

**FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES AND CONTROL OF CHILD ABUSE IN MBARARA
DISTRICT**

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M17/BBUC/MSW/003

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
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DECLARATION

It is submitted to the Department of Research and Postgraduate Studies as part of the partial fulfillment of the requirements for completion. Currently studying the Master's degree course of Social Work. Uganda Christian University.



Signature.....

Date: 22rd Aug. 2025

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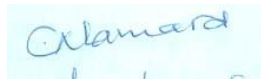
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APPROVAL

I, **TUMUHAIRWE KEVINA**, hereby certify that this research dissertation study on "Family Welfare Services and Control of Child Abuse in Mbarara District" is an original research work with the exception of any materials that are submitted as duly acknowledged and cited. Furthermore, I certify that this is not a submitted work to any institution as part of acquiring any academic Award.

This document serves to affirm that the aforementioned research dissertation entitled "Family Welfare Services and Control of Child Abuse in Mbarara District" is the result of the investigation carried out under my supervision by KEVINA TUMUHAIRWE. This has now been presented to the Department of Research and Post Graduate Studies at Uganda Christian University, accompanied by my endorsement.

Signature:



Date: 22nd, Aug. 2025

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(Supervisor)

DEDICATION

It is my desire to dedicate this undertaking to my husband, Mr. Baingaina Emmanuel, whose limitless support has seen that all is taken care of, and whose immense encouragement has kept me going through this journey.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRWC: African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

CFPUs are Child Protection Units.

CPP: Child Protection Policy

CVI: Content Validity Index

DPSWO: District Level Spending on Children.

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

IFRC: International Federation of Red Cross Societies

Local Council: Local governing body.

LGs: Local Governments

MDAs: Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MGLSD: Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development

NCP: National Policy on Children

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations

OVC Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children

OVC: Vulnerable Children and Others, including Orphans

PSWOs: Probation and Social Welfare Officers

PTSD	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
SCI:	Save the Children Internacional
SEA:	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SH:	Sexual Harassment
SPSS:	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
TWG:	Technical Working Group
U.S:	United States
UDHS:	Uganda Demographic and Health Survey
UN:	United Nations
UNCRC:	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
UNICEF:	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UPF	Uganda Police Force
USA	United States of America
USA:	United States of America
UYDEL:	Uganda Youth Development Link
UYDEL:	Uganda Youth Development Link.
UYDEL:	Ugandan youth development link Violence aimed at children

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ABSTRACT

Essay discusses the connection of Family Welfare Services and Control of Child Abuse in Mbarara District. In recent publication by the Daily Monitor Wednesday January 11th 2021, It was reported that parents are exposing their children to abuse because of they are unable to meet the basic needs of the children like school fees, food among others, which is why they have resorted to sending them to the streets.

Therefore, the study of this research is to give understanding on the Family Welfare Service and Control of Child Abuse, the study will be guided by the following objectives; The objectives of the study were: to evaluate the effectiveness of family welfare services in controlling child abuse, to investigate the basic reasons of child abuse, to assess the challenges that kids have to face, and lastly to come up with and carry out measures to manage child abuse and its consequences on kids. The research was grounded in the Human Ecology Theory/family systems model pioneered by Broderick (1993). A cross-sectional research design was utilized for data collection and analysis. The study population consisted of parents/community members, probation officers, and police in charge. The main methods of data collection were questionnaire survey and interviewing. Data analysis involved both quantitative and qualitative methods. The research outcomes revealed that Family Welfare Services Play an Important Role in the Control of Child Abuse because the African charter on the right and welfare of the child proclaims that “member states shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that a child subjected to school or parental discipline shall be treated with humanity and respect and with respect for the inherent dignity of the child.”. Therefore, the majority of respondents 65% asserted that children receive psychosocial support, i.e., 65.6% abused children receive legal support; 66.3% cases of child abuse are always reported

to probation officer. The study findings investigated causes of child abuse in Mbarara District; these included; 50.0% of respondents indicated that death of parents because a child remains uncared and end up being cared for by other relatives / parents' friends, 80% polygamous, 75% drug abuse among parents' / care givers contributes to child abuse. However, it was indicated that study revealed that (48.3%) of respondents indicated that it is lack of enough basic needs; 57.9% of respondents indicated it is lack of recreational facilities. This therefore concludes that there is a positive correlation between Family Welfare Services and Control of Child Abuse. Therefore, this study concludes that there is high child abuse in Mbarara district and most children don't access family welfare services. This also means that it is essential for such stakeholders such as police, LCs, Parents as well as other concerned citizens to effectively enforce such laws protecting rights of such children in these communities despite challenges that make it impossible to attain complete success to end such vice.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter sheds light on essential requirements for the research which are problem statement declaration, research objectives, research purpose, specific research questions, research hypothesis framed for this research study, conceptual framework, motivation for conducting research study, meaning of research study, time horizon, along with definitions for key terms.

