

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND ITS
MEDIOCO-LEGAL ASPECTS AMONG PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND ABOVE
IN NAKIFUMA-NAGGALAMA TOWN COUNCIL, MUKONO DISTRICT**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
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DECLARATION

I **NAMUYOMBA AGATHA** hereby declare that at the time of submission of this dissertation, being my original craft it has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning for the award of a Bachelor's degree of laws and all sources which have been cited are accordingly to the best of my knowledge true and valid.

I therefore submit my original work for the partial fulfillment of the award of the Bachelor's degree of laws.

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation titled “**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND ITS MEDIOCO-LEGAL ASPECTS AMONG PEOPLE AGED 15 YEARS AND ABOVE IN NAKIFUMA-NAGGALAMA TOWN COUNCIL, MUKONO DISTRICT**” was under my supervision and it is now ready for presentation to the department of laws at the Uganda Christian University.

Mr.:

Signature:

Date:

DEDICATION

I entirely dedicate this dissertation to the **ALMIGHTY GOD** in whom the **SPIRIT** of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding dwells and for the strength **HE** has given me to accomplish this task.

I also dedicate this work to my family for their unending support, prayers, and guidance and for being genuine points of reference to me throughout my academic journey this far.

I also dedicate this to my friends for encouraging and advising me appropriately.

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I also do acknowledge the great works of the entire faculty of laws at the Uganda Christian University which has been the burning light to my path in this legal journey.

ABSTRACT

This study was and has been based on the factors contributing to gender-based violence and its medio co-legal aspects among people aged 15 years and above in Nakifuma-Nagalama town council, Mukono District. It has been conducted in order to discover the causes and pave way to the challenges arising from gender equality to marginalized groups and children.

This being a worldwide public challenge which cuts across all ages, classes, cultures and nationalities. The determinants occur at the individual, community and societal levels within all social, economic, religious and cultural groups. The evaluation employed both quantitative and qualitative as mixed methods for data collection.

The methods used to collect data included questionnaire and interview guides. It is therefore, recommended that both government and non-governmental institutions should facilitate a policy dialogue on the social, health and economic consequences of Gender Based Violence to the society as a whole.

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CHAPTER ONE

Over view.

This chapter highlights the introduction, Back ground, Major objectives, Specific objectives, General Research Questions, Statement of the problem, Research Questions, Geographical Scope and the Theoretical framework.

Introduction

Gender Based Violence, in its various forms, is endemic in communities around the world, cutting across class, race, age, religion and national boundaries. Exposure to Gender Based Violence significantly exposes children to physical and mental challenges. The impact of Gender Based Violence resonates in all areas of health and social programming: survivors of this violence experience increased rates of morbidity and mortality.

While youths are the most visible survivors of violence, they are far from being the only ones who suffer from the consequences: children of both sexes constitute the majority of abuse survivors, and adult men and the handicapped are minority groups who are often neglected in research and interventions. There is growing awareness of the links of Gender Based Violence; however, there are few programs that simultaneously address the determinants and consequences of Gender Based Violence in an integrated and comprehensive manner, with responses being implemented separately by the NGO and public sectors, and by separate line ministries within national governments. In addition to this, few guidelines or frameworks exist to guide policymakers and programme managers in developing and implementing the comprehensive response necessary to address the health and criminal justice consequences of violence, and to reduce the determinants of violent behavior within communities in Mukono. Moreover, in most situations, organizations and ministries are undertaking activities without reference to or liaison with other key actors and networks within Nakifuma and its surrounding areas basically affecting the children in the age brackets of 15 and above.

Background

Gender Based Violence was and still remains as a major legal threat to the people living in Nakifuma-Naggalama town council, located in Mukono district. In the year 2021 to 2023 the report by the Uganda Police Force it did show an increase in the number of domestic and gender based violence cases in areas of Mukono and other surrounding areas which did include the areas of Nakifuma and Nagalama where the number did increase from 23.4 percent to 27.9 percent in the years of 2024 to 2025. This growing and increase in the gender based violence cases is the reason for this research/ However, the Government of Uganda has registered considerable efforts in policy, program development and implementation plan with a motive of preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence cases.

Due to the uprising effects of Gender Based Violence the government has established national policies and laws which underscore gender based violence as a national concern that impedes development. These include The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the Penal Code Act Cap 128, Children's Act Cap 62, The Domestic Violence Act Cap 123 and policies such as the Uganda Gender Policy 2007, The National Policy on Elimination of Gender Based Violence in Uganda 2016, and the Guidelines for Establishment and Management of Gender Based Violence Shelters in Uganda. These policies, laws and guidelines provide the legal context within which programs on prevention and response to Gender Based Violence occurs. Despite these efforts, Gender Based Violence remains persistent.

Statement of the problem

In Uganda children are highly exposed to Gender Based Violence cases, especially children living in communities around Mukono, Nakifuma-Naggalama town council between the ages of 15 years and above. Gender Based Violence still stands as a critical national problem in Uganda but mostly in areas of Nakifuma and Naggalama. This being a major violation of the fundamental human rights, it creates a long term

impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of children, families and communities at large.

The Annual Police Report in 2024, Police noted that there was a 4.1% decrease in the volume of crimes reported to Police from 228,074 cases registered in 2023 to 218,715 cases. Out of the total cases reported to the Police countrywide, 81,750 cases were taken to Court, 46,302 cases were not proceeded with, while 90,663 cases are still under inquiry. Out of the cases taken to Court, 26,328 cases secured convictions, 1,510 cases were acquitted, 10,333 cases were dismissed while 43,579 cases are still pending in Court. Arising out of the total cases reported to Police, 88,985 suspects (i.e., 81,878 Male Adults, 4,839 Female Adults, 2,073 Male Juveniles and 195 Female Juveniles) were arrested and charged to Court. Out of whom, 12,148 (11,050 male Adult, 640 Female Adult, 404 Male Juveniles, 54 Female Juveniles) were convicted and sentenced to serve in various prisons countrywide for offences they committed, while 76,364 suspects were still awaiting trial by Courts of Law. For 2024, a grand total of 220,594 persons (132,714 Male Adults, 59,331 Female Adults, 7,969 Male Juveniles, 20, 580 Female Juveniles) were victims of crimes¹.

However, the Uganda Police Annual Crime report of 2014 raises a concern over the increase in incidents of Gender Based Violence crimes against children such as Defilements and other Children related crimes, domestic violence and threatening violence among others. The report indicates that in 2014, a total number of 3,006 cases of Domestic Violence were investigated compared to 3,426 cases in 2013. While this represents a decline in Gender Based Violence occurrences, defilement remained the first of the ten leading crimes in 2013 and 2014. The prevalence, complexity and the social acceptance of Gender Based Violence have generated the recognition that the prevention and response to Gender Based Violence requires broad community participation and particularly the participation of boys and girls.

