africa was not immune to social challenges such as poverty. The South African government was designed and implemented policies to address domestic violence against children, however, the enforcement and accessibility of these protections remained challenging. Civil society organisations played a critical role in advocating for children's rights and providing support services, yet the demand for such services continually outstripped supply (UNICEF South Africa, 2020). The long-term effects of domestic violence on children were profound and multifaceted.

In East Africa, the cases of domestic violence against children's were manifested due to perspectives of some societies. In Kenya, a survey by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2015) indicated that 26% of children aged 1-14 experience physical violence. Furthermore, gender-based violence intertwines with domestic violence, as cultural practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriages continued to put girls at risk (UNICEF Kenya, 2021). Tanzania faced similar challenges, with a report by the Tanzania Women's Network (2019) caused a good number of children to be victims of domestic violence, especially in remote places. The existing poor systems and insufficient legal frameworks kept the underlying of the issue.

Uganda: Uganda like any other country of East Africa has also had some challenges in responding to domestic violence against children. The available statistics indicated the subjection of children to domestic violence affected them both physically and psychologically (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2021). Programs in creating awareness were very relevant, however, there was a challenge of implementing them. The current statistic of domestic violence against children in Uganda was high and attributed to by poor systems. According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2016, approximately 25% of children aged 1-14 years experienced physical punishment in the home. Child Abuse and neglect Journal indicates that 48% of respondents reported experiencing some form of sexual violence before the age of 18.

All these statistics were clear evidences that domestic violence against children in Uganda was on a rise.

A report compiled by Save the Children in 2020 presents an even darker picture. It reveals that over 50% of children in Uganda had experienced domestic violence in some form, like physical emotional and sexual. This report indicated that both genders were affected. It had to be noted that these cases were so common in rural areas, this was due to traditional beliefs which have continued to perpetuate the issue. In terms of physical violence, data collected by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) showed that more than 40% of Ugandan children were subjected to harsh parenting styles, which were favored by the traditional beliefs. Additionally there was violence in schools, with a study indicating that 62% of children had reported being bullied, Moreover, the World Health Organization (WHO) provided a global context, noting that countries with high rates of poverty likely, experienced high level of domestic violence against children, Uganda, classified as a low-income country faced economic hardships like poverty which facilitated the occurrence of domestic violence against children.

Probation department has continued playing a role of supervision to individuals who have been convicted with cases of domestic violence. Its service include rehabilitating offenders and promoting public safety, these may range from tracking, monitoring designing and implementing programs aimed at addressing the issue, probation services play a crucial role in providing resources for both victims and offenders. Uganda's probation department is hindered by challenges such as limited funding from government, shortage of human resource, and lack of public awareness regarding children's rights. The lack of a comprehensive framework for inter-agency collaboration hinders the efficiency of responses to cases of domestic violence (Okeng, 2020). By comparing probation department of Uganda to other countries, distinct challenges arises, For example, the probation departments in European countries are well funded. In Uganda is opposite, where probation officers may not receive similar levels of support, limiting their effectiveness to provide comprehensive services (Muwanga, 2019). Moreover, while many advanced nations emphasized evidence-based interventions and multi-disciplinary approaches, Uganda always responded to crisis rather than implementing preventive strategies. This rised the demands to advocate for reform in the way probation carry out its operations in response to cases of violence, this enhanced the improved probation services like in other countries.

Probation officers, as part of the broader child protection system, had the responsibility to monitor families, facilitated rehabilitation, and ensured the safety of children (Nuwagaba, 2022). Addressing domestic violence encompassed of stakeholders such parents, social workers, police, local leaders among others. By the fact these stakeholders had different perspectives on the role of probation department in responding to domestic violence. The variability in these perspectives significantly influenced policy-making and the execution of protective measures (Bourke et al., 2019).

Despite this significant mandate, the approaches and understanding of probation services differed greatly among stakeholders. For example, some stakeholders viewed probation as a necessary authority while others did not (Nassali, 2022). This dichotomy in perspectives influenced the way victims and families engaged with available services, often resulted in underreporting of domestic violence cases (Nuwagaba, 2022). Tradition beliefs dictated gender roles which facilitated domestic violence against women and children, placing them in vulnerable positions (Ssenyonjo, 2020). The cultural perspectives had a profound impact on how stakeholders viewed the role of probation department. Research indicated that community engagement and awareness-raising were critical components for successful implementation of child protection measures, because they encouraged reporting of the cases (Tugume, 2021). For the districts of Uganda specifically Kayunga cultural beliefs posited a barrier on discussion of matters regarding domestic violence (Tugume, 2021), understanding the perspectives of these stakeholders was essential.

The probation department worked to create awareness and provided support systems, however, its effectiveness can be influenced by the stakeholders' perceptions and participation (Mugisha, 2020). Assessing how the probation department is viewed in terms of its role in preventing and responding to cases of domestic violence against children was not only illuminated in existing gaps in service delivery but also revealed the potential for enhancing collaborative efforts among stakeholders to foster a protective environment for children. Analysis of this nature led to more tailored interventions that were sensitive to the unique challenges presented in Kayunga district, hence enhanced the prevention of domestic violence against children.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Despite all efforts put in place by departments of probation offices, it was still an existing problem that affected the mental and physical health of a person either as a perpetrator or a victim. According to the World Health Organization, 2021, the probation departments highly contributed to preventing and responding to such incidents. However, many obstacles had stood in their way of effectively working. One major concern is that the overall level of resources constrained how much support and protection a probation officer could give to vulnerable children. As noted, studies in the field had suggested that a lack of appropriate funding and resources translated into fewer programs, serving as a barrier to needed interventions when the case involved gender violence (Lip sky, 2010). Where there was a limitation of resources, there were decreased competencies among the personnel who constituted the probation departments.

Most of them were not specially trained in handling complicated cases of gender violence against children. There was insecurity in knowledge and skills, hence inefficiency in the management of cases, further traumatizing the child victims (Arenas et al., 2019). It was also worth noting that case management strategies applied in the working process within probation departments were not oriented toward the particularities presented in cases involving gender violence. Most of such strategies lacked evidence-based practices or individualized interventions, which formed the backbone for effective addressing of specific needs of children who had suffered due to violence (Weiss et al., 2019). Such gaps raise questions on the general effectiveness of probation departments in carrying out their mandates regarding the protection and rehabilitation of deprived children. This study investigated systemic failures of the probation department, focused on increasing the capacity of the probation departments in ensuring the best interest and safety of children exposed to gender-based violence.

1.3 Research objectives

- i. To analyse Stakeholders perspectives on the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children.
- ii. To assess Stakeholders perspectives on resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children.

- iii. To analyse the Stakeholders perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children.

1.4 Research questions

- i. How Stakeholders describe the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children?
- ii. What are perspectives of Stakeholders on availability of resources for prevention of domestic violence against children?
- iii. What are Stakeholders perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children?

1.5 Scope of the study

1.5.1 Content scope

The study mainly focused on establishing the relationship between the roles of the probation department collaborations in preventing domestic violence against children by assessing resource availability in responding to cases, competence of staff in probation and analysed the case management strategies in probation in preventing domestic violence.

1.5.2 Time scope

A period of ten years that was from 2012 to 2021 focused on this study since this timeframe was appropriately enough in determining and ascertained clear information related and spanned across the role of the probation department collaborations in preventing domestic violence against children.

1.5.3 Geographical scope

The study was conducted in, Kayunga District bordered by Amolatar District to the north, Buyende District to the northeast, Kamuli District to the east, Jinja District to the southeast, Buikwe District to the south, Mukono District to the southwest, Luweero District to the west, and Nakasongola District to the northwest. District headquarters Kayunga lies approximately 74 kilometres (46 miles) northeast of Kampala.

1.6 Significance of the study

There were implications for policy practice, and the broader societal context. One of the primary reasons for conducting this research was its potential to inform policy enhancements within the probation system. As highlighted by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), children were particularly susceptible to violence and require tailored intervention strategies (UNICEF, 2020).

Research findings served as a basis for developing evidence-based policies that address gaps in the current approach of probation departments. If gaps were in resource availabilities, skills, or experiences, policymakers and stakeholders came with programs that targeted to enhance the efficiency of probation in preventing and responding to gender violence. Furthermore, the research assessed and evaluated the impact of existing programs towards the victims of gender violence specifically children. For example, the evaluation of these programs determined their impact on children's recovery. The findings of research were aligned with the theory literature and understanding of the practitioner. Even though existing research tried to address gender violence against children, there was a gap in evaluating the operational systems of probation department in responding to cases of domestic violence against children.

As noted by Finkelhor et al. (2014), effective interventions not only addressed immediate safety concerns but also promoted long-term mental health and well-being among affected children. While looking at these realities, the research suggested the alternative strategies which could promote effectiveness and accessibility. Furthermore, assessed the performance of probation department by applying empirical research could create awareness about gender violence against children.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2018), public awareness campaigns were essential in changing societal attitudes and reducing stigmas associated with violence against children. Preferable, research aimed to highlight on measures that could be used to advocate for the rights of vulnerable children.