1.1 An overview of family welfare services and child maltreatment management.

Family Welfare Services is defined as the total array of provisions made with the intention of protecting children from abuse, neglect, discrimination, as well as exploitation that is rampant in society. The Control of Child Abuse, on the other hand, is that which relates to methods used for purposes of forestalling as well as curbing violence, abuse, as well as exploitation that is perpetrated against children. The protection of children from abuse is fundamental to community well-being as a whole as well as critical for purposes of community progression. In the Mbarara district, both the Control of Child Abuse as well as Family Welfare Services call for significant concern from all categories of relevant actors. As such, this concern has resulted in initiating the current study. In this research, Family Welfare Services is presented as the independent variable while that of Control of Child Abuse is presented as the dependent variable. It is important to note that in regard to this research,

1.2 Background

Family welfare service entails obligations of individuals involved in upholding children's rights across various levels of governance. The service aids in protecting children while also helping in reconciling parents with children. This research is therefore presented through such prisms as explained above, i.e.; historical, theoretical, conceptual, as well as contextual perspectives outlined thus:.

1.2.1 Historical Context

The problem of child abuse and neglect is increasing everywhere in the world according to Black, (2017). The horrors inflicted on children include beating, rape, exploitation, torture, mutilation, and emotional scars. The UN Secretary General (2006) estimated the number of children subjected to violence in their homes across the globe to be between 133 million and 275 million, with the least number of cases, 34.9 million and the most, 38.2 million, in sub-Saharan Africa. In line with Golo, (2017), the researcher took a look at the issue of child abuse and neglect, which is a problem worldwide. The NSPCC child abuse and neglect report for the UK (2011) cited a figure of 520,000 children as the approximation of those abused by a parent or guardian in the UK last year, as per Davies et al., (2017). One of the approaches or the Family welfare services to support the emotional well-being of maltreated children is through the provision of mental health services incorporating child and family therapy.

In the year 2019, of all confirmed child abuse cases social services had looked into, 17.8 percent consisted of different forms of physical abuse U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, (2020). Physical abuse is the intentional infliction of pain on the child. Such things as hitting the child with a hard object or the hand, shaking, burning, biting, kicking, and even poisoning or drowning the child under water, are examples of physical abuse Slep et al., (2013). Caicedo (2014) pointed out that family welfare services are complicated with special needs for children with different cognitive and academic abilities, and with physical and mental health. In the U.S. every year about 900,000 children are reported to be physically assaulted or neglected by their caretakers, and around 1,300 of them die. Also, more than half a million children are in foster care, which is a situation that typically involves families who are not known to the child before, relatives, and other types of group and residential care. Weiss and Alexander (2013) remarked that in Africa, about 872,000 children were located to be maltreated in 2012. Children who are maltreated are in great need of, and they very often use, mental health services, and thus states have increasingly resorted to Medicaid for funding family welfare services. These services are meant to stand out child abuse and thus the process will be of evaluating the family welfare services. Family welfare evaluators take their cues from indicators which are based on re-abuse reports made by family welfare service agencies. A case of maltreatment has to be reported at first before it gets into the official counts and detailed information about the child and family characteristics is also not routinely collected when it is reported Moody et al., (2018). This, therefore, necessitates the present study.