¹ Police report of 2024

In the Police report of 2024, a total of 14,073 cases of Domestic Violence were reported to Police in 2024 compared to 14,681 cases reported in 2023 thus giving a 4% decrease in the volume of Domestic Violence registered countrywide.

There was a general decrease in cases of Domestic Violence registered countrywide from 17,698 cases in 2022 to 14,073 cases in 2024 as shown in Figure 44 above. Domestic Violence has mainly been caused by, Dispute over family property, Failure to provide for the family, Drug and alcohol abuse, and Cases of infidelity. By the end of 2024, 1,502 cases of Domestic Violence were taken to Court, out of which, 525 cases secured convictions, 05 case was acquitted, 135 cases were dismissed while 837 cases are still pending in Court. A total of 14,126 people were victims of Domestic Violence, of whom 3,161 were Male Adults, 10,276 were Female Adults and 323 were Male Juveniles while 366 were Female Juveniles.

It further divided this report into two,

1. North Kyoga Region

This registered the highest number of Domestic Violence in 2024 (1,497 cases), followed Rwizi with 1,291 cases, Rwenzori West with 864 cases and Elgon with 655 cases as shown in the figure below.

2. District/Divisional

Mukono Police Station registered the highest number of cases of Domestic Violence in 2023 of 409 cases, followed by Nakifuma with 386 cases, Busia with 307 cases, and Kween with 289 cases and Luwero with 287 cases as shown in the table below.

Major objective

To discover the major factors contributing to gender-based violence amongst children between the ages of 15 years and above living in Nakifuma-Naggalama town council in Mukono district.

Specific objectives

- a. To establish the conceptual meaning of Gender Based Violence.

- b. To establish the factors contributing to Gender Based Violence in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono District.
- c. To find out Gender-Based awareness levels amongst persons living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono.
- d. To discover strategies on how to curb or minimize gender based violence amongst people between 15 years and above living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono district

General research question

What are the key factors that contribute to Gender Based Violence among people between 15 years and above in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono district?

Research questions

- a. What the conceptual meaning of Gender Based Violence?
- b. What are the factors contributing to Gender Based Violence in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono District?
- c. What are the Gender-Based awareness levels amongst persons living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono?
- d. What are the strategies used to curb or minimize gender based violence amongst people between 15 years and above living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono district?

Theoretical framework

The Gender Based Violence system is one by default, not by design. It can be designed better to leverage stocked synergies and stimulate the creation of new narratives and approaches to propel a positive emergence (Tracy et al., 2023)². Social design can flourish social participation to address the complex social problem of gender-based

² Tracy et al., 2023

violence (Costanza-Chock, 2018; Gold, Muthuri, & Reiner, 2018)³ and positive changes by recognizing that many societal issues are interconnected and require multidimensional solutions beyond traditional approaches. Exploring new narratives of worldviews as regenerative cultures can stimulate transitions for non-linear and soloed thinking that shape the modern world (Leitão, 2023)⁴. Benjamin, J.A. & Murchison, L. (2004)⁵ on Gender-based violence: Care & protection of children in emergencies provides for the theoretical framework for this study on factors contributing to Gender Based Violence amongst children. This field guide provides a brief overview of gender-based violence in emergencies, outlining what Gender-Based Violence is, the legal framework which protects individuals from such violence, and guidelines for programming options. It is designed to provide the basis for understanding and analyzing situations of gender-based violence, identifying factors contributing to Gender Based Violence, and taking steps to respond in appropriate and sensitive ways.

Further makes Key findings to this which included, Throughout history, Gender-Based Violence has been a component of war and conflict. In some cases it has been an intentional strategy of humiliation and violation, while in others it was conducted randomly as “spoils of war.” Today Gender Based Violence continues to be an element in almost all conflicts, targeting primarily boys and girls. Gender-based violence occurs in times of peace as well as during conflict, but the conditions brought about by war and other emergencies exacerbate the tendencies towards violence. During times of conflict, normal social restraints erode. Gender-based violence is a common occurrence in conflict-affected communities because rape, torture and other violent forms of sexual assault.

Geographical Scope

The research will be conducted in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono district, the primary setting where one can easily investigate the factors that contribute to gender-based violence among children of 15 years and above. Nakifuma

³ Costanza-Chock, 2018; Gold, Muthuri, & Reiner, 2018

⁴ Leitão, 2023

⁵ Benjamin, J.A. & Murchison, L

and Nagalama town council is situated in Mukono District. The research will be based within the areas of Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono district and its immediate surroundings which is set as a focal point. This can enable a detailed output of the research on the concepts, laws and policies, and experiences of people with respect to awareness about Gender Based Violence.

Focusing attention on the general research question, the study sought to achieve an in-depth understanding of the factors contributing to gender-based violence and its mediocrity-legal aspects among the people of 15 years and above in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono district.

Literature Review

This chapter presents literature review which is intended to give a comprehensive background of gender based violence in Uganda, stretching emphasis to the people of Nakifuma and Naggalama town council. The review is structured around three basic components, and these are definitions of terms, theoretical review, social cultural factors, policy frame work, and the legal frame work evolving around gender based violence cases in Uganda at large.

Research Methodology

Research design refers to the overall strategy or plan that a researcher uses to conduct a research study. It is the framework that guides the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data. The research design is a critical component of any research project, as it determines the validity, reliability, and generalizability of the findings.

CHAPTER TWO

Introduction

This chapter does outline the techniques to be used to implement the research and gives an insight into the quality of all means to be used throughout the process.

Qualitative Research.

Qualitative research is an approach that focuses on understanding the meaning and experiences of research participants in their natural settings. This type of research involves the collection and analysis of non-numerical data, such as interviews, observations, and document analysis (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The goal of qualitative research is to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations that drive human behavior and decision-making. Researchers using a qualitative approach often employ inductive reasoning, allowing themes and patterns to emerge from the data, rather than testing predetermined hypotheses (Merriam & Tisdell, 2015). Qualitative research is particularly useful for exploring complex social phenomena and providing rich, contextual insights that cannot be easily captured through quantitative methods alone (Patton, 2015).

Quantitative Research.

Quantitative research is an approach that focuses on the collection and analysis of numerical data to test hypotheses, establish relationships, and make predictions (Babbie, 2020)⁶. This type of research involves the use of structured data collection instruments, such as surveys and experiments, to gather information that can be analyzed using statistical techniques (Creswell & Creswell, 2018)⁷. The goal of quantitative research is to identify patterns, trends, and causal relationships among variables, allowing researchers to draw conclusions and generalize findings to a larger population (Frankfort-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero, 2018)⁸.

⁶ Babbie, 2020

⁷ Creswell & Creswell, 2018)

⁸ Frankfort-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero, 2018

Quantitative research is particularly useful for measuring the magnitude and frequency of phenomena, as well as for testing the effectiveness of interventions or policies (Bryman, 2016)⁹.

