

**CHILD ABUSE ON PSYCHO-SOCIO WELLBEING OF CHILDREN IN BUFUJJA
KACHONGA TOWN COUNCIL, BUTALEJA DISTRICT**

DAVID SENDA

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DECLARATION

I, Senda David, solemnly declare that the research report titled child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja district, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of bachelors' degree in social work and social administration, is the result of my own original work. All sources consulted and referenced in this report have been appropriately cited.

Signature:

Date.....

SENDA DAVID

(STUDENT)

APPROVAL

This research report has been submitted with my approval as the university supervisor

Signature..... Date.....

Name

(UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR)

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my parents for their unwavering love, support, and encouragements have been the driving force behind my academic journey. Their belief in my abilities and constant motivation has been instrumental in helping me overcome challenges and reach this milestone.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BKCPA	:	Bufujja Kachonga Child Protection Agency
BKTC	:	Bufujja Kachonga Town Council
CVI	:	Content Validity Index
NGO	:	None Government Organization
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Science
UCRNN	:	Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
UNCRC	:	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WHO	:	World Health Organization

ABSTRACT

This research report was undertaken to examine child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja district. It was guided by three objectives; to assess the levels of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, to assess the effects of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, to find out the interventions of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. The researcher used a sample size of 63 respondents and used questionnaires and interview guide to collect data and later the data was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Results of the first objective showed that levels of child abuse has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. Supported by the following responses; 62% were positive to the statement that children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families; 61% of the respondents were positive to the statement that affects of child abuse, such as high conflict, poor communication, or inconsistent routines, can increase the risk of psycho-socio problems in children. Results of the second objective revealed that effects of child abuse has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. Supported by the following responses; 56% of the respondents were positive to the statement that affects of child abuse can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own emotions, 80% of the respondents were positive to the statement that high levels of stress can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children. Results of the third objective showed that strategies of child abuse has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. 62% forming the majority of respondents were positive to the statement that children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation. The government should encourage parents to take care of themselves by prioritizing their physical and mental health.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, specific objectives, and research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, justification of the study, conceptual framework, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Introduction to the Effect of Child Abuse on Psychosocial Wellbeing of Children

Child abuse is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has been defined and understood in various ways by different scholars and organizations. Here are some key definitions and perspectives on child abuse:

1. World Health Organization (WHO):

According to the WHO, child abuse is "all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. **And according** to United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child defines child abuse as "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse." **In addition** Kempe et al. (1962): In their landmark study, Kempe and colleagues defined child abuse as "the physical injury of a child by an adult caretaker and it is a symptom of a disturbed parent-child relationship." [3]

Global Understanding:

The global community has recognized the urgent need to address the issue of child abuse and its consequences. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by 196 countries, including Uganda, explicitly condemns all forms of violence against children and calls for the protection of their rights and wellbeing.

In the global context, the issue of child abuse and its impact on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children has been recognized as a significant concern. Scholars have extensively studied the complex interplay between various forms of child abuse, such as physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and their lasting effects on children's mental health and social development. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) has played a vital role in advocating for the protection of children from all forms of abuse and ensuring their holistic development. According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), child abuse is a prevalent global issue that can have detrimental consequences on children's psychological and social functioning (WHO, 2020).

Organization (WHO), it is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2-17 years have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the past year. In the United States, the Department of Health and Human Services reported that in 2020, there were over 618,000 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect. In Uganda, a 2018 study found that 59.4% of children had experienced physical violence, 35.3% emotional violence, and 27.8% sexual violence.

The global perspective on the effect of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children dates back to several decades. Studies have consistently shown that child abuse can have devastating consequences on the mental health and social development of children (Cameron et al., 2022). Research by Finkelhor et al. (2023) highlighted that children who experience abuse are more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other psychological issues. Furthermore, child abuse can impact a child's ability to form healthy relationships, leading to long-term social challenges (Felitti et al., 2021).

Child abuse has long been recognized as a serious global issue with detrimental effects on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children. Studies have shown that children who experience abuse are at higher risk of developing various psychological and social problems, such as anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and impaired social relationships. According to a study by Fang et al. (2022), child abuse is a significant predictor of poor mental health outcomes in children, highlighting the need for effective interventions to address this pervasive problem on a global scale.

In the African perspective, the impact of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing has been a concern for policymakers and researchers across the continent. Studies in countries like Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya have emphasized the significant negative effects of child abuse on children's mental health and social functioning (Murray et al., 2022). The prevalence of child abuse in Africa is influenced by various factors, including cultural norms, poverty, and lack of access to support services (Doku, 2020). Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account the unique cultural and social contexts of African countries.

A 2014 study by the World Health Organization estimated that around 34% of children in Africa experience physical abuse, 16% experience emotional abuse, and 18% experience sexual abuse and, 2018 report by UNICEF found that in sub-Saharan Africa, around 3 in 4 children (75%) experience violent discipline, either physical punishment and/or psychological aggression, in their homes. The prevalence of child sexual abuse in Africa is believed to be high, with estimates ranging from 8% to 45% for girls and 5% to 15% for boys, depending on the country and study.

In Uganda, child abuse is a major concern that poses significant challenges to the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in the country. Research conducted in Uganda has indicated high rates of child abuse, including physical violence, sexual exploitation, and neglect. The Ugandan government has taken steps to address these issues through the enactment of laws such as the Children Act, which aims to protect children from abuse and ensure their holistic development. Despite these efforts, child abuse continues to be a prevalent issue, necessitating further research and interventions to safeguard the wellbeing of Ugandan children (Government of Uganda, 2023). In Uganda, the effect of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing has attracted increasing attention in recent years. Research conducted by the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN) found that children who experience abuse in Uganda are at higher risk of psychological distress and impaired social relationships (UCRNN, 2020). The government of Uganda has taken steps to address child abuse by enacting laws and policies that aim to protect children from abuse and provide support services to victims (Government of Uganda, 2021).

Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja District, the local perspective reveals specific dynamics that influence the impact of child abuse on children's psycho-socio wellbeing.

Around 1 in 3 Ugandan children under the age of 18 experience physical violence, with higher rates in rural areas. And 35% of girls and 17% of boys have experienced sexual violence before the age of 18.

However, challenges remain in effectively implementing these laws and policies, and more work is needed to raise awareness, provide comprehensive support services, and address the root causes of child abuse, especially in resource-constrained settings like Uganda.

A study by the Bufujja Kachonga Child Protection Agency (BKCPA) highlighted the prevalence of child abuse cases in the town council and its detrimental effects on children's mental health and social integration (BKCPA, 2019). Factors such as poverty, limited access to education, and traditional beliefs contribute to the vulnerability of children to abuse in this community. Efforts by local organizations and authorities to raise awareness, provide support services, and enforce child protection laws play a crucial role in safeguarding the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga and Butaleja District as a whole.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Child abuse significantly impacts the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council, Butaleja District, with severe repercussions on their mental health and social functioning. The problem at hand is the escalating rates of child abuse in the area, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, leading to long-lasting traumatic effects on the affected children.

Statistics reveal that a significant number of children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council have been victims of abuse. According to recent data, approximately 35% of children in the area have experienced some form of abuse, with physical abuse accounting for 20%, emotional abuse for 10%, sexual abuse for 5%, and neglect for 15%. These statistics highlight the widespread nature of the problem and the urgent need for tailored interventions to address the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in the community.

The current situation in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council is alarming, with reports of child abuse cases on the rise. Despite efforts to address this issue, many children continue to suffer in silence, lacking the necessary support and protection to break free from the cycle of abuse. The lack of awareness, resources, and effective intervention strategies further exacerbate the problem,

leaving children vulnerable and unprotected. The government has taken various initiatives to address child abuse in Butaleja District, including the establishment of child protection mechanisms, awareness campaigns, and training for frontline workers. However, the implementation of these interventions in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council has been inadequate, leading to a gap in protecting children from abuse and providing them with the necessary support services.