The research benefited both the policymakers, practitioners as well as contributing to academic knowledge. As Mullender (2017) argued, that sociological perspective on gender violence

provided insights into the systemic issues that perpetuated violence against children. By providing new and current information, the research provided the guide for continuous studies, hence generating knowledge which benefits the academic field.

Furthermore, the research provided knowledge and skills as well as enhanced professional growth for probation officers and other stakeholders. Effective responses to gender violence required specialized knowledge and skills (Perry et al., 2016). The research findings helped to facilitate capacity building which equipped the probation officers with relevant skills needed in responding to complex issues regarding children.

1.7 Justification of the research

Among the convincing reason in this research is the big statistical percentages available on gender violence against children. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020), one in four children worldwide experiences physical, sexual, or emotional violence. The implications of such violence are profound, affecting children's physical health, mental well-being, and social development (Finkelhor et al., 2014). By considering the existing evidences on the issue, it crucial to assess and evaluate the efficiency of the systems which played the role of protecting vulnerable children including the probation department.

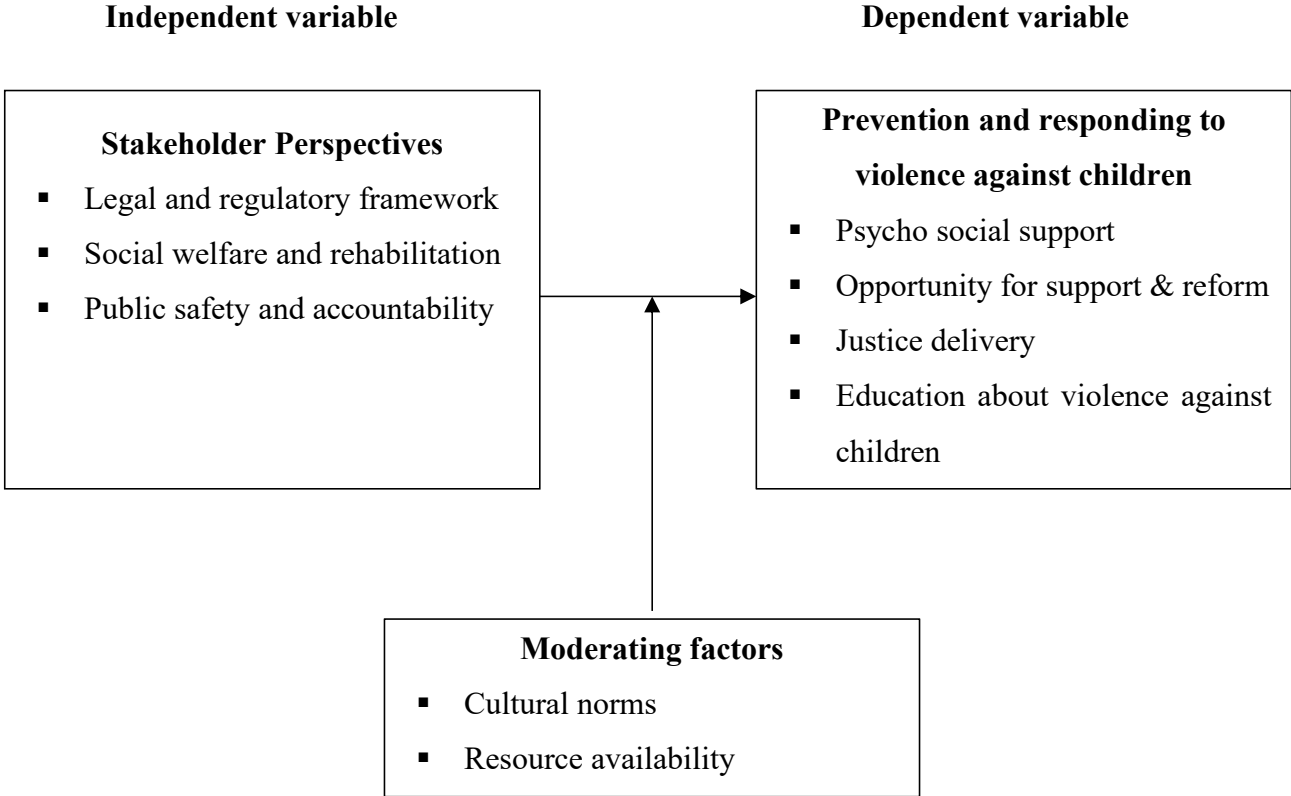
Carrying out this assessment helped to identify the gaps, challenges and suggested recommendations. As noted by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD, 2018), effective training for probation officers was found vital to ensure that they responded adequately to situations involving children affected by violence.

This research also highlighted the systemic barriers that existed within the probation department Studies which indicated that structural issues, such as underfunding, inadequate training, and lack of collaboration among agencies, led to failures in protecting vulnerable children (Mullender, 2017).

By highlighting the existing gaps and barriers, the research provided a framework to policymakers to come up with policies aimed at enhancing the capabilities of probation department in preventing and responded to gender violence against children. As highlighted by

Finkelhor et al. (2014), interventions that integrated evidence-based practices tended to yield better outcomes for children recovering from trauma.

1.8 Conceptual framework



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

It discussed some of the easily accessible relevant literature on parental mediation techniques in regard to socio-emotional growth during the early childhood years, analyzed gaps therein, with a view that guided and informed these study variables. The reviewed literature took a start from defined key concept, and after that, some specific aspects of the literature relevant to each of the above-mentioned objectives of the study were focused on.

2.1 Theoretical review

Domestic violence against children was among the most grievous issues of society, and the trend of the last years reflected great interest in its different aspects. The role of probation departments in preventing and responding to domestic violence was regarded as an area of critical analysis. This research investigated multiple stakeholder's perspectives about the role of one probation department informed by two important theories underpinned social work practice: systems theory, and a trauma-informed care perspective. Systems Theory, developed by Uriel Bronfenbrenner, posits that individuals were embedded within multiple layers of environment, including personal relationships, community structures, and broader societal contexts (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

This theory was well-suited for examining the role of probation departments because it allowed for an analysis of how various ecological factors influenced the realities of domestic violence against children. At the micro-level, family dynamics or individual relationships were strong influencers on the child's life. Systems Theory maintained that the individual was part of a broader system, which encompassed the structures of the family, social, and organization. Von Bertalanffy (1968) argued that the interaction between different subsystems and elements within a system bared consequences for the behavior and performance of the larger system. This theory, in the context of the probation departments, facilitated the analysis of various stakeholders such as children, families, probation officers, and community services. It placed greater emphasis on the importance of all the involved stakeholders in devising the mechanisms of prevention and

response. In cases where the probation departments worked in collaboration with child protection services, a holistic response was provided in an incident involving a domestic violence situation (Reid, 2017).

The theory also stressed feedback mechanisms where the results of interventions feed back into the system for continuous improvement. Of importance, it may be in establishing the effectiveness of the probation programs in addressing the effects that domestic violence had on the children as stated by Bronfenbrenner, 1979. Most abusive behaviors resulted from the deep-rooted psychological, social and economic factors within the family as Holt et al. 2008. Probation officers must be informed not only of the immediate context of victim and offender but also of the wider family and community structures in which they were set. It may be at this meso-level that the way in which relationships between the probation department and other services, such as child welfare and mental health support, were ordered determined the outcomes for children who witnessed domestic violence.

Research evidence indicated that integrated approaches-implicated different sets of stakeholders-were generally more effective in preventing and intervening in violent contexts (McTernan et al., 2018). For instance, if the probation departments were cooperating with the educational institutions, they might have provided those social settings that help avoid such violent behaviors. On the final and broadest level, social norms and policy had a significant role in shaping responses to domestic violence. Legislative frameworks, cultural attitudes towards gender roles and family structures, and economic conditions all influenced how probation departments operated (Davis and Bock, 2014). For instance, a society that prioritised victim support and rehabilitation over punishment fostered a more effective probation system that successfully integrated stakeholders' perspectives.

Another theory that best explained the study variables was Trauma-Informed Care. Trauma-Informed Care is a framework that recognized the universality of trauma. It is a philosophy that puts emphasis on the importance of understanding the survivor's history of trauma in her life as part of any effective intervention. The personal experiences of trauma of participants may underpin the intimate connections of substance abuse, mental health, and well-being. TIC addressed how the exposure to domestic violence at home impacted the development and

emotional well-being of children. The stakeholders took into consideration these exposures while devising any intervention program, as argued by Falot and Harris (2009).