The proposed study aims to factors contributing to Gender Based Violence and its medioco-legal aspects among people aged 15 years and above in NAKIFUMA-NAGGALAMA town council, Mukono District, Uganda, employing a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative and qualitative techniques. The quantitative component will involve collecting numerical data through close-ended survey questions to describe and analyze the statistical relationships between Gender-Based Violence awareness and academic performance, while the qualitative aspect will consist of open-ended interview questions to allow respondents to share their opinions, suggestions, and recommendations on the topic.

Additionally, the study will use an inferential quantitative design to assess the association between gender-based violence awareness and academic performance. The research will be conducted in Mukono, Nakifuma, Nagalama in the Mukono District, and will utilize both primary and secondary data sources, including performance reports, and relevant literature, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue. (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999)¹⁰.

Population of the Study.

The population will be composed of local leaders, and community at large which shall be purposively selected because of their task relevance as policy implementers. Children to will be consulted for being the key victims around this research. The local leaders will include the LC1 Chairperson, the women affairs and the youth leaders among others.

This study will comprise of several respondents, information from people will be by means of questionnaires, further information from leaders will also be by using questionnaires, I will get information from community members also using

⁹ Bryman, 2016

¹⁰ Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999).

questionnaires as a data collection method. I have chosen questionnaires because of their efficiency, standardized, flexible.

This will provide valuable insights and perspectives from the institutional and administrative standpoints, complementing the data collected from the sample and allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to Gender-Based Violence among people living in Nakifuma and Nagalama in Mukono District, Uganda. By incorporating these diverse perspectives, the research is aimed at gaining a holistic analysis about the factors contributing to Gender-Based Violence, in Nakifuma, Nagalama in Mukono District.

Definitions of terms

There is no single or universal definition of gender-based or sexual violence. Understandings differ according to country, community and legal context. For instance, prevalent definitions of sexual violence exclude children. The lack of a clear and commonly accepted language inhibits the development of an effective reporting system and/or databases, and thus restrains prevention, monitoring and advocacy efforts (Baker, 2007)¹¹.

The term Gender Based Violence, in its widest sense, refers to the physical, emotional or sexual abuse of a survivor. This review focuses exclusively on abuse, and discusses the management of physical and emotional abuse only where it relates to accompanying sexual abuse. The classification of violence and abuse is explored in more detail in Annex 1.

The term Gender Based Violence is widely used as a synonym for violence against women, in order to highlight the gender inequality in which much violence is rooted (IGWG of USAID, 2006)¹². However, while this review acknowledges that the overwhelming recipients of violence are female, the term gender-based violence is here used to encompass all women, men, girls and boys who have experienced sexual violence.

¹¹ Baker, 2007

¹² IGWG of USAID, 2006

Gender-based violence is violence that is directed against an individual or group of individuals based on their gender (Cruz and Klinger, 2020)¹³. In other words, it encompasses violence against women and girls as well as violence against men and boys. The concept of Gender Based Violence does not exclude men and boys since they are also greatly affected.

Further, Gender Based Violence is defined as an act of violence rooted in some form of patriarchal ideology to maintain social power for men. (Council of Europe,2021)¹⁴. In this case, Gender Based Violence is referred to as violence inflicted on individuals primarily women and girls as a means of maintaining male dominance and control within society. This violence can manifest in various forms like physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse.

In addition, the (UN Nations, 2020)¹⁵ defines violence against women as any act of Gender Based Violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

Furthermore, Gender Based Violence is defined as physical, sexual, and psychological violence against both men and women that occurs within the family and the community and is perpetrated or condoned by the state. World Bank (Jan. 1, 2022)¹⁶

Theoretical literature review

Violence against children between ages 15 and above is a complex social issue and there are many factors that contribute to this violence. It is therefore important to take the time to think about how we develop programs, plans and initiatives to prevent violence against children and youths. Existing theories about how people can change a situation and resolve a problem, theories of change can be very useful tools to help decide the actions required in our plans.

¹³ Cruz and Klinger, 2020

¹⁴ Council of Europe,2021

¹⁵ UN Nations, 2020)

¹⁶ Jan. 1, 2022

To establish the conceptual meaning of gender-based violence.

The conceptual underpinnings of Gender Based Violence awareness involve a multidimensional understanding that extends beyond just recognizing different manifestations of violence directed toward individuals due to their gender identity or expression (Flood & Pease, 2020)¹⁷. Deeper awareness requires comprehending the complex sociocultural factors and gendered power dynamics that perpetuate such violence within a given context, including how gender norms and structural inequalities shape the experiences of victims and survivors, as well as the barriers they face (World Health Organization, 2021)¹⁸. Gender Based Violence awareness also entails knowledge about the far-reaching consequences and impacts of this violence, which go beyond immediate harms to include broader social, economic, and developmental reverberations (Heise et al., 2023)¹⁹. At the highest level, Gender Based Violence awareness encompasses understanding effective strategies and interventions for addressing gender-based violence, such as policies, laws, support services, and community-based approaches that promote gender equality and protect individual rights (Ellsberg et al., 2020)²⁰. Cultivating this holistic, multidimensional awareness is crucial for creating safer, more equitable environments.

It involves recognizing the pervasive and multifaceted nature of Gender Based Violence, which can manifest in overt acts of abuse as well as more subtle forms of discrimination and marginalization (Heise et al., 2019)²¹. This awareness extends to understanding the gendered power dynamics and inequalities that underlie Gender Based Violence, and how these are reinforced through social norms, institutional practices, and cultural beliefs (Michau et al., 2020)²². Additionally, Gender Based Violence awareness encompasses knowledge about the profound and far-reaching consequences of such violence, which can include physical and mental health issues,

¹⁷ Flood & Pease, 2020

¹⁸ World Health Organization, 2021

¹⁹ Heise et al., 2023

²⁰ Ellsberg et al., 2020

²¹ Heise et al., 2019

²² Michau et al., 2020

economic insecurity, disrupted education and employment, and intergenerational trauma (Ellsberg et al., 2022)²³.

This holistic understanding of the impacts of Gender Based Violence is crucial for motivating and guiding comprehensive prevention and response efforts. trauma (Ellsberg et al., 2022)²⁴.

This holistic understanding of the impacts of Gender Based Violence is crucial for motivating and guiding comprehensive prevention and response efforts.

Gender Based Violence awareness entails an understanding of strategies and interventions for preventing and responding to gender-based violence, such as through the promotion of gender equality, the implementation of protective policies and laws, and the provision of comprehensive support services (Ellsberg et al., 2015)²⁵. This includes awareness of community-based approaches that empower individuals and mobilize collective action to transform harmful social norms and practices (Michau et al., 2015)²⁶. Gender Based Violence awareness also involves knowledge about the critical role of accessible, trauma-informed support services, including emergency shelters, legal assistance, mental health counseling, and economic empowerment programs, in enabling victims and survivors to access safety, healing, and justice (Sagot, 2022)²⁷. At the institutional level, Gender Based Violence awareness encompasses an understanding of effective policy and legislative frameworks that enshrine gender equality, criminalize various forms of Gender Based Violence, and hold perpetrators accountable (UN Women, 2020)²⁸. Cultivating this holistic awareness of prevention and response strategies equips individuals and communities with the knowledge and tools to take concrete action against gender-based violence.