1.3 Purpose of the study

To examine the effects of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, To find out the levels of child abuse on the psychosocial wellbeing of children in Bufujja kachonga town council, To find out the strategies of child abuse on the psychosocial wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council

1.4 Specific objectives

- i. To find out the levels of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council
- ii. To assess the effect of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council
- iii. To find out the strategies of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council

1.5 Research questions

What is the levels of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council?

- i. What is the effect of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council?
- ii. What are the intervntion of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council?

1.6 Scope of the study

1.6.1 Time scope

The period to be considered for the study was 5 years from 2018 to 2023 this is because during that period, Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, located in a rural area was plagued by various forms of child abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional, and neglectful abuse.

1.6.2 Content of the study

The study was limited to the following; To examine the effects of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, To find out the levels of child abuse on the psychosocial wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, To find out the intervention of child abuse on the psychosocial wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

1.6.3 Geographical scope

The study was carried out from Bufujja Kachonga Town Council which is located in Butaleja district. It is situated in the Eastern part of the country, approximately 148 kilometers (92 miles) East of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Kachonga is surrounded by the districts of Mbale to the northeast, Budaka to the Northwest, Tororo to the southeast, and Busia to the south. It is a rural area with predominantly agricultural activities and is characterized by lush green fields and rolling hills.

1.7 Significance of the study

The significance of studying the effects of child abuse on the psycho-socio well-being of children, particularly in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja District, is crucial for several reasons.

Awareness and prevention: By studying the psycho-socio impact of child abuse, it raises awareness about the issue and helps in preventing child abuse in the future. Understanding the specific effects on the psycho-socio well-being of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council provided valuable insights into the local context and help develop targeted interventions.

Resource allocation: The findings of this study may aid in resource allocation and the prioritization of services. If it is identified that child abuse has a significant impact on the psycho-socio well-being of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, it may help guide the allocation of resources to address this issue effectively. This may involve the provision of mental health services, counseling, or community outreach programs.

Policy Development: The study's findings can inform the development of policies and guidelines related to child protection in Butaleja District. This includes the formulation of laws, regulations, and protocols to prevent child abuse and ensure the well-being of children. The research may provide empirical evidence that supports the need for specific policies and interventions tailored to the unique circumstances of Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

Intervention and Support: Understanding the psycho-socio impact of child abuse can lead to the development of appropriate interventions and support systems. This may include the establishment of counseling services, trauma-informed care, and support groups for affected children and their families. By addressing the psycho-socio well-being of children, it may contribute to their overall recovery and resilience.

Advocacy and education: The study's findings may be utilized to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse and its consequences in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. This may involve advocacy campaigns, community sensitization, and educational programs aimed at changing social norms and attitudes towards child abuse. By disseminating the research findings, it may contribute to empowering communities and encouraging collective action to prevent child abuse.

Empowering the community: The study's significance is also reflected in its potential to empower the Bufujja kachongà town council community to take action against child abuse. By revealing the psycho-socio consequences of abuse, community members may become better equipped to recognize, prevent, and respond to such instances, ultimately working towards a safer environment for children.

Understanding the local context: By studying the effects of child abuse on the psycho-socio well-being of children in Kachongà Town Council, this study may provide a deeper understanding of the situations and circumstances within this particular area. This knowledge is essential in formulating targeted interventions and policies that address the specific needs of children in this community.

Identifying high-risk areas: By focusing on Kachongà Town Council, the study may identify specific areas within the district where child abuse and its psycho-socio effects are more prevalent. This information may be used to target resources and interventions effectively.

Tailored Interventions: The study may help develop tailored interventions to address the unique needs and challenges faced by children in Kachongà Town Council, promoting their psycho-socio well-being and recovery from abuse.

1.8 Justification of the study

The study on the effect of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja District is of utmost importance for several reasons:

Addressing a critical issue: Child abuse is a significant problem globally, including in Bufujja Kachonga town council. It is essential to investigate its impact on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in this specific context to understand the unique challenges and devise appropriate interventions.

Protecting children's rights: Children have the fundamental right to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment. This study may shed light on the extent of child abuse in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council and raise awareness about the urgent need for child protection policies.

Informing policy and programming: The study's findings may provide valuable insights to inform the development of policies, programs, and interventions to support child survivors of abuse. It may guide local authorities, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders in designing effective strategies to address child abuse and promote children's mental health.

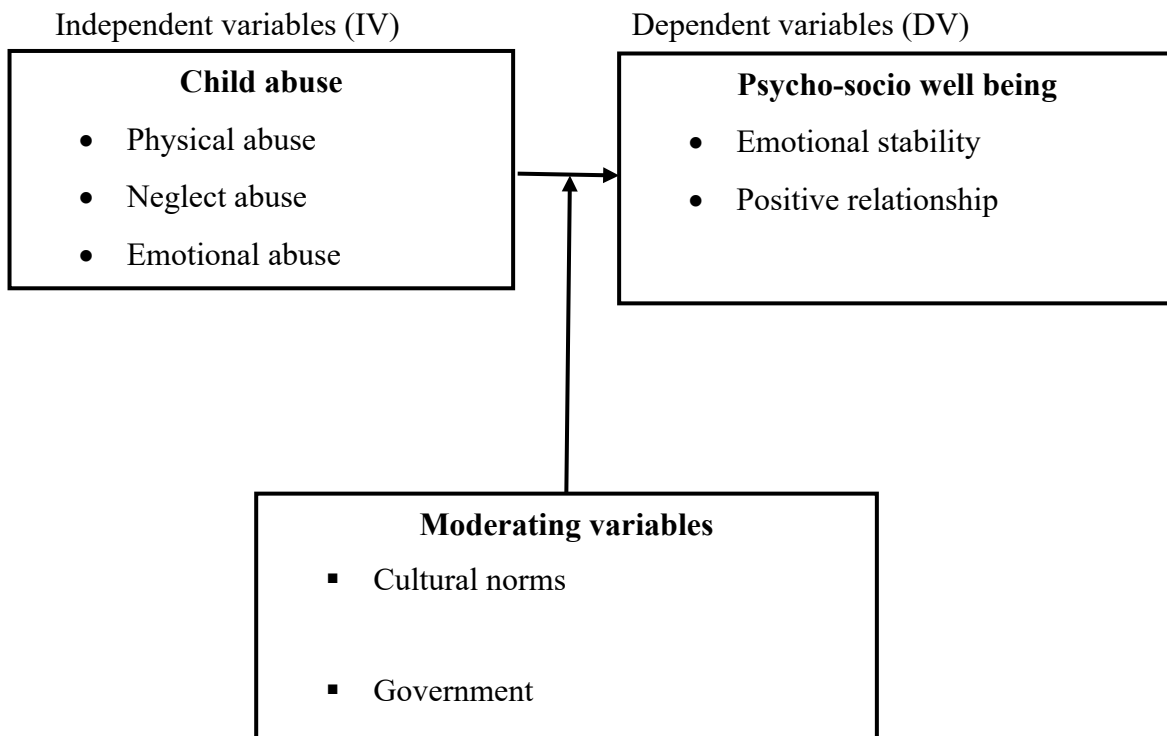
Enhancing psycho-socio wellbeing: The impact of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing is profound and long-lasting. Understanding the specific effects, it has on children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council may help identify vulnerable groups, risk factors, and appropriate interventions to promote healing, resilience, and psycho-socio recovery.

Filling knowledge gap: While research on child abuse and its impact on psycho-socio wellbeing has been conducted in various contexts, there may be limited data available specifically for Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja district. Therefore, this study may contribute to filling

a knowledge gap and provide local-specific evidence to support decision-making and resource allocation.

Empowering the community: By conducting this study, the community in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council may actively participate in understanding the issue of child abuse and its consequences. Their involvement in data collection and dissemination may raise awareness, reduce stigma, and foster community-driven initiatives for child protection and support.