In TIC, all the stakeholders were considered to be empowered, thereby enabling them to deal with the trauma experienced by the children. This approach encouraged probation officers to be trained in trauma awareness, fostering an environment where children's voices are prioritized (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2014). The TIC framework emphasized creating safe environments for children and families. When probation departments incorporate TIC principles, they can enhance trust and reliability in their relationships with victims and other stakeholders, created a sense of safety crucial for healing (Harris and Falot, 2001). This was further explicated through Systems Theory and trauma-informed care, used as guides in this study on the role that probation departments played in preventing and responding to domestic violence against children. These were perhaps ways that multiple stakeholder perspectives might be interrelated or even relevant in attempts to understand the dynamics.

Each model told how significant some variables were, such as how stakeholders would cooperate, traumatization of children, and how interventions were to be holistic and fully informed. It was also the case that these models were only appreciated by the full extent of domestic violence, interaction of stakeholders, and multi-facet responsibility were held by the probation department. Domestic physical, emotional, and psychological maltreatment of children by a parent or caregiver characterized domestic violence against children. Such violence had profound ramifications; these could leave a victim with a lifetime of trauma and destruction (Holt et al., 2008). The paper positions the probation departments at the juncture of justice and social services in a protection bid of vulnerable children while supporting justice to victims and offenders' accountability. The major stakeholders were probation officers, social workers, police, lawyers, children's advocacy agencies, and the families themselves. Gaining an understanding of their views was important in highlighting the complex dynamics that surround the various prevention and response mechanisms were adopted by a probation department. 2.2 Stakeholder's perspectives on the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children.

The term 'stakeholder' included all individuals and organisations that had an interest or were being affected by issues regarding domestic violence against children.

The key stakeholders would be the police, social services, psychiatric services, schools, voluntary agencies, and the probation department. Each of these agencies were crucial in its own way in the handling of domestic violence. Provided all these agencies were functioning in their own manner, they could offer protection to the children. More importantly, the probation department played a very important role at the juncture of the judicial and correctional aspects. Probation services prevented reoffending by a combination of supervision and rehabilitation but also by offering support, according to the MoJ. Therefore, they were uniquely positioned in cases involving domestic violence, especially those involving children, with regard to the monitoring of the offended and facilitated access to resources that may support the prevention of further violence as well as providing support for children and their families when this had occurred (MoJ, 2020).

All these were very important in collaborating on the fight against domestic violence among children. The probation department forms one important integrated platform in addressing these complex issues in conjunction with the police, social services, and even community-based agencies. This maximized information sharing and resource use internally for better intervention opportunities. According to Harris, 2019, through cooperation among stakeholders, efficient ways in the prevention of domestic violence against children could be devised. This group practice could also facilitate better sharing of information, reduced duplication, and fostered a community sense of responsibility.

Linsky and Strickler (2021) suggested that interagency collaboration ensured effective communication among service providers in the encouragement of more complete care for the families suffering from domestic violence. From the perspective of preventing domestic violence against children, the probation department played a number of facilitating roles: served as linkage personnel to offenders with other support services, probation officers usually adopted strength-based methods in order to prevent recidivism; Pratt and Clayworth (2019). The adoption of a multidisciplinary approach facilitated integrated service delivery, which were particularly essential when dealing with domestic violence cases. The potential for providing intensive

family support was considerably enhanced through cooperation among a probation officer and social workers, as well as health and educational institutions.

In rural or poor communities, community leaders played a major role in garnering trust and motivating families to accept assistance. Community leaders, however, often expressed concerns about the hurdles they must have overcome, largely due to a general shortage of resources. More often than not, community programs were crippled due to the lack of state and federal support or funding. As community leaders grappled with these constraints, a disconnect arised between ideal resource needs versus what was available for increasing awareness and prevention activities. A study conducted by The Carnegie UK Trust highlighted the importance of local leadership in developing community-specific strategies to combat domestic violence (Carnegie UK Trust, 2020). However, these initiatives could not have much impacted as far as ensuring safety and well-being for children due to a lack of financing and supporting mechanisms. Stakeholders also reported the need to be provided with in-depth training and resources that may better enable them to deal with the problems described above.

According to leaders, they provided supportive frameworks that enabled local interventions in order to overcome often-paralyzing lack of financial support. Finally, resources were to be more accessible and publicized for families. Representative of both the victim and the source of prevention, the family itself represents an extremely important constituent of this problem. Through the dynamics of domestic violence, many parents were thrust into complicated dilemmas in which dependence on resources was literally a life or death matter. Many families felt confused by the range of services offered and may rely more on informal support networks than professional services.

Research for the NSPCC emphasized that many families did not realize there were services available which can help prevent incidents of domestic violence from taking place or get them help after an incident has occurred (NSPCC 2020). This was another factor which added to their vulnerability. These family-level stakeholders identified a need for easier access to information on where to go for help and what other resources would further refer them to relevant agencies. Also, the psychological consequence of domestic violence often led to resistance in seeking help because of the associated stigma or dread of social judgment. Resources must not only be

available but accessible and sensitive to the needs of families in crisis. Trauma-informed training for service providers was necessary to build trust in families that had lived through domestic violence. Lastly, resource availability must have been approached from the family perspective. More often than not, families experiencing domestic violence did not know what resources were available. According to Anderson and Williams, 2022, fear and stigma prohibited a family from seeking help even when the help is available. Awareness and accessibility, such as through community outreach, may facilitate families in using available resources. The multi-stakeholder views exposed a complicated landscape in respect of the readiness of the resources to prevent violence against children. This therefore called for sharing of resources between the government agencies equitably and the non-profit organizations that need sustained funding for effective intervention.

2.2 Stakeholder’s view about the case management strategies of the probation department in addressing domestic violence against a child

The probation department was at the very core of the justice system when it involved handling such cases of domestic violence against children. Therefore, strategies related to case management by the probation departments became very important in order to address the complex needs of the affected family while accountability concerning violence is ensured. This section attempted to analyze the sentiments of probation officers, social workers, attorneys, and victims regarding the strategies adopted by the probation departments in dealing with domestic violence against children. In that way, we can be able to get a number of case management strategies adopted by probation departments and their impact on the greater criminal justice system. The probation officers were usually the line staff in the management of domestic violence cases. Their view was important since they were the ones who had to carry out the case management policies.

In a study commissioned by NCURS, it had been observed that one of the points probation officers made repeatedly was that of thorough risk assessment. They felt that an in-depth knowledge of the intricacies of each case-addressing factors such as offender history, socioeconomic background, and victim's safety needs-develops better decision-making skills among themselves (NCURS, 2023). The probation officers also said they required a special kind

of training for handling cases where there is domestic violence on children. They found themselves specifically incapable of handling psychological aspects and, therefore, managed the case inadequately. "Proper training and continual professional development were essential," said a senior probation officer who was interviewed for the report published by the Journal of Criminal Justice. "Without them, we risked the safety and wellbeing of the children involved" (Journal of Criminal Justice, 2022).

Social workers, similar to the probation officers, were highly involved in the interventions of the families that had to do with domestic violence; their perspective was often focused on the need for a collaborative approach in case management strategies. For example, Hatton (2023) asserted in the British Journal of Social Work that social workers believed in multi-disciplinary teams addressing the broad support needs of families. Against this backdrop, the combination of social services with judiciary and probation initiatives strengthened proper understanding of the home environment and support of the child. Furthermore, social workers highlighted the significance of restoring agency to children, emphasised that their voices needed to be central in the case management process.

A report by Children's Social Work Services suggested that the inclusion of children in decision-making not only empowered them but also provided deeper insights into their experiences, ultimately led to more effective interventions (Children's Social Work Services, 2021). The views of solicitors and barristers are indispensable in the case management strategy for handling domestic violence. Often, their views dwelled on what the probationary measures implied legally and what had to be done to make the legal frameworks for victim support adequate. Consequently, it was essential to extend the legal aid provisions in the thinking that children and victims of domestic violence had the needed access to the provisions (Legal Services Commission, 2022).

Lawyers argued that good case management involved referring victims to legal representation right from the beginning; hence, their rights were likely to be protected from the start of the trial to the end. Inter-agency coordination is also identified by the practicing attorneys. Communication breakdown between parole departments, legal agencies, and social services resulted in discrepancies in the response to incidents of battering. A study featured in the Journal

of Family Law highlighted the need for uniformity in practices so that the different stakeholders in the case management model know how "communications" between the players were to be embedded (Journal of Family Law, 2023). The most important voices among participants from the perspective of determining case management approach effectiveness were undoubtedly those of the victims.

The victims of domestic violence often cited gaps regarding the response from the probation department. This was an assertion by Victim Support, 2023, where many victims reported that they were being overlooked in case management processes, which has consequently caused a lack of trust in the system. Victims felt that they were disempowered in that they were rarely consulted in discussion and decision-making regarding their cases. Some victims even reported that probation departments were more interested in offender rehabilitation than safety and well-being. Some of the respondents remarked on being abandoned in the system, which raises some really basic questions about the prioritization of the case management goals. Victim input was to be included in the case assessment and even the outcome planning process for instilling a sense of ownership and satisfaction with the services provided.