Children in Nigeria are having violence done to them in places where they should feel most secure like homes, families, schools and communities as reported by Miller, Chiang & Hollis (2018). Most children in Nigeria daily live with some kind of abuse and only a negligible fraction get help. The report indicated that 60% of children experienced violence incidentally, besides that, a quarter of girls and 10% of boys were victims of sexual violence. Out of 100 children subjected to violence, only 5 received help of any kind. The authorities of such abuses, VAC, are mainly society's norms that seem to promote violence as a way of disciplining, violence against the female adult population and community's superstitions regarding the witchcraft that tend to make children more vulnerable. Turning to the E African scenario, Culver et al. (2021) claimed that sexual abuse of children is at 60% in Kenya. The authorities have made and ratified several laws and policies for children's protection in Kenya, but the reality is that numerous children still face violence and abuse, neglectful attitudes from caretakers and even sexual abuse. A research by Sumner (2015) identified children as a vulnerable population during and after natural disasters and pandemics. The report points out that at a minimum, fifty percent of the young people in Kenya have gone through some sort of violence as children. This was depicted in a survey done in 2015 on Violence against Children in Kenya which was conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Furthermore, this survey showed that 46% of females and 52% of males aged between 18-24 years acknowledged being victims of violence in one way or the other—be it physically, emotionally, or sexually—while children. Moreover, child marriage accounts for 23% among girls in the same age bracket. The government of Kenya developed a sound policy and legal framework for child protection which was effective according to

Union (2013). UNICEF is collaborating with the Government of Kenya in the area of children's protection and the youth from violence, abuse, and exploitation. They are also working together to eliminate harmful cultural practices. The children are provided with better access to the services of prevention, care, justice, and support which are necessary for their physical, social, and mental well-being. A similar situation was reported by Nakasujja (2018) in Uganda where 85% children were subjected to physical violence, 46.2% to sexual violence, and 84.3% to emotional violence, respectively, within the last 12 months preceding the survey.

The power to regulate child abuse in the country is mainly given to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, which is considered as the primary source of power in this matter (Wright, 2017). Among the government departments that have been mandated to deal with the issue of child abuse are the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Ministry of Health. The negative risks of child marriage, teen pregnancy, and female genital cutting/mutilation are the most pronounced among the adolescent girls. In fact, child marriage is a common practice in Uganda, and the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS, 2011) tells us that 49 percent of female respondents aged 20-49 years have been married at or below 18 years of age, and 15 percent at or below 15 years of age, which is a very alarming situation indeed. As per the National Violence against Children Survey Report of 2020, a large number of the 18- to 24-year-old population of Ugandans, specifically 35% of the females and 17% of the males, admitted to being forced or coerced into sexual activities as children. Out of these, 11% were

forced or pressured into sex. Additionally, a shocking 25% of the girls and 11% of the boys among the 13- to 17-year-olds confessed to experiencing sexual violence in the past year.

In a report published by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in 2016, it was revealed that about 70% (1,890,000) of the country's child laborers or working children are involved in the illegal practice. The same Ministry's report (2016) served as a basis for the researcher to come up with certain policy recommendations which would pave the way for the execution of family welfare services as a substitute for child abuse control. The Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) for the year 2000-2001 stated that 9% of the population aged 5 - 17 (700,000) were working. Accounts of shocking violations being reported to the authorities and police are just a tip of the iceberg when it comes to the unreported cases of child abuse which remain hidden for many reasons such as the lack of access in the remote areas, the population's ignorance about the existing ways of redress and the inadequacy of the child protection system Mukite (2014). Even in instances where abuses are reported, the children often do not get the needed help, protection, and justice because of the structural and operational difficulties experienced in the child protection system. Over the years, police annual crime reports have continued to categorize child sexual abuse (defilement) as one of the major crimes in Uganda while other forms of child abuse such as physical, emotional, social, and economic ones are also getting common through the trend Mathews et al., (2016).

The researcher is firmly convinced that if the matter of child abuse is not treated with high priority, several deaths, early marriages, school dropouts, and an increase in crime levels will, among other things, be the result. Therefore, the researcher studied the relationship between family welfare services and the prevention of child abuse, identified the factors that lead to child abuse, identified the hurdles that are faced by the children, and created ways to prevent child abuse along with the impacts it has on children. Community Based Services Department within the District of Mbarara is accountable for the control of child abuse. The fact that there is a list of Departments that are involved with child abuse control indicates the need for coordination to realize the provision of effective family welfare services Patel et al., (2016). However, some among the vast list of mechanisms for coordination that exist are cross-sectorial, and continuous coordination is not giving concrete outputs for child abuse.