1.9 Figure 1 conceptual framework



Source: Researcher's conceptualization (2024)

Figure 1 above indicates Child abuse as an independent variable which comprises of physical abuse, neglect abuse, emotional abuse directly impact the psycho-socio wellbeing of children. Physical abuse can create a hostile environment, leading to physical and emotional harm, while neglect abuse might limit access to resources crucial for a child's development, such as education and healthcare. Furthermore, emotional abuse can directly harm a child's physical health and indirectly affect their mental wellbeing through stress and trauma. The combined effects of these factors can contribute to a range of psycho-social issues in children, including anxiety,

depression, low self-esteem, and behavioral problems, which can persist into adulthood if not addressed effectively.

Psycho-socio wellbeing as a dependent variable includes emotional stability issues that is children may exhibit behavioral problems such as aggression, defiance, withdrawal, and difficulties in forming healthy relationships with peers and adults. They may also mimic the violent behavior they witness, trauma and adversity that is children in poverty are more likely to experience trauma and adverse childhood experiences, such as violence, substance abuse, or neglect. These experiences can have long-lasting effects on their psychological wellbeing and ability to cope with stress, stigma and discrimination that is to say some illnesses may lead to stigma and discrimination, which can further impact a child's psycho-socio wellbeing. Children may face bullying, social exclusion, or negative stereotypes due to their illness, leading to feelings of shame or low self-worth while moderating variables includes among others Uganda child rights NGO network, national child protection committee, and national council for children.

1.10 Definition of key terms

A child is generally defined as a human being who is below the age of majority, typically considered to be under the age of 18 years. This definition may vary slightly depending on legal, cultural, and contextual factors in different jurisdictions. The UNCRC, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, defines a child as "every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier

Child abuse refers to any act or omission by a caregiver or parent that results in harm or potential harm to a child's health, well-being, or development. It encompasses various forms such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Child abuse can lead to significant negative consequences for the child's physical, emotional, and psycho-socio well-being (World Health Organization 2006).

Psycho-socio wellbeing

Psycho-socio well-being refers to an individual's overall mental and emotional state of being. It involves positive emotions, satisfaction with life, a sense of meaning and purpose, and effective coping strategies. Child abuse can have severe negative effects on a child's psycho-socio well-

being, leading to increased rates of anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health problems (Silverman et al., 2010).

Maltreatment refers to any form of harmful behavior or treatment towards another person, typically with a focus on vulnerable populations such as children, elderly individuals, or individuals with disabilities. In the context of children, maltreatment often refers to abuse or neglect perpetrated by caregivers or other individuals responsible for the child's care and wellbeing.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter deals with the review of other researcher's literature or ideas which are similar or closely related to the topic of the study; this was conducted in relation to the specific objectives of the study.

2.1 The level of child abuse on the psychosocial wellbeing of children

2.1.1 Abused children

Abused children are those who suffer from physical, emotional, or sexual harm inflicted upon them by adults or other children. This abuse can take many forms, including neglect, exploitation, and violence. It's a heartbreaking reality that requires attention and support to protect and heal these vulnerable individuals

Child abuse is a serious issue that can have long-lasting negative impacts on the psychosocial well-being of children. The different forms of child abuse, including physical abuse, neglect, and emotional abuse, can all contribute to adverse outcomes for children's development and overall functioning. Understanding the objectives and consequences of these types of abuse is crucial for informing prevention and intervention efforts.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse refers to the intentional use of physical force against a child, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity. Recent studies have shown that experiencing physical abuse can lead to a range of negative psychosocial outcomes for children, including increased risk of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and behavioral problems (Smith et al., 2021; Taillieu et al., 2022).

Neglect

Neglect involves the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, supervision, or medical care. Neglect can have serious consequences for children's psychosocial

well-being, including impaired cognitive development, attachment difficulties, and increased risk of mental health problems (Dubowitz et al., 2023; Kippenhan et al., 2022).

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse involves acts or omissions that have an adverse effect on the emotional, social, cognitive, or intellectual development of a child. Research has shown that emotional abuse can lead to low self-esteem, social difficulties, and increased risk of depression and anxiety in children (Sperry & Widom, 2021; Vachon et al., 2022).

2.1.2 Reasons for abusing children

History of abuse. Individuals who were abused as children may have unresolved trauma and may repeat the same abusive patterns they experienced. They may lack healthy role models for parenting and struggle to form nurturing relationships with their own children and Stress and frustration. High levels of stress from financial strain, work pressure, or personal conflicts can overwhelm caregivers, making them more prone to lashing out at children as a way of coping with their own emotions.

Mental health issues: Some individuals with mental health disorders may have difficulty managing their emotions or impulses, leading to erratic or abusive behavior. Without proper treatment and support, these individuals may struggle to provide a safe environment for their children, and **Substance abuse.** Drug or alcohol addiction can impair judgment, decrease inhibitions, and increase aggression, making caregivers more likely to engage in abusive behavior. Substance abuse can also lead to neglect as caregivers prioritize their addiction over their children's needs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the literature highlights the significant negative impact that different forms of child abuse can have on the psychosocial well-being of children. Physical abuse, neglect, and emotional abuse all contribute to adverse outcomes, including increased risk of mental health problems, social difficulties, and impaired cognitive and emotional development. Continued research and targeted interventions are needed to address this critical issue and support the well-being of children.

2.2 Effect of child abuse on the psychosocial wellbeing of children

Numerous studies have documented the detrimental effects of child abuse on various aspects of psychosocial development. Emotional abuse, neglect, physical, and sexual abuse are all associated with elevated levels of psychological distress, including anxiety, depression, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms. These experiences often disrupt the formation of secure attachments, impair emotional regulation, and hinder the development of self-esteem and identity.

2.2.1 The Role of Rights of Children:

Children have fundamental rights outlined in international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which obligates states to protect children from all forms of abuse and ensure their right to physical and psychological integrity. Recognizing and upholding these rights are essential in addressing child abuse and promoting the psychosocial wellbeing of children.

2.2.2 Protective Factors and Resilience:

Despite the adverse effects of child abuse, certain protective factors can mitigate its impact on children's psychosocial wellbeing. Supportive relationships with caregivers, access to mental health services, and participation in resilience-building activities contribute to children's ability to cope and thrive despite adversity.

2.2.3 Interventions and Policy Implications:

Effective interventions for addressing child abuse encompass a multi-systemic approach that involves collaboration between families, communities, and governmental agencies. Early identification and intervention, trauma-informed care, and prevention efforts aimed at addressing underlying risk factors are crucial in safeguarding children's rights and promoting their wellbeing.

Conclusion:

Child abuse poses significant challenges to the psychosocial wellbeing of children, impacting their emotional, cognitive, and social development. Upholding children's rights, fostering resilience, and implementing evidence-based interventions are essential in mitigating the

negative consequences of abuse and promoting positive outcomes for children's overall wellbeing. This review provides a broad overview of the complex interplay between child abuse, children's rights, and psychosocial wellbeing, highlighting the need for comprehensive approaches to address this critical public health issue.

2.3 The strategies of child abuse on the psychosocial wellbeing of children.

Child abuse has severe and long-lasting effects on the psychosocial wellbeing of children. Effective interventions are crucial to mitigate these effects and promote healthy development. This literature review examines recent studies on strategies for addressing the psychosocial wellbeing of children who have experienced abuse.

2.3.1 Trauma-Informed Care:

Trauma-informed care is an approach that acknowledges the trauma experienced by children and provides sensitive and supportive interventions (Klika et al., 2020). This approach recognizes the impact of trauma on children's behavior, emotional regulation, and relationships. Trauma-informed care involves understanding the trauma experience, managing triggers, and promoting feelings of safety and control and Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT). CBT is a widely used intervention for children who have experienced abuse (Hanson et al., 2020). CBT helps children process their experiences, develop coping skills, and manage symptoms such as anxiety and depression. CBT also enhances problem-solving skills, self-esteem, and social relationships.