Community-based organizations along with their various advocacy groups also provided an insight into the burdens placed on a probation department while dealing with domestic violence. These stakeholders called for consciousness and educational initiatives that cater to the both offenders and victims (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 2023). Community-based views mainly argue that, in addition to intervention techniques, case management strategies were needed to cover education and raising awareness. Community advocates believed that an effective case management strategy should be accompanied by a robust community response through collaboration between the probation department and local organizations. This helped raise awareness about domestic violence and trained families to face the challenges presented by the causes.

The stakeholder analyses provided a mixed understanding of the case management strategies adopted by the probation departments in responding to domestic violence against children. Amongst the messages coming through was a call for an integrated and coordinated approach. An effective case management plan needed to take into consideration not only the risk factors for

the offender but also ensure the victim's needs were considered first and foremost, especially in the presence of children. Amongst the recommendations which came out was the requirement for the training of probation officers. Without a secure understanding of trauma-informed approaches, officers might have found it challenging to work their way through the sensitive dynamics of domestic violence cases with children present. The need for professional development remained timeless, and indeed, research showed that training enhanced officer confidence and efficiency (National Institute of Justice, 2023). Inter-agency collaboration was also crucial in this context. Whenever there was a silo approach by stakeholders, there was a greater likelihood of miscommunication and disparate responses. Protocols for regular communication and joint interventions laid down uniform responses to cases of domestic violence. Many contributions from legal and social practitioners pointed towards a felt need for laid-down frameworks for inter-agency collaboration based on the principles of shared responsibility and collective action.

2.3 Conclusion

Stakeholders' perceptions regarding case management strategies by the Probation Department toward domestic violence against a child prove to have a number of underpinning important insights into the complexities involved within such cases. At present, while the strategies emphasize the need to analyze the risks involved as well as agency collaboration, representation of victim voices is poor, as is the coverage regarding all-inclusive assistance. This necessitates holistic training of probation officers, allows for better communication through the different stakeholders involved, and empowers victims themselves. The criminal justice system should, first and foremost, ensure the protection and welfare of the children among the casualties of the violence, making the environment sensitive to their particular needs.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this section lied explanations of methodology that were employed in this study. It included research design, the size of the population, methods of sampling were employ in data collection, methods of collecting data related to the topic, analysis of data and quality control as well as ethical considerations.

3.1 Research design

This study employed a qualitative research design to explore the perspectives of various stakeholders regarding the role of the probation department in preventing and responding to domestic violence against children. The qualitative approach allows for in-depth understanding and exploration of participants' experiences, thoughts, and feelings on the subject. Qualitative research allows for an in-depth understanding of participants' experiences, perceptions, and motivations, which quantitative methods may overlook (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

3.2 Study area and population

The population for this study comprised various stakeholders in Kayunga, included: Probation officers, Social workers, Law enforcement officials, Legal practitioners, Non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, Child protection advocates, Community leaders, Parents or guardians of children who have been involved in domestic violence cases.

3.3 Sampling method

A purposive sampling technique was utilized to select participants who have relevant insight and experience related to the role of the probation department in domestic violence cases involving children. This included professionals and community members who interact with or are directly affected by this issue.

3.4 Sample size

Approximately 30 participants were purposively selected to ensure a diverse representation of different Stakeholders. Participants were selected based on the following criteria: - They must have direct role or interest in cases of domestic violence against children. They should be working or residing in Kayunga to ensure relevance to the local context. Participants were informed about the study's purpose and asked for their voluntary consent to participate. The Krejcie and Morgan table (1970) was used to obtain the sample size and below was the representation in the table.

Table 1: Showing population, sample size and sampling method

Respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling method
Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders	10	10	Purposive sampling
Social workers	15	14	Purposive sampling
Community leaders	6	6	Purposive sampling
TOTAL	31	30	

3.5 Sources of data

3.5.1 Primary source

Primary data was obtained by use of interviews in field while collecting data in the selected methods of simple random and purposive sampling provided him with firsthand information which relied on primary source of data in this study. The reason for choice of this data source was that it grants opportunity for capturing real opinions and feelings of people in regard to the topic.

3.5.1 Secondary source

The research also used secondary data from the existing literature from scholarly written material relevant to the topic and its detail. The choice of this source was to provide diversity of ideas on

the topic to make a deeper analysis and meaning of it but also made it easy for the public to understand and possibly give a response in relation to the findings.

3.6 Data collection instruments

3.6.1 Questionnaires

A set of questions relevant in collection of data according to the study objectives earlier stated (Katamba et al (2014)). The open-ended questions within the questionnaire allowed respondents to think and respond from an informed conscience thus giving accurate feedback which was sole desire of the research. I also guided respondents among the selected individuals in interpreting this questionnaire in the easiest way possible for them to give relevant responses.

3.6.2 Key informant interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants to gather individual experiences and insights regarding the study topic. I also used face to face interviews with religious, heads of families and where a well laid structure of in-depth interview was developed to allow these key informants share.

3.7 Ethical considerations

The following ethical considerations were upheld throughout the research process: Informed

Consent: Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, and their consent will be obtained before participation. They had the right to withdraw at any time without any consequences.

Confidentiality: Participants' identities and personal information were kept confidential. Data was anonymized, and secure storage practices were employed.

Respect for cultural sensitivities: The research was conducted with a deep respect for local cultural practices and beliefs. Researchers will engage with participants in a culturally appropriate manner.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and interprets the results of analysis that has been done to look at the specific objectives of the study and in relation to the reviewed literature with the help of tables. The study was carried out using questionnaire and interviews with 30 different stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders.

4.1 Response rate

A total of 30 respondents were meant to be involved in the study and all of them were successfully involved in the study as shown in Table 1 below in relation to the different categories.

Table 2: Response rate

Response Rate	Frequency	Percentage
Response	30	100%
Non Response	00	00%
Total	30	100%

Source: *Primary data*

According to table 2 above a total of 30 (100%) respondents who are; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders were expected to be involved in the study and all the respondents gave their response giving a response rate of 100%. The reason for the high response rate was due to the fact that the researcher had enough time to collect the data herself and given that the number of respondents required was relatively small. According to Ahuja (2009), a response rate of 70% is excellent, 60% is good and 50% is adequate for analysis. Thus the response rate of 100% was considered reliable and appropriate for the study.

4.2 Findings on demographic characteristics of respondents

This section presents the general background information about the respondents in relation to their age, marital status and the level of education, as shown in the table below;

4.2.1 Age of the respondents

The table below summarizes the age of the respondents who are stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district and the data in the table is interpreted below.

Table 3: Age

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-25 years	3	10.0	10.0
26-35 years	9	30.0	40.0
36-45 years	12	40.0	80.0
45 and years	6	20.0	100.0
Total	30	100.0	

Source: *Primary data*

Findings in the table 3 above show that the vast majority of the respondents fell between the age group of 36-45 years represented by 40%, followed by the respondents who fell between the age group of 26-35 years represented by 30%, followed by those with 45 years and above represented by 20% whereas, 10% of the respondents fall in the age group of 18-25 years. This therefore implies that there was no age discrimination since information was gotten from people with different age groups. The fact that the researcher was able to get information from respondents of different age groups enabled him to get vast information that was enough to make the data valid and reliable.

4.2.2 Marital status of the respondents

The table below summarizes the marital status of respondents who are stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district and the data in the table is interpreted below.

Table 4: Marital status

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	12	40.0	40.0
Married	14	46.7	86.7
Divorced	4	13.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	

Source: *Primary data*

Findings in the table 4 above revealed that majority of respondents represented by 46.7% are married, followed by 40% who are single, whereas 13.3% noted that they are divorced. The inclusion of both men and women of different marital status helped in determining how these different categories of people think about this topic related to domestic violence against children.

4.2.3 Level of education of the respondents

The table below summarizes the level of education of respondents who are stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district and the data in the table is interpreted below.

Table 5: Level of education

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Secondary	5	16.7	16.7
Institution/ University	25	83.3	100.0
Total	30	100.0	

Source: *Primary data*

Findings in the table 5 above revealed that majority of respondents represented by 83.3% have at least attained secondary level of education, whereas 16.7% have at least attained institution/

university level of education. It can therefore be noted that most of the respondents were able to read and understand the questionnaire with ease since all of them have attained different levels of education. It also implies that the respondents have reliable knowledge about the topic under study since they have studied the issue of domestic violence against children deeper.

4.3 Stakeholders perspectives on the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children

Table 6 summarizes respondents’ responses on stakeholders perspectives on the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children by using a Likert scale where SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), D (Disagree), SD (Strongly Disagree) and NS (Not Sure).