²³ Ellsberg et al., 2022

²⁴Ellsberg et al., 2022

²⁵ Ellsberg et al., 2015

²⁶ Michau et al., 2015

²⁷ Sagot, 2022

²⁸UN Women, 2020

To establish the factors influencing the occurrence of Gender Based Violence in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council.

Key factors that are likely to shape the levels of Gender Based Violence awareness within communities. At the individual level, personal experiences, gender identity, and prior education or training on Gender Based Violence issues can significantly influence one's awareness and sensitivity to this pervasive problem (Flood & Pease, 2022)²⁹. Academics from marginalized gender backgrounds, which have directly experienced or witnessed Gender Based Violence, tend to exhibit higher levels of awareness compared to those from privileged gender groups (Sabri et al., 2022)³⁰.

This is because those who have been affected by Gender Based Violence either through their own lived experiences or close exposure develop a deeper understanding of the dynamics, impacts, and complexities surrounding Gender Based Violence. They are more attuned to recognizing the various manifestations of Gender Based Violence, the barriers that victims and survivors face, and the urgent need for effective prevention and response strategies.

Institutional factors are likely to be a crucial role in shaping the levels of Gender Based Violence awareness within communities that have implemented comprehensive Gender Based Violence prevention and response policies, provide relevant foster culture of gender-equitable practices, and tend to have the society with greater Gender Based Violence awareness (Ellsberg et al., 2022)³¹. When institutions prioritize addressing Gender Based Violence through dedicated policies, resources, and initiatives, it sends a clear message about the seriousness of the issue and the institution's commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment.

To find out Gender-Based awareness levels amongst persons living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono.

Research suggests that individual-level factors play a significant role in shaping Gender Based Violence awareness within communities around Nakifuma and Nagalama. Persons

²⁹ Flood & Pease, 2022

³⁰ Sabri et al., 2022

³¹ Ellsberg et al., 2022

from marginalized gender backgrounds, which have directly experienced or witnessed Gender Based Violence, tend to exhibit higher levels of awareness compared to those from privileged gender groups (Sabri et al., 2022)³². This is because those who have been affected by Gender Based Violence, either through their own lived experiences or close exposure, develop a deeper understanding of the dynamics, impacts, and complexities surrounding Gender-Based Violence. They are more attuned to recognizing the various manifestations of Gender Based Violence, the barriers that victims and survivors face, and the urgent need for effective prevention and response strategies.

In contrast, dominant gender groups may lack this firsthand perspective and may have internalized societal norms that downplay or normalize certain forms of Gender Based Violence (Flood & Pease, 2022)³³. This underscores the importance of providing all persons with opportunities to enhance their Gender Based Violence awareness through workshops, that perspective of marginalized genders.

To discover strategies on how to curb or minimize gender-based violence amongst people between 15 years and above living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono district

At the individual level enhancing Gender Based Violence awareness and education is a crucial starting point.

Providing local leaders and families with a comprehensive training on the dynamics of Gender Based Violence can help cultivate a deeper understanding of this pervasive issue. This training should cover the various manifestations of Gender Based Violence including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse, as well as the unique challenges and experiences of survivors (Jewkes et al., 2020)³⁴. By gaining insights into the power imbalances, societal norms, and systemic barriers that enable Gender Based Violence, individuals can develop greater sensitivity and empathy towards those

³² Sabri et al., 2022

³³ Flood & Pease, 2022

³⁴ Jewkes et al., 2020

affected (Michau et al., 2020)³⁵. Furthermore, the training should empower participants to recognize the warning signs of Gender Based Violence, such as controlling behaviors, isolation, and sudden changes in demeanor. (Ellsberg et al., 2022)³⁶. Equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to respond appropriately, whether by providing immediate support, reporting incidents, or connecting survivors with crucial services, can be a crucial step in breaking the cycle of violence and ensuring that survivors receive the care and resources they need (Crenshaw, 2021)³⁷. Ultimately, this multi-faceted approach to individual-level Gender Based Violence awareness and education can foster a community that is better equipped to prevent, identify, and effectively address gender-based violence.

These policies should be developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including local leaders, families, and community partners, to ensure they are comprehensive, survivor-centric, and tailored to the unique needs and contexts of the institution. Alongside these policies, institutions must provide accessible, survivor-centric support services, such as counseling, legal aid, and medical assistance, to ensure that survivors have the resources and care they need to heal and recover (Ellsberg et al., 2022)³⁸. Additionally, institutions should foster a culture of accountability, where Gender Based Violence is unequivocally condemned and all members of the community are empowered to be active bystanders and advocates (Michau et al., 2015)³⁹. This involves consistent messaging from leadership, comprehensive training for the entire campus community, and a commitment to swiftly and transparently addressing any incidents of Gender Based Violence.

Intersectional approaches that consider the unique experiences and vulnerabilities of individuals and communities facing multiple, intersecting forms of marginalization are crucial in developing effective Gender Based Violence -reduction strategies (Crenshaw,

³⁵ Michau et al., 2020

³⁶ Ellsberg et al., 2022

³⁷ Crenshaw, 2021

³⁸ Ellsberg et al., 2022)

³⁹ Michau et al., 2015

2021)⁴⁰. This includes addressing the ways in which factors such as race, class, disability, and immigration status compound the risks and impacts of Gender Based Violence. For example, individuals from low-income backgrounds may face additional barriers in accessing support services or reporting incidents due to limited financial resources and transportation, while those with disabilities may encounter physical and attitudinal obstacles that prevent them from seeking help (Crenshaw, 2021)⁴¹. Similarly, undocumented immigrants or refugees may be hesitant to engage with authorities or mainstream institutions due to fears of deportation or further marginalization.

By adopting an intersectional lens, Gender Based Violence -reduction efforts can be tailored to meet the diverse needs of these communities, ensuring that support, resources, and prevention initiatives are inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the specific challenges they face (Ellsberg et al., 2022). This holistic, equity-driven approach is essential for addressing the root causes of Gender Based Violence and creating a more just, safe, and inclusive environment for all.