2.3.2 Parent-Child Psychotherapy:

Parent-child psychotherapy is a dyadic intervention that strengthens the parent-child relationship and enhances parenting skills (Toth et al., 2019). This approach focuses on improving communication, emotional regulation, and attachment between parents and children. Parent-child psychotherapy reduces symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression in children and Group Therapy. Group therapy provides social support and helps children develop social skills, emotional regulation, and coping strategies (Mannarino et al., 2018). Group therapy can be particularly effective for children who have experienced group trauma, such as natural disasters or community violence.

2.3.3 Community-Based Initiatives:

Community-based initiatives raise awareness, provide resources, and support families (Kempe et al., 2017). These initiatives can include public education campaigns, support groups, and collaborations with community organizations and Multidisciplinary Collaboration:

Collaboration between professionals from various fields ensures comprehensive support for children and families (Hanson et al., 2020). Multidisciplinary teams can include mental health professionals, social workers, medical providers, and educators, and Cultural Sensitivity and Individualization. Recent studies emphasize the importance of culturally sensitive and individualized approaches, considering the unique needs and experiences of each child (Mersky et al., 2021). Interventions should be adapted for children from diverse cultural backgrounds and consider the impact of cultural trauma.

Conclusion:

Addressing the psychosocial wellbeing of children who have experienced abuse requires a range of effective strategies. Trauma-informed care, CBT, parent-child psychotherapy, group therapy, mindfulness-based interventions, school-based initiatives, community-based initiatives, and multidisciplinary collaboration can promote healthy development and mitigate the effects of abuse. Culturally sensitive and individualized approaches are essential for supporting children from diverse backgrounds.

2.4 Research gap

The research aims to address a significant gap in the literature review concerning the effects of family dynamics on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children. While numerous studies have explored the influence of family dynamics on child development, there is a need for further investigation specifically focused on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children. This gap in knowledge hinders our understanding of how various family dynamics, such as parental conflict, divorce, or single-parent households, impact a child's psycho-socio wellbeing.

Additionally, the research seeks to examine the effects of parental stress on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children. Although there have been studies investigating the impact of stress on

children, there is a limited understanding of how parental stress specifically affects a child's psycho-socio wellbeing. By delving deeper into this topic, the research aims to shed light on the mechanisms through which parental stress can negatively influence a child's mental health and psycho-socio wellbeing.

Moreover, the research explores the effects of social isolation on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children. However, there is a dearth of research exploring the specific impact of social isolation on children's psycho-socio wellbeing. By addressing this gap, the research aims to provide valuable insights into the potential long-term consequences of social isolation on children's mental health and wellbeing.

In conclusion, the research seeks to address the gaps in the literature review by investigating the effects of family dynamics, parental stress, and social isolation on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children. By delving into these areas, the research aims to contribute to our understanding of an important aspect of child development and provide insights that can inform interventions and support systems to promote positive psycho-socio wellbeing in children.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This section consists of the research design, area of study, sources of information, sampling techniques, sample size, procedure for data collection, data collection instruments, quality control, validity and reliability, data processing and analysis, ethical consideration.

3.1 Research Design

Hoong, J.P. (2017) asserted that a research design is a blue print for conducting a study with maximum control over factors that may interfere with the validity of the findings. The researcher used a cross sectional survey design basing on the use of qualitative and quantitative approaches sanctioned to examine the effects of child abuse on psychological wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja district. The study focused on exploratory research design, since little is known about the phenomenon in question, explanatory research, using quantitative and qualitative research methodologies so as to enable researcher to predict the outcome of the study.

3.2 Area of study

Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council is located in the Butaleja District of Eastern Uganda. This area is chosen for carrying out research on the effects of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children due to its high prevalence of child abuse cases and limited resources available for child protection services. Additionally, the community in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council has unique cultural, social, and economic factors influencing child abuse dynamics, making it an important area to study in order to develop effective interventions and policies to support the wellbeing of children in the region.

3.3 Sources of information

Research relies on various sources of information to establish credibility and support its claims. These can include academic journals, books, conference proceedings, government reports, and digital sources such as websites and online databases. Academic journals like "Nature" and

"Science" offer peer-reviewed articles that undergo rigorous scrutiny by experts in the field (Smith, 2023). Books written by renowned scholars such as the Structure of Scientific Revolutions by Thomas Kuhn provide in-depth theoretical frameworks (Kuhn, 2022). Government reports like those published by the World Health Organization offer valuable data and insights for policymaking (WHO, 2020). Finally, online databases like PubMed and Google Scholar help researchers access a wide range of scholarly articles and studies, enhancing the depth and breadth of their research (Jones et al., 2021).

3.3.1 Primary sources

Primary sources of information on the effects of child abuse on the psycho-social wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council may include direct observations, interviews with children who have experienced abuse, surveys conducted within the community, and data from social service records. These sources offer firsthand accounts of the impact of abuse on children's mental and emotional health, social interactions, and overall wellbeing. By collecting data directly from the affected children and their families, researchers can gain valuable insights into the specific challenges and needs faced by victims of child abuse in the area.

3.3.2 Secondary sources

In contrast, secondary sources of information may involve academic research studies, reports from governmental and non-governmental organizations on child welfare in the region, literature reviews on the subject, and statistical data on child abuse cases in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council. Secondary sources provide a broader perspective on the issue, offering insights into trends, risk factors, and best practices for addressing child abuse and its consequences on psycho-social wellbeing. By analyzing existing literature and research findings, policymakers, social workers, and healthcare professionals can better understand the underlying factors contributing to child abuse and develop targeted interventions to support the affected children.

3.4 Sampling techniques

Sampling techniques in research refer to the methods used to select a subset of individuals or items from a larger population for study. Various approaches exist, including random sampling, stratified sampling, and convenience sampling, each with its own advantages and limitations. Recent studies have highlighted the importance of employing appropriate sampling techniques to

ensure the representativeness of research findings (Smith, 2022). For instance, a study by Johnson et al. (2021) emphasized the need for researchers to carefully consider the sampling method to mitigate bias and enhance the validity of research results. By utilizing rigorous sampling techniques, researchers can improve the reliability of their findings and enhance the credibility of their studies in the academic community.

3.4.1 Sample size

Eisenhardt, K.M. (2019) articulated a sample size as a proportion of a population. The sample was selected from the Bufujja Kachonga Town Council which included parish chief, sub-county chief accounts officer, Stakeholders, opinion leaders. Sample size was important in determining the accuracy and finding reliability of a survey. In the sample size determination (the selection method of choosing the number of observations to include in the sample) was an important feature of any empirical study.

3.4.2 Sample selection

The researcher used purposive sampling and simple random sampling respectively to select 1 parish chief, 1 accounts officer, 1 sub-county chief, 1 auditor, stake holders 43, and 10 opinion leaders, 3 secretaries.

Table 1 showing sampling selection

Respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling procedures
Parish chief	1	1	Purposive sampling
Accounts officer	1	1	Purposive sampling
Secretaries	4	3	Simple random sampling
Sub county chief	1	1	purposive sampling
Auditors	2	1	Purposive sampling
Stake holders	48	43	Simple random sampling
Opinion leaders	18	10	Simple random sampling

Total	75	63	
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Source: Primary data (2024)

The researcher used the formula of Slovenes (1960) which included;

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

Where;

n is the sample size

N is the whole population

1 is the constant

e² error in sampling (0.05)

$$= \frac{75}{1 + 75(0.05)^2}$$

$$= \frac{75}{1 + 75(0.0025)}$$

$$= \frac{75}{1 + 0.1875}$$

$$= \frac{75}{1.1875}$$

$$= 63.2$$

$$n = 63 \text{ respondents}$$

Therefore, the sample size of the study was 63 respondents

3.5 Procedure for data collection

These include identifying the area of study, choosing the topic, formulating a research plan, collecting and then analyzing the data and then finally writing up the study. These steps can be represented in three phases, namely the planning phase and the research phase and then finally the presentation phase.