Table 6: Stakeholders perspectives on the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children

Statements	Extent of agreement & disagreement				
	SA	A	D	SD	NS
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
Laws are clearly defined by stakeholder to prevent domestic violence.	12 40.0%	14 46.7%	2 6.7%	1 3.3%	1 3.3%
The current level of collaboration between the probation department and other department is highly effective.	10 33.3%	13 43.3%	3 10.0%	4 13.3%	
Stakeholders provide resources to enhance collaboration with the probation department to prevent domestic violence	11 36.7%	10 33.3%	7 23.3%	1 3.3%	1 3.3%
There is effective communication between stakeholders and probation department in prevention of domestic violence	9 30.0%	10 33.3%	5 16.7%	6 20.0%	

Source: *Primary data*

Table 6 represents the descriptive statistics on stakeholders' perspectives on the collaboration of the probation department in preventing domestic violence against children. The findings indicate that 86.7% of the respondents agreed that laws are clearly defined by stakeholders to prevent domestic violence, whereas 10.0% of the respondents disagreed, and 3.3% were not sure about the statement. This suggests that the majority of stakeholders acknowledge the existence of well-defined legal frameworks aimed at preventing domestic violence against children, implying that these laws provide a strong foundation for intervention efforts.

Furthermore, the results show that 76.6% of the respondents agreed that the current level of collaboration between the probation department and other departments is highly effective, whereas 23.3% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. This implies that the probation department maintains a positive working relationship with other stakeholders, facilitating a coordinated approach to addressing domestic violence against children.

Additionally, the findings reveal that 70.0% of the respondents agreed that stakeholders provide resources to enhance collaboration with the probation department in preventing domestic violence, whereas 26.6% of the respondents disagreed, and 3.3% were not sure about the statement. This indicates that most stakeholders actively contribute resources to support the probation department's efforts, implying that resource mobilization plays a crucial role in strengthening interventions against domestic violence.

Lastly, the results show that 63.3% of the respondents agreed that there is effective communication between stakeholders and the probation department in preventing domestic violence, whereas 36.7% of the respondents disagreed. This suggests that while the majority of stakeholders perceive communication as effective, a significant proportion believes that communication gaps exist, implying that efforts should be made to improve information sharing, coordination, and responsiveness in addressing domestic violence cases.

Overall, the findings suggest that while stakeholders generally perceive the collaboration with the probation department as effective in preventing domestic violence against children, there are areas that require further improvement, particularly in resource allocation, communication, and interdepartmental coordination.

4.3.1 Theme 1: Laws for prevention of domestic violence against children

From the interviews conducted with stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders, they were asked for their views on the laws are clearly demarcated by stakeholders in the preventing of domestic violence among children and their responses were as follows under the following themes;

Legal framework: Stakeholders within Kayunga District identified some of the legal systems that govern preventing domestic violence against children. They mentioned key national laws such as the Children Act (Cap 59), the Domestic Violence Act (2010), and the Penal Code Act, which make child abuse illegal and prescribe penalties for the offenders. In addition, stakeholders cited international conventions like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, to which Uganda is a signatory. These laws provide the foundation for child protection interventions that aim to safeguard children against all forms of violence. However, the stakeholders identified that implementation is still an issue because of inadequate resources, lack of awareness, and cultural norms that sometimes are contrary to provisions in the law.

Practical approaches, on the practice level, involve sensitization of the community through programs where social workers, police officers, and local leaders inform parents and guardians on children's rights and the legal consequences of domestic violence. They also emphasized village-level child protection committees that make it easier for cases of abuse to be identified and reported. Further, stakeholders also valued alternative dispute resolution (ADR) frameworks, particularly mediation sessions that involve probation officers, community leaders, and involved families in managing conflict in a way that puts top priority on the safety and well-being of the child. Other respondents mentioned the necessity for the enhancement of referral channels to ensure victims of abuse access timely legal, medical, and psychosocial care.

Implementation challenges: The stakeholders highlighted that limited staffing, inadequate training for probation officers, and bureaucratic delays further hinder the effective implementation of child protection laws. The absence of specialized child protection units within law enforcement agencies and courts results in prolonged case resolutions, leaving children

vulnerable to continued abuse. Moreover, weak enforcement mechanisms and a lack of follow-up on reported cases contribute to low conviction rates, discouraging victims and communities from reporting incidents. Strengthening institutional capacity, streamlining case management, and ensuring accountability among stakeholders were emphasized as critical measures to enhance the protection of children from domestic violence.

Community interventions: The stakeholders underscored the need for increased government involvement, increased inter-agency cooperation, and continued legal reforms to address emerging child protection concerns. In addition, stakeholders called for rigorous enforcement of the current laws, along with the training of law enforcement officers and judicial officers to handle child cases more efficiently. Through the consolidation of these legal and social strategies, stakeholders believe that domestic violence against children can be significantly restrained. Some of the respondents had this to say,

“.....The effectiveness of our child protection efforts depends on proper case management, timely intervention, and ensuring that the legal provisions are actively enforced to protect vulnerable children.....” **Probation Officer**

“.....Strengthening child protection committees and increasing community engagement can bridge the gap between legal provisions and actual protection on the ground.....”
Social Worker

4.3.2 Theme 2: Forms of collaboration for domestic violence prevention

From the interviews conducted with stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders, they were asked for their views on the forms of collaboration available between stakeholders and the probation department in the prevention of domestic violence among children and their responses were as follows;

Multi-sectoral coordination: In Kayunga District, stakeholders have identified a range of collaborative efforts between various entities and the probation department to prevent domestic violence against children. Many stakeholders highlighted the importance of regular meetings between the probation officers, law enforcement, social workers, and non-governmental

organizations to discuss ongoing cases and identify areas of intervention. This collaboration is often facilitated through multi-sectoral forums that bring together these different groups to share resources, provide updates on case progress, and offer mutual support. These gatherings foster a coordinated response to issues of domestic violence, ensuring that children's welfare is given priority and that the legal and social services are aligned in their approach.

Information sharing: The stakeholders have noted that the sharing of information between the probation department and other agencies plays a crucial role in the early identification and prevention of domestic violence. Techniques such as joint case management, where probation officers work alongside social workers and law enforcement to monitor and assess cases of suspected abuse, were particularly highlighted. Additionally, stakeholders emphasized the use of community outreach programs, where the probation department partners with local leaders and NGOs to raise awareness about child rights and the importance of reporting domestic violence. These initiatives are seen as critical in creating a more responsive community, equipped with the knowledge and resources to protect children from harm.

Child protection networks: Furthermore, stakeholders have suggested that the establishment of child protection networks, involving the probation department, NGOs, law enforcement, and community leaders, has proven effective in preventing domestic violence. These networks enable the swift mobilization of resources and provide a platform for shared responsibility in protecting children. Techniques like creating safe spaces for children to report abuse, training local leaders on child protection laws, and offering psycho-social support to affected families are considered valuable by stakeholders. These collective efforts help bridge gaps in resource availability, ensuring that a more comprehensive approach is taken in responding to domestic violence. Some of the respondents had this to say,

“.....The collaboration between the probation department and other stakeholders has made a significant difference. With everyone on board, we can respond to cases faster and ensure the child's safety comes first.....” **Probation Officer**

“.....The joint case management approach has really helped, as it ensures that no one is working in isolation. It's important that we continue this method to provide more support to the children and families who need it most.....” **NGO Leader**

4.4 Stakeholders perspectives on resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children

Table 7 summarizes respondents' responses on stakeholders perspectives on resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children by using a Likert scale where SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), D (Disagree), SD (Strongly Disagree) and NS (Not Sure).

Table 7: Stakeholders perspectives on resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children

Statements	Extent of agreement & disagreement				
	SA	A	D	SD	NS
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
Are there trained personnel to effectively address domestic violence among children	12 40.0%	12 40.0%	1 3.3%	4 13.3%	1 3.3%
Stakeholders involved in the prevention of domestic violence have access to training and capacity building	12 40.0%	11 36.7%	6 20.0%	1 3.3%	00
There is adequate material resource to support efforts in the prevention of domestic violence	6 20.0%	11 36.7%	4 13.3%	8 26.7%	1 3.3%
Government is strongly funding and contributing to resource availability against children	10 33.3%	11 36.7%	7 23.3%	1 3.3%	1 3.3%

Source: *Primary data*

Table 7 summarizes respondents' responses on stakeholders' perspectives on resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children. According to the findings, 80.0% of the respondents agreed that there are trained personnel to effectively address domestic violence among children, whereas 16.6% of the respondents disagreed, and 3.3% were not sure about the statement. This indicates that most stakeholders recognize the presence of trained personnel in handling cases of domestic violence against children, implying that professional capacity is a key component in addressing this issue.