This holistic, equity-driven approach is essential for addressing the root causes of Gender Based Violence and creating a more just, safe, and inclusive environment for all. As the literature highlights, Gender Based Violence within academic communities is a complex, multifaceted issue rooted in intersecting systems of power, oppression, and sociocultural norms (Crenshaw, 2021; Jewkes et al., 2015)⁴². Interventions that solely target individual awareness or institutional policies have proven insufficient; rather, a comprehensive strategy is required (Ellsberg et al., 2022; Michau et al., 2015)⁴³. Gender-based violence does not exist in a vacuum, but is instead shaped by the very structures and cultural attitudes that pervade our society. To meaningfully address this issue, communities must adopt a multilayered approach that simultaneously empowers individuals, transforms institutional practices, and challenges the broader social narratives that enable and perpetuate these forms of harm. This integrated, systems-

⁴⁰ Crenshaw, 2021

⁴¹ Crenshaw, 2021

⁴² Crenshaw, 2021; Jewkes et al., 2015

⁴³ Ellsberg et al., 2022; Michau et al., 2015

level perspective is crucial for tackling the entrenched inequities at the heart of Gender Based Violence and cultivating a climate defined by safety, inclusion, and respect for all.

Ultimately, this holistic, equity-driven approach represents a wise investment in the long-term health, vitality, and success of the academic community as a whole.

This holistic, equity-driven approach is essential for addressing the root causes of Gender Based Violence and creating a more just, safe, and inclusive environment (Crenshaw, 2022; Heise, 2022)⁴⁴. Interventions that solely target individual awareness or policies have proven insufficient; rather, a comprehensive strategy is required (Ellsberg et al., 2022; Michau et al., 2022)⁴⁵.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the most effective approach to addressing Gender Based Violence within areas of Mukono involves a comprehensive, intersectional strategy that combines individual, institutions and community-based interventions. By enhancing individual awareness and response capabilities, strengthening policies and community partnerships to tackle sociocultural norms, communities can transform their into safe, inclusive and environments where all community members can learn, work, and thrive free from the threat of Gender Based Violence. This multifaceted evidence based approach, grounded in an intersectional understanding of the complex drivers of Gender Based Violence, represents a critical ethical imperative and a necessary step towards a more equitable and just future.

⁴⁴ Crenshaw, 2022; Heise, 2022

⁴⁵ Ellsberg et al., 2022; Michau et al., 2022

CHAPTER THREE

Overview

This chapter presents a discussion of the research questions and also introduces the process through which collection, analysis, and processing of the data to be collected and used to accomplish the objectives of this research is carried out.

Legal frame work

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

Starting with Resolution 1325 (2000), the UN Security Council has passed multiple resolutions recognizing that women and girls are disproportionately affected by armed conflict and that sexual violence is used as a weapon of war. Some of the major resolutions included,

UNSCR 1325 (2000): Women's participation in peace processes and protection from conflict-related violence

UNSCR 1820 (2008): Sexual violence as a tactic of war and threat to international security

UNSCR 1888, 1889, 1960 (2009-2010): Strengthening accountability for conflict-related sexual violence

UNSCR 2106, 2122 (2013): Accountability for perpetrators and support for survivors

These resolutions establish that sexual violence in conflict settings isn't just a side effect of war, it's a violation of international law that requires prevention, protection, and prosecution.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Article 1 commits parties to taking effective measures to prevent any act of torture in any territory under their jurisdiction. These include ensuring that torture is a criminal offense under a party's municipal law Article 4, establishes jurisdiction over acts of torture committed by or against a party's nationals ensuring that torture is an extraditable offense.⁴⁶

Article 8, establishes universal jurisdiction to bring cases of torture to trial where an alleged torturer cannot be extradited under Article 5. Parties must promptly investigate any allegation of torture.⁴⁷

Further Articles 12 and 13, provide that victims of torture, or their dependents in case victims died as a result of torture, must have an enforceable right to compensation⁴⁸.

Parties must also ban the use of evidence produced by torture in their courts, and are barred from deporting, extraditing, or refouling people where there are substantial grounds for believing they will be tortured under Article 3. Parties are required to train and educate their public servants and private citizens involved in the custody, interrogation, or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention, or imprisonment, regarding the prohibition against torture Parties also must keep interrogation rules, instructions, methods, and practices under systematic review regarding individuals who are under custody or physical control in any territory under their jurisdiction, in order to prevent all acts of torture.

Parties are also obliged to prevent all acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in any territory under their jurisdiction, and to investigate any allegation of such treatment.

The reporting and monitoring of the convention and the steps taken by the parties to implement it. It establishes the Committee Against Torture under Article 17, and empowers it to investigate allegations of systematic torture provided for under Article 20. It also establishes an optional dispute-resolution mechanism between parties and

⁴⁶ UNCAT 1984

⁴⁷ UNCAT 1984

⁴⁸ UNCAT 1984

allows parties to recognize the competence of the committee to hear complaints from individuals about violations of the convention by a party⁴⁹.

REGIONAL TREATIES,

The African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (AUCEVAWG)

This is a comprehensive legal instrument for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls on the Continent. The Convention was adopted during the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in February 2025.

The development of the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls is informed by the historic decision by the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government in February 2023 during the African Union Summit. The leader adopted the Decision to negotiate the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAWG). In February 2024, the Heads of State and Government reiterated their commitment to support and conclude the negotiations and submit a draft Convention for adoption in February 2025.

The Convention thus aims to:

Establish a comprehensive, legally binding framework for the prevention and elimination of, and effective response to, all forms of violence against women and girls, across Africa, by addressing the root causes and drivers of such violence, strengthening legal and institutional mechanisms, and promoting a culture of respect for human rights, gender equality and the dignity of women and girls.

Ensure that State Parties reinforce a commonality of approach, to eliminating violence against women and girls, whilst acting as a stimulus for an open narrative and advocacy on violence against women and girls.

⁴⁹ UNCAT 1984

Violence against women and girls remains a widespread issue that cuts across all regions, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds. It manifests in many forms, including physical, sexual psychological or economic violence by an intimate partner; Female Genital Mutilation (FGM); Early Child and Forced Marriage where girls below 18 years are forced into marriage; Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVC) and Humanitarian settings which includes rape, sexual assault with violent physical assault, kidnapping, sexual slavery and forced prostitution in conflict situations. Women and girls also face sexual harassment and violence in the workplace, in schools and in other public spaces.

Violence against women and girls occurs in various environments, such as the family, schools, tertiary institutions, prisons, security institutions, in situations of armed conflict, in the world of work, in sports and on online platforms. The persistence of violence against women and girls is largely driven by entrenched gender power relations rooted in patriarchal systems. These systems are characterized by male dominance, an unequal distribution of resources, and power imbalances, all of which are reinforced by social norms and institutions that sustain gender inequality.