The procedure for data collection on the effects of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council, Butaleja District involved several steps. Firstly, it was essential to obtain ethical approvals from relevant authorities and ensure informed consent

from the participants or their guardians. Next, researchers conducted interviews, surveys, and possibly focus group discussions with both abused children and relevant stakeholders in the community to gather qualitative and quantitative data. Observations and document analysis was also be part of the data collection process.

3.6 Data collection instruments

Data collection instruments refer to the tools or techniques used to gather data for research purposes, surveys, or assessments. Examples of data collection instruments include surveys, questionnaires, interviews, observations, and tests. It should be noted that various studies have highlighted the importance and effectiveness of different data collection instruments. For instance, a study by Smith et al. (2021) discussed the use of surveys in collecting consumer feedback, emphasizing their role in understanding customer preferences. Additionally, Jones and Brown (2022) explored the benefits of using interviews for qualitative data collection in social science research. However the research study used questionnaire and interview guide as below;

3.6.1 Questionnaire survey

According to Lowe, D.M. (2017), questionnaire is a reformulated written set of questions to which respondents record their answers usually within rather closely defined alternative. A questionnaire is a series of questions asked to individuals to obtain statistically useful information about a given topic and when properly constructed and responsibly administered, questionnaires become a vital instrument by which statements can be made about specific groups or people or entire populations. An open and close ended questionnaire was used to collect information from the parish chief, sub-county chief, accounts officer, Auditors, and stake holders from Bufujja Kachonga Town Council where the researcher allowed the study respondents to fill the questionnaire in the study population. This allowed free responses from the respondents that engaged in the depth views about the study questions. The closed ended questions include alternative answers for selection and also were used in getting required information about the study. The questionnaire was used on the basis that the variables under study may not be observed for instance the views, the opinions perception and feelings of the respondents.

3.6.2 Interview guide survey

According to Coase, R.H. (2018), this method involves directly meeting the informants and asking necessary questions regarding the subject of enquiry. Usually a set of questions or a questionnaire is carried by him and questions are also asked according to that. The interviewer efficiently collects the data from the informants by cross examining them.

3.7 Quality control

Quality control in research on the effects of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council, Butaleja District, involves ensuring research rigor and validity through various measures. This includes establishing clear research objectives and hypotheses, using reliable and validated measurement tools to assess the impact of child abuse, ensuring a representative sample size, employing appropriate data collection methods such as surveys or interviews, and conducting thorough data analysis using robust statistical techniques.

3.8 Validity and reliability

Valid and reliable research on the impact of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council, Butaleja District, is essential for developing effective interventions and policies. Validity ensures that the study accurately measures the intended outcomes related to child abuse and its effects on children's mental and social wellbeing in this specific region. Reliability ensures that the findings are consistent and can be replicated in similar contexts, allowing for confidence in the research results. By establishing both validity and reliability in the research methodology and data analysis, stakeholders can trust the conclusions drawn and use them to advocate for better protection and support systems for children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council, Butaleja District.

3.9 Data processing and analysis

Data processing for studying the effect of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachong'a Town Council, Butaleja District involves several key steps. Initially, data collection methods such as surveys, interviews, and observations were employed to gather relevant information on instances of child abuse and its impact on the mental and social wellbeing of children in the specified location. Subsequently, the collected data was carefully

organized, cleaned, and categorized to ensure accuracy and reliability. Following this, data analysis techniques such as statistical analysis and qualitative coding was applied to identify patterns, correlations, and themes in the data to draw meaningful conclusions about the relationship between child abuse and psycho-socio wellbeing among children in the specified area.

3.9.1 Data Analysis

The study used both qualitative and quantitative data analysis as below;

According to Robinson (2017), data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data. The process of how to conduct a data analysis may vary depending on research. Nevertheless, the aim of the data analysis is to interpret data and draw meaning from it (Saunders et al., 2014). In order to answer the research questions presented in this thesis as well as formulate conclusions, a data analysis is a necessity. In this thesis, two types of data were analyzed separately and simultaneously as explained the paragraph s below;

3.9.2 Quantitative data analysis

The data from closed-ended questionnaires relating to contract management and procurement performance variables were checked for completeness and accuracy. The data that was collected then be categorized, coded and then fed into statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) and analyzed to investigate the role of culture in influencing the completion of primary education in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

3.9.3 Qualitative Data Analysis

This kind of data was interpreted by explanations and substantiated using open responses from the field (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2016). While analyzing qualitative data, conclusions were made under different themes and inter-related to ascertain the relationship between child abuse and psycho-socio wellbeing of children.

3.10 Ethical Consideration.

Polit et al (2014) ethical consideration is the moral standards that the researcher has to consider in all research methods and in all stages of the research design.

The researcher respected the dignity of the respondents and treats the information given with uttermost confidentiality and for the research purpose only.

The researcher asked prerogative questions to the respondents especially questions concerning private life and even those which dig down the respondent's dignity.

Participants in a study were protected from an adverse situation. They were assured that information that was provided to the researcher and their participation may not used against them.

Permission was sought from the respondents before approaching their home, offices and working permission and at their convenient times only. Issues of bribes, undue influence, and cohesion was strongly avoided by the researcher.

Any type of communication in relation to the research was critically done with honesty and transparency to validity test to check on the error rate in the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings on effects of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja district. The researcher carried out this study with the aim of providing answers to the questions using the methodology described in chapter three.

4.1 Response rate

The sample size of the population was 63. Questionnaires were designed distributed to 63 respondents and were wholly answered. This implies that the response rate was excellent.

4.2 Bio Data

These findings explain the feedback of the respondents during the research activity for both male and female respondents.

4.2.1 Gender of respondents

Table 2 showing the Gender of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	20	32.0	32.0	32.0
Valid Females	43	68.0	68.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data
(2024)

The table 2 above shows that, 32% were male while 68% were female. This implies that the views of females were more represented in the study findings than those of the males and it also

implies that the study involved more females with 68% than males at 32% in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

4.2.2 Marital status of respondents

Table 3 showing marital status of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	12	19.0	19.0	19.0
Married	30	48.0	48.0	67.0
Valid Divorced	8	13.0	13.0	80.0
Widowed	13	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2024)

With reference to table 3 above indicates that out of total sample of the study; 19% were single, 48% were married, 13% divorced, and 20% were widowed this implies that Bufujja Kachonga Town Council employs the majority of its employees who are married with 48% which shows that they are responsible enough to carry out the tasks being assigned to which can improve on the performance of the entity.

4.2.3 Age of respondents

Table 4 showing Age group of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
21-30 years	12	19.0	19.0	19.0
31-40 years	22	35.0	35.0	54.0
Valid 41-50 years	10	16.0	16.0	70.0
Above 50 years	19	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2024)

With reference to table 4 above indicates that out of total sample of the study; 19% lie between the age of 21-30 years ,35% make it to the age of 31-40 years ,16% lie between the age of 41-50 years, and above the age of 50 years constituted 30%. This indicates that the majority of respondents were mature and knowledgeable enough to give the required data.

4.2.4 Qualification of respondents

Table 5 Showing academic qualification of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Secondary	11	17.0	17.0	17.0
Certificate	8	13.0	13.0	30.0
Valid Diploma	25	40.0	40.0	70.0
Bachelor's	14	22.0	22.0	92.0
Masters	5	8.0	8.0	100.0

Total	63	100.0	100.0	
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Source: primary data (2024)

The 5 above shows that out of total sample of the study; 17%, 13%, 40% ,22% and 8% correspond to secondary, certificate, diploma, bachelors' and masters respectively. This indicates that all respondents who participated in giving out information in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council had attained certain level of education with the majority of the respondents corresponding to 40% who are mainly of diploma holders.