1.2.2 Conceptual Framework

In an ideal world, the family is the supreme protection for children. Guardians, such as parents, are tasked with providing a loving and protecting home environment. Traditionally, physical punishment was used as a means of disciplining adolescents. Nevertheless, its usage as a form of disciplining is child abuse (Seth & Srivastava, 2017). Harming or abusing a child is unlawful both under statutory laws as well as under principles of human rights. When cases of child abuse are spoken to by governmental agencies, civil society organizations, local governments, as well as nongovernment organizations based on both religious as well as community principles, children are well protected within a familial environment. The protection of children is paramount for

guaranteeing them survival, progression, education, as well as fulfillment of their complete potentiality (Albright, Reese & Krugman, 2019). Since it is a basic requirement, it is both possible as well as practical to eliminate child abuse when it is directed at causes as well as facilitative factors connected with neglect, exploitation, as well as other types of abuse across different situations.

Protection of rights necessitates the shielding of the minors from any abuse, any form of neglect, and any form of exploitation. The shielding covers the full range of issues ranging from the delivery of specialized care to the children who are refugees, prevention of torture, abuses perpetrated in the criminal system, involvement in armed conflicts through the use of child participation, child labor, substance abuse, and sexual exploitation. National Child Policy complements the Uganda Vision 2040, therefore implying it as the expression of the government's intention towards better well-being of all the children. The policy framework draws upon four broad-based sectors on the issues of the rights of the children: survival, development, protection, and participation and system strengthening for the purpose of implementing and ensuring both short- and long-term effective and efficient implementation. National Child Policy Act 2020 provides for the rights to be addressed towards the full respect of all the children of Uganda without any deviations from the international demands and domestic jurisprudence. Despite that shielding ensured through both the government-based and international-based non-governmental institutions under the national child policy, the cases revealed the continued status where children were still going through various forms of abuses with the resultant increase of street children within Mbarara District.

The Human Ecology Theory, also referred to as the family systems model, was introduced by Broderick (1993). This theoretical framework posits that the dynamic interactions occurring at various systemic levels—specifically, human, physical, and developmental—culminate in the establishment of varied social relationships. Furthermore, the ecological systems theory elucidates the manner in which the environments surrounding a child influence their developmental trajectory. The methodology emphasizes an interconnected process and framework encompassing four primary environmental systems: micro-, meso-, exo-, and macro-systems. The Human Ecology Theory articulates child development through biological growth while considering the influence of environmental elements, as highlighted by Ferguson and Evans (2019). Within the Ecological Systems Theory, Microsystems correspond It comprises the household, which consists of the parent and guardians, and the school and peers. These all have significant roles to play positively and negatively towards the well-being of the children, and this particularly involves awareness, education, and reporting of harmful or likely violence cases to the relevant government departments.

The mesosystem element of the Ecological Systems Theory involves the different actors and recipients involved in the local councils or villages, as well as the community-based institutions like the local churches, and they are all responsible for coordinating so as to guarantee vulnerable children access to essential services. Nevertheless, these institutions are often stretched because of the inadequate capacity. The exosystem aspect, as explained by the Ecological Systems Theory, comes out as the relevant contextual factor of this study, and this maps onto the parish level (LC II) of the Local Government hierarchical system, along with related institutions like applicable non-

governmental institutions operating under this setting. The macrosystem of the Ecological Systems Theory maps onto the highest level of the hierarchical system of the Local Government, namely, the sub-county and the district level whenever these get in touch with the central government on issues of funding, for instance. Based on the Human Ecology Theory and the family systems model by Broderick (1993), the paper hypothesizes that the safety of the rights of the child in the Mbarara District gets influenced by the sort of setting. This theory applies particularly to this paper because, through it, the extreme impact of the provision of welfare within the households gets highlighted, and this ends up impacting the handling of the cases of child abuse significantly.

1.2.3 Theoretical Framework

The research was made up of two variables, that is the independent variable "Family Welfare Services" and the dependent variable "Child Abuse Control". Family welfare services are those services that protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, discrimination, and exploitation in society Munro, (2011). Therefore, it is the authors' assumption that the welfare services in Mbarara District are mainly for the protection of children's rights, such as counseling, legal help, and rehabilitation. In this research the family welfare services were conceptualized as follows: basic needs, food, shelter, quality education, child up bringing like proper demeanor, psych-social support, healthcare, family support services like e.g. IGA's, counseling, music and drama, and sports in school and during holiday seasons to curb idleness, probation services to curb all manner of abuse like e.g. defilement and neglect. Family welfare services ensure

all children are brought up in safety, permanent and stable living situations supporting the wellbeing of the child. Family welfare services get to interact with the entire family, or they may be centered on direct children's intervention. Family welfare services are aligned with the Uganda Vision 2040, which evidences the Government's dedication towards the promotion of the wellbeing of all children. The family welfare services are organized around the categories including; survival, development, protection, and participation.