Furthermore, the findings revealed that 76.7% of the respondents agreed that stakeholders involved in the prevention of domestic violence have access to training and capacity-building, whereas 23.3% of the respondents disagreed. This suggests that most stakeholders acknowledge efforts to enhance training and capacity-building initiatives, implying that continuous professional development is being prioritized.

In addition, the results indicate that 56.7% of the respondents agreed that there are adequate material resources to support efforts in the prevention of domestic violence, whereas 40.0% of the respondents disagreed, and 3.3% were not sure about the statement. This suggests that while majority believe that material resources are available, a significant proportion perceives them as insufficient, implying that resource constraints may hinder the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention efforts.

Lastly, the findings show that 70.0% of the respondents agreed that the government is strongly funding and contributing to resource availability against domestic violence, whereas 26.6% of the respondents disagreed, and 3.3% were not sure about the statement. This highlights the role of government funding in supporting prevention efforts, implying that government interventions play a crucial role in sustaining programs aimed at addressing domestic violence against children.

Overall, the findings indicate that while there is general agreement on the availability of trained personnel, training opportunities, and government funding for preventing domestic violence against children, there remain concerns regarding the sufficiency of material resources and the equitable distribution of training programs. Addressing these gaps would enhance the effectiveness of stakeholder interventions in preventing domestic violence against children.

4.4.1 Theme 3: Resource availability and prevention of domestic violence against children

From the interviews conducted with stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders, they were asked for their views on the ways the available material resources support the efforts to prevent domestic violence against children, plus the challenges that exist regarding these resources and their responses were as follows;

Use of material resources: Stakeholders within Kayunga District agree that physical resources are integral in supporting endeavours that aim to combat domestic violence towards children, notably in education, awareness campaigns, and case work. Educational pamphlets, children's protection booklets, and training guides are commonly used for community outreach, where stakeholders interact to educate children and families regarding their rights. Besides, the majority of stakeholders indicated the need for adequate transportation and office space to enable frequent monitoring of high-risk cases and ensuring interventions reach vulnerable children in hard-to-reach areas. Material resources therefore supplement the effectiveness of the probation department and other agencies in preventing abuse.

Challenges in resource availability: However, with resources in hand, stakeholders pointed out the key challenges of resource availability. The fact that one could not access sufficient funds to support mass awareness campaigns or provide specialist services, for instance, counseling for children affected by domestic violence, was one of the key issues pointed out. While there are material resources available, their accessibility and distribution are not equal, particularly in rural areas of Kayunga District. The stakeholders noticed that there are certain departments and organizations that do not have adequate staff or infrastructure to cater to the needs of children effectively, resulting in stretched resources and minimal impact.

Technology and case management: On top of the finances, stakeholders commented that limited accessibility to technology constituted a major threat. The nonexistence of competent data management systems complicates how agencies can track cases efficiently or collaborate with other stakeholders in a real-time sense. The inability to have one centralized case database often results in inefficiencies in that important details might be delayed or lost and, as a result, might not allow intervention on time. Furthermore, stakeholders specified that, despite the existence of legal frameworks and resources, there is usually an absence of the actual application of these resources due to logistical and infrastructural impediments.

Infrastructural and logistical barriers: The absence of material resources also affects the ability to offer long-term solutions to domestic violence-affected families. All the stakeholders emphasized the need for increased shelters, emergency beds, and domestic violence victim support services. Without these resources, families and children often have nowhere to go

following an incident of abuse, resulting in increased harm or re-victimization. The lack of the entire support network, ranging from intervention at crises to rehabilitation, continues to present a setback in the general efficacy of domestic violence prevention measures across Kayunga District. Some of the respondents had this to say,

“.....The lack of adequate funding for awareness programs and training materials is a constant challenge. While we have the will, resources are always a limiting factor in our efforts to protect children from domestic violence.....” **Social Worker**

“.....The lack of transportation and office equipment severely hampers our ability to monitor cases in rural areas. Without the right tools, it becomes difficult to respond to cases quickly and effectively.....” **Law Officer**

4.4.2 Theme 4: Government funding and prevention of domestic violence against children

From the interviews conducted with stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders, they were asked to describe the level of government funding and contribution toward resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children, plus the improvements they think are necessary and their responses were as follows;

Challenges in funding consistence: Stakeholders in the Kayunga District were commonly concerned about the amount of government funding and input towards the provision of resources available for preventing domestic violence among children. Most recognized that although there is some input from the government, the amount of money that they provide is always lacking enough to cater to the complexity and extent of the issue. The budget allocated is deemed inadequate for the mass prevention programs and interventions needed, particularly in rural and low-resource areas. While there are government initiatives to safeguard children, these are partly funded and not necessarily adequate to meet the demand for services within the district.

Government support for child protection: Some stakeholders noted that government assistance is episodic and not necessarily maintained over the long term, therefore limiting the long-term impact of domestic violence prevention initiatives. For example, community outreach programs and social worker and law enforcement training tend to be delayed or cut off due to

shortages in funds. This inconsistency of funding impedes agencies from being able to plan effectively and operate their services holistically. In addition, stakeholders pointed out that while the government may fund some projects, minimal follow-up or tracking is carried out to ensure the use of the resources effectively or that they even reach the most vulnerable.

Bureaucratic barriers to resource access: The availability of resources to deal with domestic violence is also hindered by bureaucratic inefficiencies, with stakeholders noting that it is usually slow and cumbersome to access government funds. This comes at the cost of timely interventions, especially when dealing with emergent cases.

Misalignment of resource allocation: Moreover, most stakeholders believe that the allocation of resources is not always as it ought to be, compared to the greatest priority needs. For example, while there are some resources directed towards legal processes, fewer resources are devoted to prevention measures such as community programs, campaign education, and victim shelter.

Improvement in government spending and resource allocation was usually a suggestion from stakeholders. All of them referred to the need for stable and more predictable funding of child protection programs, with early prevention and intervention in mind. They also referred to the need for better coordination between the non-governmental organizations and the government in a way that would maximize resources. Additionally, stakeholders emphasized the importance of improving infrastructure, such as the creation of child-friendly spaces and domestic violence victim shelters, to ensure that children have a safe and caring environment in the aftermath of abuse. Some of the respondents had this to say,

“.....While the government provides some funding, it is never enough. We need consistent and adequate resources to ensure we can truly make an impact in preventing domestic violence against children.....” **Law Officer**

“.....The government’s contribution often feels disjointed, and the resources we do receive are not always aligned with the immediate needs on the ground. A more coordinated approach with steady funding would make a real difference.....” **Community Leader**

4.5 Stakeholders perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children

Table 8 summarizes respondents' responses on stakeholders perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children by using a Likert scale where SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), D (Disagree), SD (Strongly Disagree) and NS (Not Sure).

Table 8: Stakeholders perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement				
	SA	A	D	SD	NS
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
Probation department responds to cases of domestic violence in a timely manner	9 30.0%	12 40.0%	7 23.3%	2 6.7%	00
Case management strategies are effective in handling cases of domestic violence.	10 33.3%	11 36.7%	3 10.0%	2 6.7%	4 13.3%
Data management and record keeping is effective in handling cases of domestic violence.	7 23.3%	14 46.7%	5 16.7%	3 10.0%	1 3.3%
The probation department prioritize child centered approaches in addressing domestic violence	13 43.3%	13 43.3%	2 6.7%	2 6.7%	00

Source: *Primary data*

Table 8 represents the descriptive statistics on stakeholders' perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children. According to the study in Table 7 above, 70.0% of the respondents agreed that the probation department prioritizes child-centered approaches in addressing domestic violence, whereas 13.4% of the respondents disagreed, and none were unsure about the statement. This indicates that the probation department is perceived as prioritizing child welfare in its interventions, implying that its policies and strategies are focused on ensuring the best interests of children affected by domestic violence.

Furthermore, the findings revealed that 66.7% of the respondents agreed that case management strategies employed by the probation department are effective in handling cases of domestic violence, whereas 16.7% of the respondents disagreed, and 13.3% were not sure about the statement. This suggests that the existing case management strategies are viewed as beneficial in addressing domestic violence cases, implying that continued improvements and resource allocation in this area could further enhance their effectiveness.

In addition, the findings showed that 70.0% of the respondents agreed that the probation department responds to cases of domestic violence in a timely manner, whereas 30.0% of the respondents disagreed, and none were unsure about the statement. This highlights that a significant proportion of stakeholders believe that the probation department takes prompt action in handling domestic violence cases, implying that efficient response mechanisms contribute to better protection and support for affected children.

Lastly, the findings established that 70.0% of the respondents agreed that data management and record-keeping are effective in handling cases of domestic violence, while 26.7% of the respondents disagreed, and 3.3% were not sure about the statement. This underscores the role of proper data management in ensuring accountability and systematic follow-up of cases, implying that maintaining accurate records can enhance the effectiveness of probation interventions.