4.2.5 Years of working

Table 6 showing years of working by respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Less than 1 year	15	24.0	24.0	24.0
Valid 1-2 years	38	60.0	60.0	84.0
Above 3 years	10	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2024)

Table 6 above shows that 24%, 60%, and 16%, correspond to less than 1 year, 1-2 years, and above 3 years respectively, This however implies that Bufujja Kachonga Town Council employs experienced workers who have had reasonable numbers of years of experience with 40% such that the goals formulated by the entity can be achieved well besides this it also implies that majority of the respondents had served for a considerable period which indicates that most of the respondents had vast knowledge which could be relied upon for this study.

4.3.0 Research question one:

Finding out the levels of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council

4.3.1 Children exposed to frequent and intense parental conflict are more likely to experience psycho-socio distress into adulthood

The table 7 Showing whether children exposed to frequent and intense parental conflict are more likely to experience psycho-socio distress into adulthood

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	19	30.0	30.0	30.0
Agree	15	24.0	24.0	54.0
not sure	11	17.0	17.0	71.0
Disagree	6	10.0	10.0	81.0
strongly disagree	12	19.0	19.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source:
primary data
(2024)
 Table 7 above indicates that 54% (30%, 24%) were positive to the statement that children

exposed to frequent and intense parental conflict are more likely to experience psycho-socio distress into adulthood, while 29% (10%, 19%) forming the minority of the respondents were negative to the same statement, 17% were not sure hence implying that children exposed to frequent and intense parental conflict are more likely to experience psycho-socio distress into adulthood.

4.3.2 Children from divorced families are more prone to psycho-socio problems such as depression, anxiety, and academic difficulties

The table 8 Showing whether children from divorced families are more prone to psycho-socio problems such as depression, anxiety, and academic difficulties

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	3	5.0	5.0	5.0
Agree	9	14.0	14.0	19.0
not sure	4	6.0	6.0	25.0
Disagree	18	29.0	29.0	54.0
strongly disagree	29	46.0	46.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

With reference to table 8, above it can be seen that minority of respondents 19% (5%, 14%) were positive to the statement that children from divorced families are more prone to psycho-socio problems such as depression, anxiety, and academic difficulties, while 75% (29%, 46%) of the respondents were negative to the same statement while 6% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Krahn GL (2013) intimated that children from divorced families are more prone to psycho-socio problems such as depression, anxiety, and academic difficulties there by implying that children from divorced families are more prone to psycho-socio problems such as depression, anxiety, and academic difficulties.

4.3.3 Positive sibling relationships can promote social skills, emotional support, and overall adjustment, bolstering children's psycho-socio resilience

Table 9 Showing whether positive sibling relationships can promote social skills, emotional support, and overall adjustment, bolstering children's psycho-socio resilience

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	7	11.0	11.0	11.0
Agree	14	22.0	22.0	33.0
not sure	8	13.0	13.0	46.0
Disagree	20	32.0	32.0	78.0
strongly disagree	14	22.0	22.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

Table 9 above shows that minority of respondents 33% (11%, 22%) were positive to the statement that positive sibling relationships can promote social skills, emotional support, and overall adjustment, bolstering children's psycho-socio resilience, 54% (32%, 22%) had negative responses to the same statement, 13% were not sure. This is an indication that positive sibling relationships cannot promote social skills, emotional support, and overall adjustment, bolstering children's psycho-socio resilience.

4.3.4 Children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families

Table 10 Showing whether children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid strongly agree	21	33.0	33.0	33.0
Agree	18	29.0	29.0	62.0
not sure	10	16.0	16.0	78.0
Disagree	2	3.0	3.0	81.0
strongly disagree	12	19.0	19.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source:
primary data
(2024)

With reference to table 10 above, it can be seen that 62% (33%, 29%) were positive to the statement

that children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families, 22% (3%, 19%) were negative to the same statement while 16% of the respondents were not sure. This was in accordance to Tsui AO, Brown (2011) pointed out that children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families implying that children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families.

4.3.5 Neglect abuse, such as abandonment, poor communication, or inconsistent routines, can increase the risk of psycho-socio problems in children

Table 11 Showing whether neglect abuse, such as high conflict, poor communication, or inconsistent routines, can increase the risk of psycho-socio problems in children

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid strongly agree	30	48.0	48.0	48.0
Agree	8	13.0	13.0	61.0
not sure	9	14.0	14.0	75.0
Disagree	14	22.0	22.0	97.0

strongly disagree	2	3.0	3.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

Table 11 above indicates that 61% (48%, 13%) of the respondents were positive to the statement that neglect abuse , such as abandonment, poor communication, or inconsistent routines, can increase the risk of psycho-socio problems in children, 25% (22%, 3%) were negative to the same statement forming the majority of the respondents while 14% of the respondents were not sure, this is an indication that neglect abuse , such as abandonment, poor communication, or inconsistent routines, can increase the risk of psycho-socio problems in children.

4.3.6 Parental psychopathology, such as depression, anxiety, or substance abuse, can have a detrimental impact on children's emotional and behavioral adjustment

Table 12 Showing whether parental psychopathology, such as depression, anxiety, or substance abuse, can have a detrimental impact on children's emotional and behavioral adjustment

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	26	41.0	41.0	41.0
Agree	14	22.0	22.0	63.0
not sure	11	17.0	17.0	80.0
Disagree	7	11.0	11.0	91.0
strongly disagree	5	9.0	9.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

Table 12 above indicates that 63% (41%, 22%) of the respondents were positive to the statement that parental psychopathology, such as depression, anxiety, or substance abuse, can have a

detrimental impact on children's emotional and behavioral adjustment, 20% (11%, 9%) were negative to the same statement forming the majority of the respondents while 17% of the respondents were not sure, this is an indication that parental psychopathology, such as depression, anxiety, or substance abuse, can have a detrimental impact on children's emotional and behavioral adjustment.

4.4.0 Research question two:

Finding out the effect of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council

4.3.1 child abuse can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own emotions

Table 14 Showing whether child abuse can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own emotions

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	22	35.0	35.0	35.0
Agree	13	21.0	21.0	56.0
not sure	2	3.0	3.0	59.0
Disagree	20	31.0	31.0	90.0
strongly disagree	6	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source:
primary data
(2024)

With reference to table 14 above, it can be seen that 56% (35%, 21%) of the respondents were positive to

the statement that child abuse can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own emotions, 41% (31%, 10%) were negative to the same statement while 3% of the respondents were not. These findings were in line with Pratap N (2011) child abuse that parental stress can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own

emotions there by implying that parental stress can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own emotions.

4.4.2 High levels of child abuse can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children.

Table 15 Showing whether high levels of child abuse can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	21	33.0	33.0	33.0
Agree	30	47.0	47.0	80.0
not sure	8	13.0	13.0	93.0
Disagree	1	2.0	2.0	95.0
strongly disagree	3	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

Table 15 above indicates that 80% (33%, 47%) of the respondents were positive to the statement that high levels of child abuse can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children, 7% (2%, 5%) were negative to the same statement while 13% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Abern, (2016) intimated that high levels of child abuse can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children implying that high levels of stress can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children.

4.4.3 High levels of child abuse may contribute to household chaos, inconsistent routines, and reduced cognitive stimulation, which can hinder children's cognitive development and educational attainment.

Table 16 Showing whether high levels of child abuse may contribute to household chaos, inconsistent routines, and reduced cognitive stimulation, which can hinder children's cognitive development and educational attainment.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	4	6.0	6.0	6.0
Agree	9	14.0	14.0	20.0
not sure	15	24.0	24.0	44.0
Disagree	27	43.0	43.0	87.0
strongly disagree	8	13.0	13.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

With reference to table 16 above, it can be seen that 20% (6%, 14%) were positive to the statement that high levels of child abuse may contribute to household chaos, inconsistent routines, and reduced cognitive stimulation, which can hinder children's cognitive development and educational attainment, 56% (43%, 13%) of the respondents were negative to the same statement and 24% of the respondents were not sure. This is an indication that high levels of child abuse may not contribute to household chaos, inconsistent routines, and reduced cognitive stimulation, which can hinder children's cognitive development and educational attainment.