Violence against women and girls intersects with, and is exacerbated by, other forms of discrimination against women and girls, including race, ethnicity, nationality, age, disability, socio-economic status, which underscores the need for an inclusive approach that recognizes and responds to the specific needs of women and girls, including those marginalized or in vulnerable situations. Addressing this issue is not just about protection—it's about unlocking opportunities for women and girls to thrive in safe, supportive environments where their contributions to society can be fully realized

Maputo Protocol (2003)

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, better known as the Maputo Protocol, is an international human rights instrument adopted by the African Union that entered into force in 2005⁵⁰. It guarantees comprehensive rights to women including the right to take part in the political process, to social and political equality with men, improved autonomy in their

⁵⁰ The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

reproductive health decisions, and an end to female genital mutilation. It was adopted by the African Union in Maputo, Mozambique, in 2003 in the form of a protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (adopted in 1981, enacted in 1986)⁵¹

Prohibition of all forms of violence against women

Elimination of FGM and forced marriage

Women's rights in marriage and family. Reproductive rights and health. Economic and social welfare rights. Political participation

AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (2025)

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The Convention thus aims to:

Establish a comprehensive, legally binding framework for the prevention and elimination of, and effective response to, all forms of violence against women and girls, across Africa, by addressing the root causes and drivers of such violence,

⁵¹ 1986

⁵² AUCEVAWG

⁵³ AU-CEVAWG

strengthening legal and institutional mechanisms, and promoting a culture of respect for human rights, gender equality and the dignity of women and girls.

Ensure that State Parties reinforce a commonality of approach, to eliminating violence against women and girls, whilst acting as a stimulus for an open narrative and advocacy on violence against women and girls.

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DOMESTIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995⁵⁴ plays a crucial role in addressing gender- based violence Gender Based Violence. It provides a legal framework that guarantees fundamental rights and freedoms for all individuals, including protection against violence.

Specifically, Chapter 4⁵⁵ does guarantee rights of persons in Uganda and these rights accorded full and equal dignity to all persons and are to be protected from inhuman or degrading treatment, which encompasses protection from all forms of violence, including Gender Based Violence. Moreover, Article 21⁵⁶ enshrines equality and non-discrimination, serving as a foundation for addressing the structural causes of gender-based violence. The Constitution further mandates the state under Article 32⁵⁷ to take affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups, including children, to ensure their full participation in all spheres of life and protection from harmful cultural or social practices.

In practice, the Constitution empowers the government to enact laws and policies that explicitly address Gender-Based Violence, such as the Domestic Violence Act 2010, which provides legal remedies and protection mechanisms for victims of domestic violence, many of whom are children.

The Penal Code Act Cap.128,

This provides for violence and abuse of related provisions which can be availed in domestic violence situations. It further provides for offenses such as assault, battery, and Section 129A⁵⁸ criminalization of acts of sexual violence, which may apply in cases of sexual violence in a domestic context, wherein the male victim and grievous bodily

⁵⁴ 1995

⁵⁵ 1995

⁵⁶ 1995

⁵⁷ 1995

⁵⁸ Cap 128

harm are criminalized under this Act. Both men and women are entitled to justice under these provisions whenever subjected to such crimes. However, the legal principles do not adequately provide for domestic violence as experienced by an individual male victim, as they tend to do for children including girls.

In the case of male victims suffering domestic violence, the Marriage Act Cap. 146⁵⁹ is legal for both the male and female spouse; with this, the Act provides for separation or divorce regarding cruelty or abuse.

The Children Amendment Act 2016

The Children Amendment Act 2016⁶⁰ is the principal legal framework that protects the rights and welfare of children in Uganda V Seguya, 2021⁶¹. Originally enacted in 1997 and amended in 2016 and 2019, the act aligns with the constitution of Uganda (1995) and international instruments like the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African charter on the rights and welfare of the child. Although the act primarily focuses on children, it significantly contributes to addressing Gender-Based Violence among children through several key provisions, especially where the rights and safety of girls are concerned. Section 42A (7a) of the Act mandates that children, especially girls who are victims of sexual or physical abuse, receive psychosocial support, medical care, and legal assistance. Additionally, Section 42C (3A I,II, 3B I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI) of the Children's Amendment Act 2016⁶² sets out the obligation to strengthens institutional frameworks such as the Family and Children Court (FCC) to ensure that cases of child abuse, including gendered violence, are handled swiftly and fairly.

The Domestic violence act, 2010

The Domestic Violence Act (2010) provides a comprehensive legal framework to curb Gender- Based Violence in Uganda, emphasizing protection, prevention, and redress for

⁵⁹ Cap. 146

⁶⁰ 2016

⁶¹ 2021

⁶² 2016

victims through its various provisions. Section 3⁶³ defines domestic violence to include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse occurring within intimate and domestic relationships such as between spouses, cohabiting partners, and family members The Domestic Violence Act., 2010.

Section 5⁶⁴ empowers victims or third parties to apply for protection orders from courts to prevent perpetrators from contacting victims, evict them from shared residences, or mandate counseling.

Section 18⁶⁵ criminalizes violations of such protection orders, prescribing penalties to ensure compliance.

Section 19⁶⁶ provides for harsher 12 punishments including life imprisonment for aggravated sexual violence when Gender Based Violence results in grievous harm, involves weapons, or occurs in the presence of children.

Section 14⁶⁷ further mandates the government to provide shelters, medical care, counseling, and legal aid to survivors, ensuring a holistic support system. The Act also obliges courts to protect victims' identities during proceedings and allows the admission of evidence showing past abusive behavior to establish patterns of violence, aiding prosecution. Similarly,

Section 10⁶⁸ places a duty on authorities, including the police and judiciary, to inform victims of their rights such as access to protection orders and medical services reinforcing survivor-centered justice. Importantly, the interpretation and effectiveness of the Domestic Violence Act have been strengthened by Ugandan jurisprudence, particularly through the MIFUMI (U) Ltd & 12 others v Attorney General & Kenneth Kakuru (Constitutional Appeal No. 02 of 2014)⁶⁹ case. In this landmark ruling, the Supreme Court examined the constitutionality of the bride price custom, recognizing it

⁶³ 2010

⁶⁴ 2010

⁶⁵ 2010

⁶⁶ 2010

⁶⁷ 2010

⁶⁸ 2010

⁶⁹ Constitutional Appeal No. 02 of 2014

as a cultural practice but declaring the refund of bride price upon dissolution of marriage unconstitutional, as it subjected women to degrading treatment and reinforced their subordinate position in marriage (MIFUMI (U) Ltd & 12 Others v Attorney General & Kenneth Kakuru, 2015)⁷⁰. This judgment aligns with the spirit of the Domestic Violence Act by condemning cultural practices that perpetuate economic and emotional abuse against women (Republic of Uganda, 2010). It underscores the judiciary's role in interpreting the law to dismantle harmful traditions that sustain Gender Based Violence, thereby advancing constitutional principles of equality and dignity under Articles 21, 24, and 33 of the 1995 Constitution⁷¹. By criminalizing diverse forms of abuse and emphasizing survivor safety and empowerment, Uganda's domestic legislation—supported by progressive judicial interpretation demonstrates alignment with global.

The Magistrates Courts Act, Cap.19,

Under which relief can be sought together with protective orders. To further entrench the law about injunctions of domestic violence, restrain in orders and seeking remedies for harm occasioned by acts of violence would thus be affected.