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development formed a multispectral Technical Working Group (TWG) to monitor the family welfare services so they could be informed on the process of strategizing for applicable interventions to specifically respond to revealed root cases and system deficiencies for the enhancement of the protection of girls and boys against abuse.

In contrast, the regulation surrounding child abuse encompasses the strategies implemented to avert and respond to occurrences of violence, mistreatment, and exploitation aimed at children (Mercy & Saul, 2017). The study indicated that child abuse is a violation of children's rights. The management of child abuse was specified to include: child labor, neglect, sexual promiscuity, physical abuse, and psychosocial damage to children. Child labor is defined as work that violates the criteria established in applicable conventions and recommendations (Hauschild, 2010), particularly when a child undertakes tasks below the minimum age prescribed for a specific role or type of labor, or when a child participates in an otherwise safe job under circumstances that render such work dangerous for minors, with an emphasis on addressing the root causes

to improve the safeguarding of both girls and boys, especially those who are most at risk, from abuse.

Child labor is often seen as a norm within communities where much of the population is without resources that are essential to life (Humpries, 2010). Neglect is the second most common violence that is presented on children within Uganda (Walakira and Naker, 2014). In addition, 8% of children reported that they experienced lack of food deprivation, 7% reported lacking in medical attention, and 5% reported inadequate clothing provision with all of them occurring within households. Inasmuch as child sexual violence is acknowledged as occurring commonly despite its prevalence, cases are not usually reported when such cases happen within intimate unions. In Uganda itself, defilement is the leading sexual offense category. The survey from the ACPF did not incorporate Mbarara's district during its exercise, however. In 2013, defilement was represented by half of serious crimes for that particular year with 49.5% (Lubaale, 2013). In concurrence with that presented by Lubaale in 2013, study was confined to the yearly occurrence of defilement cases within Mbarara's district.

1.2.4 Contextual Background

Ugandan girls have mostly been victimized by sexual violence during the night hours. Women aged 18 to 24 indicated their own houses as the most frequent place for the violence they had undergone during their childhood, then roads or schools. 1317-year-old girls, on the other hand, most frequently experienced sexual violence on a road in the last year, with their own homes or school as the next locations. Similar to girls,

Ugandan boy's also experienced sexual violence most frequently at night, and the places of violence were school, home, and roads (National survey report on Violence against Children, 2020).

The research was on family welfare services and the control of child abuse in the Mbarara District. Kalibala and Elson (2010) pointed out that among children the problems of abuse, neglect, violent acts, and exploitation are not rare and even the trends and the extent of the problem cannot be evaluated precisely due to lack of data. The researcher, however, argues that the high rate of child abuse and exploitation in the study area demands an immediate investigation that will first attend to the needs of the survivors and then make recommendations for the administration of justice that will be in line with the law. Uganda's government approved and accepted the UNCRC in 1989 and later also approved and accepted the ACRWC in 2004; by committing itself to these two treaties, Uganda is obliged to provide services that will protect children at risk, including those who have experienced abuse, violence, and exploitation (Arts, 2014). Child protection has been recognized as the main priority of the government and civil society organizations through their different interventions such as child protection cases.

Following the views expressed by Arts (2014) the entire research was conducted in Mbarara District specifically for the area wherein the family welfare service was done. The MGLSD, Save the Children International (SCI report, 2014), and Plan International Uganda were the major stakeholders in this collaboration, where Uganda was mainly

the Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC) Referral Form was developed by a team of experts among which the NGOs and Faith-based Organizations sharing the child protection case management package and the other interventions were part. Even though the actual child protection services were being delivered, these initiatives were equipping the country with the services on good practices in child protection case management for wide Application. The collaboration framework (2014) between MGLSD, Save the Children International (SCI), and Plan International Uganda was mentioned as an example in this context. Government and NGOs alike are now implementing preventive interventions that change the basic beliefs and practices that lead to child abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, their geographic reach is still very restricted and societal change in general has been slow over the years despite the community mobilization and awareness-raising efforts. Nevertheless, the study pointed out that preventive interventions for child abuse in Mbarara District still had some weaknesses. The lack of a service package that classifies the different types of cases and the absence of a unified mechanism for case documentation and follow-up are some of the factors that make the response efforts difficult. Hence, the present study focused on family welfare services and their role in the controlling of child abuse in Mbarara District.