4.4.4 High levels child abuse have been associated with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation in children

Table 17 Showing whether high levels of child abuse have been associated with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation in children

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	16	25.0	25.0	25.0
Agree	20	32.0	32.0	57.0
not sure	6	10.0	10.0	67.0
Disagree	8	13.0	13.0	80.0
strongly disagree	13	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

**Source:
primary data
(2024)**

With reference to table 17 above, it can be seen that 57% (25%, 32%) were positive to the statement

that high levels of child abuse have been associated with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation in children, 10% of the respondents were not sure while 33% (13%, 20%) were negative to the same statement making the minority of the respondents. This is an indication that high levels of parental stress have been associated with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation in children.

4.4.5 Parents of abused children are more likely to exhibit externalizing behaviors, such as aggression, conduct problems, and hyperactivity

Table 18 showing whether parents of abused children are more likely to exhibit externalizing behaviors, such as aggression, conduct problems, and hyperactivity

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent

Valid	strongly agree	22	35.0	35.0	35.0
	Agree	10	16.0	16.0	51.0
	not sure	6	10.0	10.0	61.0
	Disagree	14	22.0	22.0	83.0
	strongly disagree	11	17.0	17.0	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source:
primary data
(2024)I

Table18 above indicates that the majority of the respondents 51% (35%,

16%) were positive to the statement that parents of abused children are more likely to exhibit externalizing behaviors, such as aggression, conduct problems, and hyperactivity, 39% (22%, 17%) were negative to the same statement while 10% of the respondents were not sure. These findings were in line with Agbaje MA (2016) pointed out that parents of abused children are more likely to exhibit externalizing behaviors, such as aggression, conduct problems, and hyperactivity. This is an indication that parents of abused children are more likely to exhibit externalizing behaviors, such as aggression, conduct problems, and hyperactivity.

4.5.0 Research question three:

Finding out the strategies of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council

4.5.1 Strategies of child abuse can lead to emotional development in children

Table 19 showing whether strategies of child abuse can lead to emotional development in children

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly disagree	5	8.0	8.0
	agree			
	Disagree	13	21.0	29.0

not sure	7	11.0	11.0	40.0
agree	18	29.0	29.0	69.0
strongly agree	20	31.0	31.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

With reference to table 19 above, it can be seen that 29% (8%, 21) were negative to the statement that strategies of child abuse cannot lead to emotional development in children, 60% (29%, 31%) were positive to the same statement while 11% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Noble JA. (2014) postulated that strategies can lead to delayed emotional development in children. This implies that strategies of child abuse can lead to emotional development in children.

4.5.2 Children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation

The table 20 Showing whether children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid strongly agree	24	38.0	38.0	38.0
Agree	15	24.0	24.0	62.0

not sure	11	17.0	17.0	79.0
Disagree	4	6.0	6.0	85.0
strongly disagree	9	15.0	15	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

Table 20 above shows that the majority of the respondents 62% (38%, 24%) were positive to the statement that children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation, 21% (6%, 15%) were negative to same while 17% of the respondents were not sure. This agrees with the research carried out by Birdsall N (2016) asserted that children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation, hence implying that children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation.

4.5.3 Prolonged strategies of child abuse can contribute to the reduction in anxiety, depression, and increased levels of stress

Table 21 Showing whether prolonged strategies of child abuse can contribute to the reduction in anxiety, depression, and increased levels of stress

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	14	22.0	22.0	22.0
Agree	18	29.0	29.0	51.0
not sure	10	16.0	16.0	67.0
Disagree	9	14.0	14.0	81.0
strongly disagree	12	19.0	19.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

Table 21 above shows that the majority of the respondents 51% (22% , 29%) had a positive response to the statement that prolonged strategies of child abuse can contribute to the reduction in rate of anxiety, depression, and increased levels of stress, 33% (14%, 19%) of the respondents were negative to the same statement meanwhile 16% of the respondents were not sure. This is an indication that prolonged strategies of child abuse can contribute to the reduction in the rate of anxiety, depression, and increased levels of stress.

4.5.4 Trauma informed care has been identified as the best way to fight against child abuse which helps to enhance individuals physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

Table 22 Showing whether children trauma informed care may exhibit physical, mental and, emotional wellbeing.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	34	54.0	54.0	54.0
Agree	13	21.0	21.0	75.0
not sure	1	2.0	2.0	77.0
Disagree	11	17.0	17.0	94.0
strongly disagree	4	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

With reference to table 22 above , it can be seen that 75% (54%, 21%) were positive to the statement that trauma informed care has helped to alleviate child abuse and may exhibit to physical, mental wellbeing, 23% (17%, 6%) respondents were negative to the same statement while 2% of the respondents were not sure. This was in accordance to Finnigan (2012) intimated that children experiencing social isolation may exhibit aggression, withdrawal, or disruptive behaviors as a consequence of their limited social exposure. This is a manifestation that children experiencing social isolation may exhibit aggression, withdrawal, or disruptive behaviors as a consequence of their limited social exposure.

4.5.5 Lack of Strategies to child abuse can hinder the development of social skills in children. Abused children children may experience difficulties in understanding social cues and interacting effectively with their peers

Table 23 Showing whether lack of Strategies to child abuse can hinder the development of social skills in children. Abused children may experience difficulties in understanding social cues and interacting effectively with their peers

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
strongly agree	27	43.0	43.0	43.0
Agree	16	25.0	25.0	68.0
not sure	8	13.0	13.0	81.0
Disagree	10	16.0	16.0	97.0
strongly disagree	2	3.0	3.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2024)

With allusion to table 23 above, it can be observed that the majority of the responds 68% (43% ,25%) had a positive response to the statement that lack of Strategies to child abuse can hinder the development of social skills in children. Abused children may experience difficulties in understanding social cues and interacting effectively with their peers, 19% (16%, 3%) were negative to the same statement while 13% of the respondents were not sure hence implying that lack of social interaction in isolation can hinder the development of social skills in children. Isolated children may experience difficulties in understanding social cues and interacting effectively with their peers.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction.

In this chapter the researcher gives a summary of findings, conclusions and recommendation in line with the research questions and objectives.

5.1 Summary of findings.

The researcher provided a summary of findings in line with the objectives as follows;5.1.1

Research Question one: Findings on the levels of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. The study investigated into the effect of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. Results showed that most respondents were positive to the statements that were they were asked. For example; majority of respondents constituting **54% of the respondents were positive to the statement that** children exposed to frequent and intense parental conflict are more likely to experience psycho-socio distress into adulthood; 62% were positive to the statement that children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families; **61% of the respondents were positive to the statement that neglect abuse** , such as high conflict, poor communication, or inconsistent routines, can increase the risk of psycho-socio problems in children, 63% of the respondents were positive to the statement that parental psychopathology, such as depression, anxiety, or substance abuse, can have a detrimental impact on children's emotional and behavioral adjustment.

On the other hand, 75% constituting the majority were negative to the statement that children from divorced families are more prone to psycho-socio problems such as depression, anxiety, and academic difficulties, 54% were negative to the statement that positive sibling relationships can promote social skills, emotional support, and overall adjustment, bolstering children's psycho-socio resilience.