National Policy on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in Uganda (2016)

The 2016 Gender Based Violence Policy provides strategic direction across prevention, protection, coordination, and response, and underscores male involvement and victim-centered services alongside existing laws of Domestic Violence Act 2010, Penal Code Act Cap 128, Data from Uganda demographic health surveys shows high levels of acceptance of wife- beating among both women and men (2011: 58% of women, 43.7% of men)⁷², urging emphasis on societal change (Udhs, 2011).

The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act (2009)

⁷⁰ MIFUMI (U) Ltd & 12 Others v Attorney General

⁷¹ 1995

⁷² National Policy on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence in Uganda (2016)

In Uganda, the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, Cap 131⁷³ clearly prohibits all forms of trafficking, including aggravated child trafficking, defining “trafficking in persons” to cover recruitment, transportation, harboring or receipt of persons including children by means of force, threat, or deception for exploitative purposes (sexual exploitation, forced labor, child labor, removal of organs etc.). The Act provides for substantial penalties: for example, the offence of trafficking in persons carries up to 15 years’ imprisonment, aggravated 10 trafficking especially when involving children or when committed by a syndicate or public officer can lead to life imprisonment, and trafficking in children is treated with yet more severity (Nabukeera, 2020)⁷⁴.

The law also establishes extraterritorial jurisdiction, enabling Uganda to prosecute trafficking offences committed outside its borders under certain conditions. Further, it mandates the creation of a coordinating body often known as CTIP or COPTIP responsible for prevention, policy formulation, awareness-raising, and maintaining a data bank of trafficking cases. These provisions have been reinforced through Uganda’s National Action Plans, which emphasize victim protection, stakeholder coordination, and awareness campaigns to build public and institutional capacity. (USDOS, 2015)

Local Government Act Cap 243

The Local Governments Act Cap 243⁷⁵, originally enacted in 1997 and consolidated through 2023, establishes Uganda’s decentralization framework by defining the structures, roles, and functions of local councils at district, municipal, and urban levels. The Act promotes gender-sensitive administration and enables local legislation through by-laws and ordinances. While it does not directly contain provisions on Gender-Based Violence, its affirmative measures for youth’s representation in local councils strengthen gender equality and inclusion in local governance in the Republic of Uganda, 2023. Importantly, the Act empowers local governments to adopt ordinances and by-laws that address community-specific drivers of Gender Based

⁷³ Cap 131

⁷⁴ Nabukeera, 2020

⁷⁵ Cap 243

Violence, such as alcohol misuse, domestic disputes, and harmful cultural practices. The Act promotes participatory governance and provides for affirmative action to ensure representation of marginalized groups, particularly youths, in local decision-making processes of the Republic of Uganda, The Local Governments Act, Cap 243⁷⁶. This framework is critical for the prevention and management of Gender- Based Violence because local councils serve as the primary points for reporting, mediating, and referring Gender Based Violence cases within communities. By operationalizing community-level mechanisms for justice, awareness, and protection, the Act strengthens institutional responsiveness to Gender Based Violence and complements the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act 2010 at grassroots level (Mukasa, 2021)⁷⁷. On the other side, Uganda being a signatory to many human rights treaties at the international level, there are several international legal policies and laws set to curb gender-based violence in Uganda.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966, which reiterate equality before the law and protection against all aberrations of violence for both men and women. The International Human Rights Frameworks⁷⁸.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 1993 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women tend to focus on gender-based violence against women; this, however, provides the first significant legal argument for the recognition of male victims of domestic violence⁷⁹. These treaties do declare certain standards for the protection of human rights that should apply in equal force to any violence with a domestic character. Uganda has already laid down measures for legal protection against domestic violence, but male domestic violence heralds the need for a more comprehensive legal establishment; one that protects everyone and this must be diligently enforced so as

⁷⁶ Cap 243

⁷⁷ Mukasa, 2021

⁷⁸ The International Human Rights Frameworks

⁷⁹ The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women of 1993

not to infringe unreasonably on human rights. Fast-tracked responses should also be deliberate and focused on the most at-risk groups to better address crises without compromising individual freedoms.

CHAPTER FOUR

Over view

This chapter presents the conclusion and recommendations of the study. The conclusion has been drawn from findings and recommendations to address Gender Based Violence problems. The conclusion summarizes what have been discussed above; while the recommendations part of this chapter presents the suggestions proposed basing on the gaps identified in terms of loopholes and enforcement of the laws and policies on the factors contributing to the Gender Based Violence.

Introduction

The conceptual meaning of gender-based violence

The respondents were asked how they understood concept of Gender Based Violence according to these results, 44% of the respondents said that sexual assault is what they perceived of Gender Based Violence. Other respondents at 28% acknowledged Gender Based Violence as abuses towards woman.

Still, 18% of respondents perceived Gender Based Violence as torture, while 12% said Gender Based Violence was saying demeaning words to women. Concerning the forms of Gender Based Violence, 32% of the respondents said that physical abuse was a form of Gender Based Violence, 54% said sexual abuse was the biggest form of Gender Based Violence, while 145 of the respondents argued for psychological abuse as a form of Gender Based Violence. Regarding the results on respondents' experience of Gender Based Violence, 42% said they were sexually assaulted, 38% were abused. However, 20% of the respondents said that they were beaten up.

However, gender-Based Violence is defined as acts of violence rooted in some form of patriarchal ideology to maintain social power for men. (Council of Europe, 2021)⁸⁰. In this case, Gender Based Violence is referred to as violence inflicted on individuals primarily women and girls as a means of maintaining male dominance and control

⁸⁰ Council of Europe, 2021.

within society. This violence can manifest in various forms like physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse.

In addition, the (UN Nations, 2020)⁸¹ defines violence against women as any act of Gender Based Violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

When the school going respondents were asked about the effects of Gender Based Violence on their academics, 28% reported that the fear of being known affected their academics. 32% of the respondents said that they lacked concentration on their studies. Yet, 18% of the respondents contended that they completely lost in their studies. In interviews, the university expressed knowledge of the concept of Gender Based Violence.

Factors influencing the occurrence of Gender Based Violence in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council.

The respondents were asked to explain the factors influencing the occurrence of Gender-Based Violence awareness on the population living in Nakifuma. According to the results, 34% of the respondents identified alcohol as the cause of Gender Based Violence amongst people in the community. 32% gave friendships as the cause of Gender Based Violence. 26% of the respondents pointed to cultural disorder as the cause. However, only 8% said its ignorance of law that causes Gender Based Violence in the communities. Concerning the results about the barriers that affect people's awareness of Gender Based Violence, 32% pointed to cultural conditions, 28% talked about fear of rejection, 24% identified perpetration by friends and families while accused the failure of government to punish offenders.