1.1 Problem statement

In spite of continued efforts to implement Child protection Policy and various interventions that include child protection cases that have been made by Government, Non-Government Organizations and CSOs and international, regional and national

mechanisms that are available that serve at promoting enjoyment of children's rights, abuse of children continued to be prevalent. Report from Probation officer Mbarara District (2020) shows 55% child abuse/neglect, 12% abandoned/stranded children, 8%, denial of parentage. In (2019) shows 49% child abuse, 9% abandoned/stranded children, 12% denial of parentage. In spite of international, regional and national mechanisms that serve at promoting enjoyment of children's rights that are available.

Different scholars have carried out studies relating family welfare services and control of child abuse, for example Stenberg et al., (2014) showed that the family welfare services empower the secretary for children's affairs; Bukuluki et al., (2020) indicated that Uganda youth development link (UYDEL) implements control of child abuse child project; Banks et al., (2017) showed that Children act Uganda ratified international and regional instruments on the rights of the children and domesticated them into laws that directly relate to control of child abuse. However, little impact and transformation have been successfully carried out in Mbarara District.

These cases of child abuse have been consistently remaining high and right to survival of children is jeopardized. Unless child abuse is addressed on priority scale, school dropouts would be more, unemployment would increase, death / suicide rate would be on higher side, child marriage would be earlier than it is right now. It is estimated that up to 96 percent of children are vulnerable to some extent. 51 percent (more than 8 million children) are moderately or critically vulnerable. Children are vulnerable at multiple points across childhood stages such as risk of malnutrition and stunting,

disease, inadequate access to education, inadequate access to HIV care and various child protection abuses (UNICEF, 2015).

Therefore, the study examined the relationship between family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District. Hence the study formed a basis of protecting children's rights against violation by providing positive disciplines and responses not intended to create fear or shame, but listening to children and counsel to be able to correct behavior and recognize effort and good behavior through creation of accessible and child friendly mechanisms and systems that protect the children from abuse.

1.1 Research Objective

The principal research question was to explore whether Family Welfare Services are connected with Child Abuse Management within Mbarara district.

1.5 Objective of Study

- I. The study attempts to describe the impact of family welfare service on child abuse case administration in Mbarara District.
- II. The research aim is to identify child abuse causes and poor welfare service provision within Mbarara District on a household level.
- III. Examine the difficulties that impact children and why performance is poor in delivering family welfare service provision in Mbarara District.

IV. Creating child abuse reduction measures as well as quality improvement initiatives of welfare services for families within Mbarara district.

1.6 Investigative Inquiry

- I. What are child abuse prevention implications as well as welfare service provision to Mbarara District?
- II. The causes of such high prevalence of child abuse and lack of effectiveness of familial welfare support service provision in Mbarara district.
- III. What are those challenges that impact on children and result in inadequate coverage on provision of family welfare service in Mbarara District?
- IV. What would you do to stop child abuse and step up welfare service provision to families within Mbarara District?

1.7 Extent of the Research

There were three separate sub-sections under the paper i.e., scope of content, geographical scope, and time scope discussed as under.

1.7.1 Content Scope

The research was directed to discover the relationship of family welfare service with reducing instances of child abuse. The research thus encompassed several central points: purposes of research; influence of child abuse prevention on family welfare service; underlying causes of child abuse with gaps in coverage of family welfare

service; problems suffered through weak coverage of family welfare service; efforts to combat child abuse and enhancements of coverage of family welfare service coverage.

1.7.2 Geographic Distribution

The Mbarara District study was carried out in the southwestern part of Uganda. Mbarara District shares boundaries with Ibanda District to the north, Kiruhura District to the east, Isingiro District to the southeast, Rwampara District to the southwest, Sheema District to the west, and Buhweju District to the northwest. Mbarara, located approximately 290 kilometers southwest of the Ugandan capital, Kampala, was chosen for the study because of the high incidence of child abuse and the reported difficulties with family welfare services in the region.