Overall, the findings indicate that stakeholders generally perceive the probation department's case management strategies as effective in responding to domestic violence against children. However, the presence of respondents who disagreed or were unsure about certain aspects suggests that there is room for improvement, particularly in strengthening case management strategies and ensuring consistency in their implementation.

4.5.1 Theme 5: Probation department and response to domestic violence against children

From the interviews conducted with stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders, they were asked for their views on how the probation department responds to cases of domestic violence against children, including the factors that influence the timeliness of their response and their responses were as follows;

Proactive approach: Stakeholders in Kayunga District described the probation department's response to cases of domestic violence against children as generally proactive but often constrained by various challenges. In case the cases are reported, the probation department usually coordinates with the police, social workers, and community leaders in a bid to provide safety for the child immediately. It is incumbent on the probation officers to delve into the case, visit homes, and launch the legal process when necessary.

Resource constraints: As much as the probation agency strives towards swift response to cases, stakeholders said in certain instances the nature of cases or severity may be high enough to detract from prompt action, particularly when there are inadequate resources or challenges in presenting adequate evidence.

Coordination issues: Timeliness in the probation department's response is also influenced by several factors, with the most significant being the availability of resources. Stakeholders noted that poor staffing, especially in rural areas, undermines the ability of probation officers to respond to multiple cases simultaneously. The unavailability of reliable transportation and communication devices further hinders them from responding quickly to affected families, leading to delays in intervention. Also, the lack of adequate shelter and rehabilitation centers for abused children tends to extend the response time because children have to be relocated to safe zones before other responses can be administered.

Delayed interventions: Another key factor that will influence the timeliness of the response by the probation department is the coordination level among stakeholders. In other instances, the response delays occur due to ineffective communication among NGOs, social workers, law enforcers, and the probation department. Inadequate collaboration of these agencies within close proximity provides space for vagueness and response delays. Furthermore, bureaucratic processes in obtaining resources or making legal interventions in certain situations slow down the rate of response when immediate action has to be executed to ensure the safety of the child.

Community role: Community participation has also been underscored by stakeholders in facilitating quick response from the probation department. If social workers, NGOs, and local leaders report and follow up on cases, the probation department responds quickly. Delays are possible with the lack of community awareness and fear to report children domestic violence

cases. To enhance timeliness, stakeholders recommended augmenting community education as well as intensifying partnerships between government agencies and local organizations to allow for faster interventions and assistance to the affected children. Some of the respondents had this to say,

“.....The probation department does what it can, but delays are inevitable when there are not enough resources or staff. It’s a matter of being stretched too thin and sometimes waiting for the right circumstances to act swiftly.....” **Social Worker**

“.....While we do our best to respond quickly, the lack of coordination between different departments and organizations can cause delays. It's crucial that we work more closely together to speed up interventions.....” **Probation Officer**

4.5.2 Theme 6: Case management and record-keeping for domestic violence against children

From the interviews conducted with stakeholders holding different positions in Kayunga district who were; the Probation officers, law officers, non-governmental leaders, social workers and community leaders, they were asked for their views on how the probation department manages and maintains case records, including challenges that exist in their data management and record-keeping systems and their responses were as follows;

Manual record-keeping: The stakeholders in Kayunga District noted that the probation department normally maintains case records manually, with every case documented in hard files with reports, statements, and all other legal documents related to the case. The records are stored in a central office, where they are updated by probation officers on a regular basis after completing investigations and follow-ups of cases. The department also collaborates with social workers and local police to disseminate and update case data. However, most stakeholders were worried about the lack of a standardized system to manage these records, which tends to make it difficult to monitor the progress of cases efficiently or access information when needed.

Lack of digital systems: Concerns about the probation department's data management and record-keeping systems were prominent in the stakeholder feedback. Among the key issues

identified was the lack of an electronic or computerized system for record-keeping. This means huge stacks of physical paper records, which are prone to loss, damage, or disappearance.

Fragmented information: In addition, manual records consume a lot of time and effort to update and cross-reference, hence case handling is delayed. Stakeholders also pointed out that the absence of a central database for all child protection cases means that critical information at times becomes scattered across different departments, and coordination and timely intervention become more difficult.

Training deficiency: The second issue raised was the insufficiency of training for probation officers in case file handling and working with data. Lacking the training and infrastructure for doing records in a methodical way, probation officers will usually fail to determine that all the relevant documents are accurate and complete as required.

Risk of data loss: Not having an effective system of backup in hard files also exposes the department to loss of information in case of unforeseen events, i.e., theft or fire. Stakeholders highlighted that having a digital system in place for record-keeping, coupled with ongoing training of staff, would go a long way towards enhancing efficiency and making sure case records are kept securely. Some of the respondents had this to say,

“.....The manual record-keeping system we use is time-consuming, and it's easy for important information to get lost or misplaced. A digital system could really help streamline our work.....” **Law Officer**

“.....Our records are often spread across different offices, and without a proper database, it can be a real challenge to get a clear picture of a case's status. We need better systems to ensure everything is in one place.....” **Social Worker**

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of findings, summary and description of findings derived from the study. The chapter also provides findings, conclusions and recommendations for importation of goods as well as recommendations for further research.

5.1 Discussion of findings

5.1.1 Stakeholders perspectives on the collaboration of probation department in preventing domestic violence against children

The findings of the research showed that the stakeholders in Kayunga District perceived the partnership between the probation department and other agencies as successful, particularly in terms of demarcation of laws and mobilization of resources. The coordination activities, including regular meetings, exchange of information, and carrying out outreach programs at the community level, were viewed as essential in preventing domestic violence against children. These findings concur with Johnson and Stylianou (2022), whose research underscored the importance of community-organized responses to domestic violence. Johnson and Stylianou (2022) pointed out that there is a need for coordinated cooperation among various stakeholders, such as probation departments, police, and social workers, in providing a holistic response to cases of domestic violence, which ensures both immediate protection and long-term care to victims. Also, the use of joint case management and mediation, as highlighted by the stakeholders in this study, is a process that has proved to be successful in collaborative child protection practice.

The study also pointed out that the stakeholders in Kayunga District identified the need for improved funding, inter-agency coordination, and police training in order to boost child protection. This relates to the work of Olszowy et al. (2020), which observed that there are existing laws and policies, but their practical implementation fails because of the lack of proper resources and adequate training for child protection workers. Shimizu et al. (2022) found that

child protection workers can face barriers to risk assessment and appropriate response to domestic violence cases due to resource inadequacies and training gaps, which hinder them from effectively implementing protective action. In line with these findings, stakeholders in Kayunga District also reiterated the point that additional resources and coordination are needed in order to effectively implement child protection laws such as the Children Act and the Domestic Violence Act.

In addition, the study noted that stakeholders in Kayunga District noted that national and international laws, such as the Children Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, are essential in guaranteeing a solid legal framework for the prevention of domestic violence against children. They, however, noted that the issue of implementation still persists due to cultural aspects and coordination failure. This finding is in tandem with Hetzel-Riggin (2023), who formulated that cultural and societal values, and poor inter-agency coordination, are extremely significant barriers to the successful implementation of coordinated community response to domestic violence. Hetzel-Riggin (2023) noted that even with having strong legal frameworks, cultural attitudes and poor training on how to deal with these laws may make it difficult for effective implementation of domestic violence policies. Similarly, the study findings reveal that the probation department's efforts are typically constrained by such issues and, therefore, cultural awareness and cooperation need to be developed to overcome such limitations.

5.1.2 Stakeholders perspectives on resource availability for preventing domestic violence against children

Evidence in the study revealed that stakeholders within the Kayunga District recognize the importance of trained officers, training programs, and government subsidies in addressing domestic violence against children. However, concerns about the adequacy of material resources, especially in rural areas, and the inconsistency of government subsidies were common. The results are in alignment with the literature of Shanley et al. (2021), who stated that training and community involvement are fundamental to preventing child maltreatment programs. They emphasized that trained staff and proper training programs are pivotal in ensuring successful child protection programs. Similarly, Puspawati et al. (2023) found that inadequate resources and

funding are among the main obstacles to effective domestic violence prevention in the majority of regions, further corroborating the research findings on the challenges faced by stakeholders in Kayunga District. Both authors highlight the need for improved resource allocation and investment in training to enhance the effectiveness of prevention.

The findings also revealed shortcomings of inadequate funding of campaign awareness, lack of transportation, office space, and technological installation, all of which are a barrier to curbing domestic violence effectively. This concurs with Pallatino et al. (2019), who enumerated the shortage of material resources such as transportation and technological installation as very significant barriers to the success of intervention programs. They found that, in a majority of the cases, a shortage of resources significantly impedes the ability of service providers to reach and assist the affected person. Further, Garcia et al. (2024) explained that inadequate infrastructure and logistical limitations, such as transportation problems and insufficient office spaces, were large obstacles to services addressing the need of families being subjected to intimate partner violence. The two studies both highlight the need for stakeholders to place high priority on infrastructure and logistics upgrading to be able to deliver services to domestic violence victims better.