In agreement with the results, secondary research suggests that individual-level factors play a significant role in shaping Gender Based Violence awareness within communities.

⁸¹ UN Nations, 2020

The marginalized gender backgrounds, which have directly experienced or witnessed Gender Based Violence, tend to exhibit higher levels of awareness compared to those from privileged gender groups (Sabri et al., 2022). This is because those who have been affected by Gender Based Violence, either through their own lived experiences or close exposure, develop a deeper understanding of the dynamics, impacts, and complexities surrounding gender-based violence. They are more attuned to recognizing the various manifestations of Gender Based Violence, the barriers that victims and survivors face, and the urgent need for effective prevention and response strategies.

In contrast, academics from dominant gender groups may lack this firsthand perspective and may have internalized societal norms that downplay or normalize certain forms of Gender Based Violence (Flood & Pease, 2022). Moreover, those who have received targeted education, training, or professional development on Gender Based Violence are better equipped to identify, address, and advocate against these issues within academic contexts. This underscores the importance of providing all persons with opportunities to enhance their Gender Based Violence awareness through interdisciplinary panels, and other learning experiences that center the perspectives of marginalized genders.

Gender-Based awareness levels amongst persons living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono District.

Concerning Gender Based Violence awareness levels amongst the population of people in Mukono District, the results show that 40% of the respondents identified the community

reluctance to punish offenders as a factor contributing to the occurrence of Gender Based Violence in homes 20 % pointed to cultural bias against women as the factor responsible for occurrence of Gender Based Violence in society, while 16% identified compromise and silence as the factors for occurrence of Gender Based Violence in communities and 79% said that girls or boys feared to be victimized.

In connection with the awareness of existing policies that curb Gender Based Violence in Mukono, 80% said they were aware of the existing policies that curb Gender Based Violence in society, while 10% confessed that they were not aware of the existing policies that curb Gender Based Violence in communities. In regard to the results on respondents' responses on effectiveness of existing policies that curb Gender Based Violence at community levels 5% said they were not effective 7% said they were quite effective. Yet, argued that they did not know whether such policies were effective or not, while 15% revealed that such policies were very effective. Regarding the results on respondents' strategies the community can implement to mitigate Gender Based Violence 26% suggested punishing offenders 18% offered community response. Yet 47% proposed awareness campaigns in communities and 11% proposed identification of vulnerable youths for help.

Strategies on how to curb or minimize gender-based violence amongst people between 15 years and above living in Nakifuma and Nagalama town council in Mukono District

Several strategies to curb Gender Based Violence were pointed out by the respondents. They said that responses should also engage community-based engagement to enhance awareness, and socio-network and promote role models. Direct involvement if the community brings in positive results as the community knows better what they need and can easily pinpoint victims.

Other respondents said that the devastating effects can be mitigated not only by professional responses but also by the contributions of paraprofessionals and community workers.

Community leaders play a key role in setting standards for acceptable behavior and implementing justice for children and youths.

Several approaches are effective for at least one form of violence and may be effective across multiple forms of violence. Therefore, different responses can be used to solve different cases of violence. Eliminating violence is critical and vital for achieving the SDG health targets.

An effective response should include coordinated community response, coordinated community response programs engage the whole community and entire community efforts to bring out an enhanced understanding of violence against children and youths.

Involving the community brings awareness and enables first-hand information to be retrieved.

Conclusion

Conflict and fragility increase the exposure of children to Gender Based Violence and make it more difficult for them to access social services, including sexual and reproductive health services.

The study does expose the legal, social, sexual, and economic abuse against children in Uganda. In this regard, the study has been able to identify the factors contributing to Gender Based Violence in Uganda and its medioco-legal aspects among people aged 15 years and above in Nakifuma-Naggalama town council Children of 15 years and above.

However, it suffices to state that legal reforms, public awareness campaigns, and the establishment of support services tailored to the victims of Gender Based Violence.

Ensuring that the victims have access to protection, justice, and resources is essential for fostering an inclusive approach to combating domestic violence in Uganda, and it is crucial for promoting gender equality in the country's legal and social.

The study also brings it out that children aged 15 years and above suffer high risks of Gender Based Violence and opportunities for protection should be put in place for both male and female victims.

Recommendations

There are levers that Government and Non-Government institutions can do to prevent the factors that contribute to Gender Based Violence in the country. This research found that transformational change is challenging but not impossible. To do so, by this research therefore, we do recommend the following,

Police officers and other law enforcement personnel should receive training in handling cases involving victims of Gender Based Violence. This will improve the response to victims and help in the proper implementation of the law and policies set in order to curb Gender Based Violence. Further, there is a need for research into the occurrence of violence against children in Uganda, as well as the experiences of victims, to address the causes through the experiences of other victims concerning domestic violence.

Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) should launch awareness campaigns to educate the public on the effects of Gender Based Violence against children.

Public awareness efforts should focus on changing societal attitudes that stigmatise the victims. These campaigns should challenge cultural stereotypes and encourage victims to report abuse. Campaigns should highlight that children, too, can experience domestic violence and should be entitled to legal protection.

Developing counseling services that are dedicated to young victims of domestic violence is crucial. These services would provide a safe space for children to seek help and support without fear of discrimination or ridicule.

Punishment given to perpetrators should be severe so that abusers can act as an example, hence preventing the vice of domestic violence against the male gender.

Building on local knowledge, processes, and capacities to increase awareness, on cultural sensitivity and, ultimately, sustainability of the intervention.

Coordinate and collaborate with relevant international stakeholders engaged on gender equality in the country, including humanitarian actors. This stronger coordination and collaboration should leverage each actor's comparative advantage to achieve common goals. This collaboration should contribute to strengthening the adoption of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach and ensuring the participation in national gender platforms and coordination groups to exchange knowledge and lessons,

promote common initiatives in policy dialogues, and establish synergies across interventions to enhance their depth, scale, and sustainability.

Fostering engagements with communities, civil society, children's organizations, local authorities, and other key stakeholders to define gender equality objectives and the actions to achieve them. These engagements involve,

Identifying priorities related to gender equality in a participatory way.

Tailoring interventions starting with bottom-up engagements with local stakeholders during the design stage.

Adopting flexible and decentralized approaches to account for local constraints and diminish project risks.

Building on local knowledge, processes, and capacities to increase awareness of Gender-Based Violence in cultural sensitivity and, ultimately, the sustainability of the intervention.

To mobilize resources and partnerships at all levels to commensurate with its commitments to support countries in promoting, preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence.

Coordinate and collaborate with relevant international stakeholders engaged on gender equality in the country, including humanitarian actors.

This stronger coordination and collaboration should leverage each actor's comparative advantage to achieve common goals.

This collaboration should contribute to strengthening the adoption of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach and ensuring the participation in national gender platforms and coordination groups to exchange knowledge and lessons, promote common initiatives in policy dialogues, and establish synergies across interventions to enhance their depth, scale, and sustainability.

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