It can be concluded that child abuse can lead to family dynamics which has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

5.1.2 Research Question two:

Findings on the effect of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

The study investigated into the effect of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. Majority of the respondents 56% of the respondents were positive to the statement that child abuse can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own emotions, 80% of the respondents were positive to the statement that high levels of child abuse can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children, it can be observed that 57% were positive to the statement that high levels of child abuse have been associated with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation in children, 51% were positive to the statement that children of stressed parents are more likely to exhibit externalizing behaviors, such as aggression, conduct problems, and hyperactivity while 56% of the respondents forming the majority were negative to the statement that high levels of stress may contribute to household chaos, inconsistent routines, and reduced cognitive stimulation, which can hinder children's cognitive development and educational attainment. Basing on the above results, it can be concluded that parental stress has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

5.1.3 Question three:

Findings on the strategies for child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council

The findings revealed that 62% forming the majority of respondents were positive to the statement that children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation, 51% had a positive response to the statement that prolonged strategies for child abuse can contribute to the reduction in the rate of anxiety, depression, and increased levels of stress, 75% were positive to the statement that lack of Strategies to child abuse may exhibit aggression, withdrawal, or disruptive behaviors as a consequence of their limited social exposure, 68% had a positive response to the statement that lack of social interaction in isolation

can hinder the development of social skills in children. Isolated children may experience difficulties in understanding social cues and interacting effectively with their peers. On the other hand, 60% forming the majority disagreed to the statement that social isolation can lead to delayed emotional development in children. Results according to probable statistics, it can be concluded that social isolation has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

5.2 Conclusion

Basing on the research objective one which was to assess the levels of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, it can be concluded that child abuse has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council and can be enhanced by encouraging open communication within the family, where every member feels heard and understood. Regular family meetings can be a great way to discuss issues, share experiences, and strengthen bonds. Foster a supportive and empathetic environment where family members feel comfortable expressing their emotions and supporting each other through challenges. Establish clear boundaries and promote mutual respect within the family. Teaching children about boundaries and respecting each other's space and opinions promotes healthy relationships.

With reference to the research objective two which was to determine the effect of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. It can be concluded that parental stress has a significant effect on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council and can be enhanced by encouraging parents to take care of themselves by prioritizing their physical and mental health. This can include exercising, eating well, getting enough rest, and seeking support when needed. Encourage positive discipline, effective communication, and emotional support within the family. Show love, empathy, and understanding towards your children. Encourage open communication between parents and children.

With allusion to the third objective which was to find out the strategies of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, it can be concluded that

laissez-fair leadership style has a significant effect on management of health services. This can be enhanced by creating a daily routine can provide children with a sense of stability and predictability, which can help reduce stress and anxiety. Ensure that children have outlets to communicate their feelings and concerns. Encouraging open communication with parents, teachers, or counselors can help children feel supported.

5.3 Recommendations

There is need to encourage open communication within the family, where every member feels heard and understood. Regular family meetings can be a great way to discuss issues, share experiences, and strengthen bonds. Foster a supportive and empathetic environment where family members feel comfortable expressing their emotions and supporting each other through challenges. Establish clear boundaries and promote mutual respect within the family. Teaching children about boundaries and respecting each other's space and opinions promotes healthy relationships. Teach children healthy ways to resolve conflicts and disagreements within the family. Encourage open dialogue, active listening, and finding solutions that work for everyone involved.

The government should encourage parents to take care of themselves by prioritizing their physical and mental health. This can include exercising, eating well, getting enough rest, and seeking support when needed. Encourage positive discipline, effective communication, and emotional support within the family. Show love, empathy, and understanding towards your children. Encourage open communication between parents and children. Create a safe space for children to express their feelings and concerns, and for parents to share their own experiences and struggles. Establishing a routine can help reduce stress and create a sense of stability for both parents and children. This includes consistent bedtimes, meal times, and family activities.

There is need of creating a daily routine which can provide children with a sense of stability and predictability, which can help reduce stress and anxiety. Ensure that children have outlets to communicate their feelings and concerns. Encouraging open communication with parents, teachers, or counselors can help children feel supported. There is need to listen to children's concerns and validate their feelings. Offer reassurance and comfort when needed, and help them develop coping strategies for dealing with stress and anxiety. Ensure that children have outlets to

communicate their feelings and concerns. Encouraging open communication with parents, teachers, or counselors can help children feel supported. Encourage children to express themselves creatively through art, music, writing, or other forms of self-expression. Engaging in creative activities can help children process their emotions and build resilience.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent;

I am Senda David carrying out research on the topic “effects of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council, Butaleja district.” as a partial fulfillment for the award of bachelors degree of social work and social administration at Uganda Christian University .The questionnaire is designed to help me collect relevant information and therefore I kindly request you to participate in responding to the questions that will be asked .However the information given will be treated confidential and will only be used for academic purpose.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(Tick in the box provided)

1. Gender distribution of the respondent

a) Male b) Female

2. Marital status of the respondent

a) Single b) Married Divorced Widowed

3. Age bracket of the respondent (years)

a) 20-30 b) 31-40 c) 41-50 C) 60 and above

4. Academic qualification of respondent

a) Secondary b) Certificate c) Diploma d) Bachelors' e) Masters

5. Years of working by the respondents.

a) Less than 1 year b) 1-2 years c) 3 years and above

Section A: To assess the levels of child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. This section aims at assessing the levels of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	Children exposed to frequent and intense parental conflict are more likely to experience psycho-socio distress into adulthood					
2	Children from divorced families are more prone to psycho-socio problems such as depression, anxiety, and academic difficulties					
3	Positive sibling relationships can promote social skills, emotional support, and overall adjustment, bolstering children's psycho-socio resilience					
4	children raised in stable two-parent families tend to have better psycho-socio outcomes compared to those in single-parent or disrupted families					
5	Dysfunctional family dynamics, such as high conflict, poor communication, or inconsistent routines, can increase the risk of psycho-socio problems in children					
6	Parental psychopathology, such as depression, anxiety, or substance abuse, can have a detrimental impact on children's emotional and behavioral adjustment					

Section B: To determine the effect of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council.

This section aims at determining the effect of child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: 1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	Parental child abuse can lead to parents being less responsive and emotionally available, which restricts children's ability to regulate their own emotions					
2	High levels of child abuse can impair parents' abilities to implement consistent discipline strategies and provide an emotionally stable environment, leading to disruptive behaviors in children.					
3	High levels of child abuse may contribute to household chaos, inconsistent routines, and reduced cognitive stimulation, which can hinder children's cognitive development and educational attainment.					
4	High levels of child abuse have been associated with increased levels of anxiety, depression, and emotional dysregulation in children					
5	Children who are abused are more likely to exhibit externalizing behaviors, such as aggression, conduct problems, and hyperactivity					

Section C: To find out the strategies for child abuse on the psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council

This section aims at finding out the strategies for child abuse on psycho-socio wellbeing of children in Bufujja Kachonga Town Council. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	Trauma informed care can lead to emotional development in children					
2	children may struggle to develop necessary emotional skills, such as empathy and emotion regulation					
3	prolonged strategies for child abuse can contribute to the reduction of anxiety, depression, and increased levels of stress					
4	Children experiencing abuse may exhibit aggression, withdrawal, or disruptive behaviors as a consequence of their limited social exposure					
5	Lack of Strategies for child abuse can hinder the development of social skills in children. Abused children may experience difficulties in understanding social cues and interacting effectively with their peers					

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Can you describe the overall levels of child abuse within your household?
2. How do you think family interactions and communication patterns affect your child's mental and emotional well-being?

3. In what ways do you believe family conflicts or tensions impact your child's behavior and relationships with others?
4. How does the level of parental involvement influence your child's psychological and social development?
5. Can you share any specific instances where positive/negative family dynamics have noticeably influenced your child's well-being?
6. How do you think your stress levels as a parent influence your child's emotional and social development?
7. In what ways do you observe your child reacting to your stress or anxiety?
8. How do you manage your own stress to prevent it from negatively impacting your child's well-being?
9. Have you noticed any changes in your child's behavior or mood during times of increased parental stress?
10. How do you create a supportive environment for your child despite your own stressors?
11. How has the recent period of social isolation or limited social interactions affected your child's mental and emotional well-being?
12. Have you noticed any changes in your child's social skills or ability to form relationships with others due to isolation?
13. What strategies do you use to help your child stay connected with peers and maintain social bonds during times of isolation?
14. How does a lack of social interaction impact your child's overall mood and behavior?
15. What steps do you take to ensure your child receives the necessary emotional support and social engagement while facing social isolation?