1.7.3 Chronological Scope

The coverage was from 9 years 2012 to 2021 since these are the years when there were existing enduring news stories on the rise of cases of child abuse that had been occurring within the Mbarara district. In addition, it added enough literature content for relevant data.

1.8 Significance of the study

The study assessed the influence of family welfare initiatives on reducing instances of child abuse. This information will be used as a benchmark in guiding future enhancements of children's service within the district as well as devising policies with favorable results.

The study shed light on both implementation processes as well as existing capacity gaps, providing recommendations to local governments with a view to enriching child protection and welfare service provision to better guarantee child rights protection. The outcome of this study will enrich existing literature relevant to research inquiries as well as policy formulation while at the same time providing an empirical grounding base for relevant action that promotes improved performance as well as sustainability of child protection and welfare service provision in suitable local governmental settings.

The results of such research would be used to inform the government on understanding and measuring factors that lead to increased child abuse cases so as to develop effective policies for improved response to such abuses. Findings from research enabled laying groundwork for those formulating policies such as government, non-government organizations, Church, international bodies and other service deliverers to be able to see value in embracing projects as well as policies/laws that would narrow gaps occurring between child abuse control and provision of family welfare service. The awareness would facilitate advocacy as well as mobilization of individuals as well as elders in villages that would ultimately result in national child abuse control approach as well as policy.

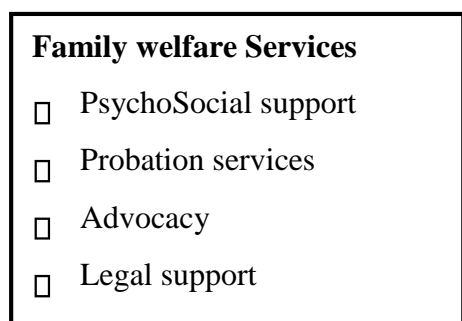
The procurement of research is essential to enable the researcher meet requirements for her Master's Degree in Social Work and Social Administration from Uganda Christian University since it is a condition precedent to graduation.

1.9 Conceptual Framework

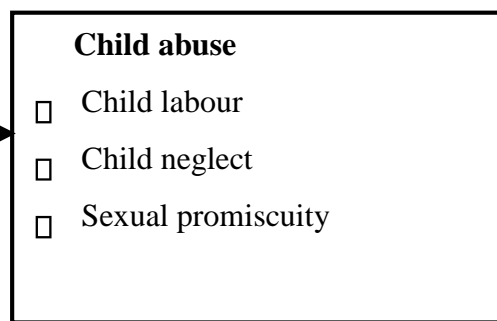
A conceptual framework can be defined as a diagrammatic depiction that represents studied variables as well as interconnecting among them. The framework forms a collection of connected concepts which collectively provide a whole coverage of the issue under study (Jabareen, 2009).

Figure 1.1: Conceptual framework tracing the relationship of the provision of family welfare service with child abuse prevention in Mbarara District.

Independent Variable



Dependent Variable



Source: Adapted from Lundy et al., (2013)

The figure above is a conceptual framework of family welfare service and control of child abuse in Mbarara District. It shows independent variable affecting dependent variable. The dependent is conceptualized as family welfare service (psychosocial support, probation service, advocacy, legal support). Independent variable on another hand is control of child abuse conceptualized as; Child abuse (child labour, child neglect, sexual promiscuity). The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

formed a multi-sectoral Technical Working Group (TWG) to oversee National Child Policy development process.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Family Welfare Services and Child Abuse has attracted numerous research works and academic articles. In the earlier chapter, I presented a study area that resulted in a general purpose, settling in three research questions and objectives. This chapter presented literature studies on topics linking to the objectives and is discussed according to the study objectives' order as subthemes; impact of family welfare services and control of child abuse, child abuse causes and low level of family welfare services, challenges influencing children and low level of family welfare services, and measures to control child abuse and rise in level of family welfare services.

2.2 The impact of family welfare services on child abuse control measures

(Sicilia et al, 2016) notes that family welfare services stipulate roles of different actors in protecting child rights across different levels of government. Family welfare services aim at protecting children as well as bringing reconciliation of parents with children. The local government councils from district level to village levels should; elect one of its member (termed as secretary for children's affairs) to be in charge of fulfilling welfare service that controls child abuse. In regards to Sicilia et al.'s opinions, research analyzed actors' responsibilities involved in child abuse control such as probation officers, police officers et al.