The research further indicated that financing by the government was described as unstable and in short supply, especially for long-term prevention initiatives. The stakeholders further highlighted bureaucratic inefficiency in the slow release of funds. This is as per the Shanley et al. (2021) literature, which observed that unstable and delayed funding by the government threatens the effectiveness of child protection programs. They observe that prevention programs are undermined in terms of sustainability due to the lack of stable sources of funding for long-term interventions. Puspawati et al. (2023) further mentioned that government resource misallocation inefficiencies are to blame for the ineffectiveness of domestic violence prevention. Both studies highlight the importance of a more stable and sustainable funding mechanism to ensure that child protection is adequately funded. The demand by stakeholders for periodic government subsidies, enhanced collaboration with NGOs, and infrastructural improvement aligns with the suggestions in the literature to increase the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention programs.

5.1.3 Stakeholders perspectives on probation department case management strategies in responding to domestic violence against children

The study revealed that the stakeholders in Kayunga District perceive the case management strategies of the probation department to be mostly effective, particularly in prioritizing child-centered solutions, timely case processing, and effective data management and record-keeping. However, the challenges identified were the insufficient resources, personnel, inter-agency coordination, and manual record-keeping systems as impediments to the effectiveness of the department. The findings align with literature of Stylianou & Ebright (2021), who emphasized that response to children who are victims of violence, must be coordinated, trauma-informed, and interdisciplinary. They argued that a well-coordinated response, with child-centered care and timely responses, is necessary for improving case outcomes. Similarly, Shanholtz et al. (2020) concluded that the effectiveness of interventions in domestic violence cases is heavily influenced by response within a timely context and having multiple stakeholders fulfill their role in handling the case. The above findings uphold the work establishing that, without proper implementation, a child-sensitive approach suits in averting or lessening domestic violence, whereas limitations such as availability of fewer resources and un-coordination limit anticipated results.

The findings also indicated that resource constraints, team delays, and paper-based records systems significantly influence the response of the probation department in a timely manner. The challenges hinder effective case management and monitoring of progress. This is in line with Tsantefski et al. (2021), who authored on the importance of timely response in high-risk domestic violence and child protection cases, as noting that delay tends to enhance the vulnerability of children in such situations. They further asserted that poor coordination among agencies and a lack of resources lead to delayed intervention, and this could undermine the effectiveness of protection strategies. Robinson and Clancy (2021) also found that inadequate coordination and poor data management systems were main challenges in the provision of interventions to targeted beneficiaries in instances of domestic violence. Both studies highlighted that systematic inefficiencies and delays have the potential to lead to missed opportunities for intervention, much like the findings of this study on the negative impact of resource shortages and coordination failure.

Lastly, the study underscored the value of raising awareness among the community, enhanced inter-agency coordination, and computerized record-keeping systems for improving case management. The findings concur with research by Shanholtz et al. (2020), who established that increasing awareness on the community level and improving intersectoral collaboration would most likely significantly enhance intervention performance. They determined that increased interaction with the community and interagency working leads to more all-encompassing strategies towards domestic violence. Additionally, Stylianou and Ebright (2021) reported that digital infrastructure and centralized data management are the elements most essential to enhancing coordination and efficiency of interventions, especially in the case of children exposed to intimate partner violence. Both studies implore improved infrastructure and coordination to rationalize processes and speed up response time, an outright appeal echoing the recommendations by the stakeholders in the Kayunga District to address challenges facing the probation department's case management strategy.

5.2 Summary of findings

The findings of the research showed that stakeholders in Kayunga District generally believe in the efficacy of collaboration among the probation department and other players in preventing domestic violence against children, with a high level of consensus on the clear articulation of laws and mobilization of resources. Major domestic and international law, including the Children Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, provide a solid legal framework, but the issue of implementation persists due to resource constraints, cultural perceptions, and coordination lapses. Collective action, such as regular meeting, information exchange, and community-based prevention programs, is deemed to be crucial in the prevention of domestic violence. Besides, establishing child protection networks and concurrent case management and mediation methods are reported to be effective measures. Stakeholders, though, felt the urgency for increased funding, inter-agency coordination, and training of law enforcers to increase child protection as well as to make the legal provisions enforceable in an effective manner.

Furthermore, the findings indicated that stakeholders in Kayunga District acknowledged the contribution of trained staff, training programs, and government subsidies towards minimizing

domestic violence against children. Although all respondents agreed on the existence of trained staff and training availability, concerns regarding sufficiency of material resources, especially in rural districts, and government subsidies were prevailing. Stakeholders cited problems such as inadequate funds for awareness-raising campaigns, no transport, office space, and technology infrastructure, all of which hinder the prevention of domestic violence. Funding from the government was described as irregular and limited, particularly towards long-term prevention schemes, with bureaucratic inefficiencies further hindering resource allocation. Solutions were proposed, such as secure government funding, improved coordination with NGOs, and improved infrastructure, such as child-friendly spaces and shelters, to offer comprehensive services for children impacted by domestic violence.

Lastly, the study found that stakeholders perceive the case management responses of the probation department to be effective in responding to domestic violence against children, with the majority of them agreeing that the department prioritizes child-centered approaches, processes cases in reasonable timeframes, and has efficient data management and record-keeping. However, challenges such as insufficient resources, understaffing, absence of coordination among agencies, and manual recording systems encroach on the department's response and efficiency. Timely responses are particularly undermined by collaboration delays and resource limitations, while the lack of standard, electronic record systems complicates case management and progress monitoring. Stakeholders recommended that awareness-raising in communities, inter-agency coordination, and electronic record-keeping systems be implemented to address these challenges and improve overall intervention effectiveness.

5.3 Conclusions

In conclusion, the research findings highlight the generally positive perception of stakeholders in Kayunga District regarding the collaboration of the probation department and other entities in preventing domestic violence against children. While stakeholders acknowledge the importance of legal frameworks, trained personnel, and resource mobilization, challenges such as inadequate funding, poor inter-agency coordination, & resource limitations hinder effective implementation. To address these challenges, stakeholders recommend improved funding, enhanced coordination, community awareness initiatives, and the introduction of electronic record-keeping systems to

strengthen child protection efforts and ensure more efficient responses to domestic violence cases.

5.4 Recommendations

From the above discussions of findings and conclusion, the following measures are recommended in response to analysis of stakeholders perspectives on the role of probation department in preventing and responding to domestic violence against children in Kayunga district

The study recommends the need for more funding and mobilization of resources to effectively address domestic violence against children. The stakeholders emphasized the need for consistent and adequate government funding, particularly for long-term prevention programs. This should include funding for awareness campaigns, transport, office rentals, and information technology infrastructure. Stable funding will enable the implementation of overall child protection programs and enhance coordination with NGOs and other stakeholders involved.

Furthermore, the study recommends the need for creation of expanded inter-agency coordination and cooperation in domestic violence intervention among children. Stakeholders conformed that there is a need for better communication and collaborative case management between the probation department, law enforcement agencies, and other child protection agencies. Having regular meetings, information sharing, and developing child protection networks will improve the overall effectiveness of interventions and coordination towards ensuring no child is exposed to domestic violence.

More so, the study recommends the need for adoption of computerized record-keeping systems within the probation department to improve case management and response efficiency. Stakeholders identified the lack of standardized electronic systems as a significant barrier to tracking progress, coordinating efforts, and enabling timely interventions. Computerized record-keeping will make case management easier, improve data accuracy, and enhance the overall responsiveness of the probation department in handling domestic violence cases against children.

In addition, the study recommends the need for constant capacity development and training of probation officers and other stakeholders involved in preventing and responding to domestic

violence. Stakeholders highlighted the need to equip staff with new knowledge and skills, particularly in handling complex cases that involve child protection and domestic violence. Regular training programs will enhance the expertise of professionals to use child-centered strategies, handle cases more efficiently, and ensure legal provisions are enforced effectively.

Lastly, the study propounds the provision of child-friendly spaces and safe havens in order to protect children exposed to domestic violence from head to toe. The stakeholders mentioned that no safe spaces for the provision of psychological support, shelter, and other essential services necessary for well-being and rehabilitation are available. Providing separate child-friendly spaces will enable the better protection and caregiving of victims, promoting lasting healing and no recurrence of more violence.

5.5 Recommendations for further research

Further research is needed to explore the impact of community-based initiatives on preventing domestic violence against children in Kayunga District, particularly in rural settings.

Additionally, studying the effectiveness of digital record-keeping systems in improving the efficiency of case management within the probation department could provide valuable insights.

Finally, research could also examine the role of cultural norms and attitudes in shaping responses to domestic violence, as well as how inter-agency cooperation can be strengthened to ensure more holistic and sustainable protection for children.

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