A survey conducted by raising voices in 2005 it was reported that 98% of children interviewed had experienced physical or emotional abuse, 76% had experienced sexual violence and 34.2% indicating that it occurred both at home and at school. Therefore,

the research will focus on the Welfare of the Family and Control of Abuse by the same. It is especially important that local stakeholders be encouraged to see themselves as key “knowledge holders” on children’s realities in their areas. It is also critical that the stakeholders reflect on the present situation of children (both risks and strengths) and not on future possibilities, or what “should be”. Local groups are the “experts” in this process and the process should be guided by local level partners. (Stenberg et al, 2014) clarify that the family welfare services grant the secretary for children's affairs the authority to summon the accuser of a child's right infringement to hold a conversation and then decide the matter based on the child's interest; with (Stenberg et al, 2014) being the premise, the researcher had a critical view of the family welfare services in controlling child abuse.

Family welfare services consist of a variety of activities, including conducting inquiries as ordered by the magistrate’s courts, submission of social inquiry reports for the courts especially regarding child offenders and control of child abuse, supervision of probationers and others under supervision order, monitoring of young people after release from national rehabilitation center, supervision of approved and babies homes, tracing, resettlement and follow up of children from children and babies’ homes and inspection of children and babies’ homes, and identifying and removing children whose lives are in danger. Ochen et al. (2012) affirm that the Ugandan government made significant strides through family welfare services in creating the necessary laws, systems, and policies for controlling child abuse in the communities.

The research which used (Ochen et al., 2012) is not concerned whether there are existing laws considering children's rights and whether they are enforced or violated, but it rather indicates the steps to be taken for the prevention of the evil. (World Health Organization. However, the children with disabilities, the poor ones, and the other kids in need should be given priority. The registration must be done for them all and the help provided wherever it is stated. The issue of stakeholder involvement in child abuse control was barely mentioned and thus the current study could be opened up. According to WHO report (2017), Bukuluki et al, reported that in the districts of Kampala, Mukono, and Kalangala, Uganda, Uganda youth development link (UYDEL) is building a protective environment where children's rights and duties are acknowledged not solely by the authorities (law enforcement officers and local leaders), but also by children, parents, teachers, and community members. During the process of realizing the ideas of Bukuluki et al., the study aimed to assess the control measures and welfare services concerning child abuse and the target population was mainly the children. The introduction of family welfare services would imply that care and support would be extended to the most disadvantaged children. This is based on a child rights perspective, which shows how children's rights are put forth, cultivated, and protected in the community, and how the community-based measures and systems for preventing child abuse operate.

Hermenau (2015) indicates that even though family welfare services are not viewed as necessary by some parents, they still benefit from it because parenting skills courses, aimed at caregivers accused of maltreatment, teach about and promote the concept of non-violent discipline as opposed to physical punishment. This in itself is one of the

methods of child abuse. Sexual abuse as a type of child abuse can be defined as any sexual act involving a child.

Sexual abuse is a broad term that includes not only physical but also non-physical acts. The latter may consist of the offender revealing one's private parts to the child, or vice-versa, while the former might include actions such as fondling or sexual assault. The study, according to Hermenau (2015), takes into consideration all forms of child abuse. First of all, children's issues should be brought to the attention of their parents or caregivers. Moreover, the local level further joint understanding on root causes for abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence will be provided, recognized the existing strengths and protective factor that keep girls and boys safe from abuse. As per Slack and Berger (2020), child neglect is the main reason in about four cases of five that are confirmed maltreatment of children (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). In addition to that, while physical abuse and sexual abuse decreased drastically since the early 90s by as much as 36% and 47% respectively, neglect only decreased by 7% over that time frame according to Slack and Berger, (2020). Neglect means not attending to even the basic needs of the child, such as shelter, food, clothing, and medical care. In respect of proposals of Slack and Berger (2020), child abuse is studied on magnitude scale. The common differentiation is that "emotional abuse" commonly involved caregiver expressions of negative emotion such as name calling, while "emotion neglect" is used to mean lack of showing positive emotion such as failing to make a child feel loved.

(Peterman, 2020) highlights that UNICEF is dedicated to offering all child survivors of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH) the opportunity to receive quality, survivor-centered support and assistance according to their personal needs which may include medical care, psychosocial support, legal aid and reintegration support. The IFRC Child Protection Policy (Policy) is intended to be a guiding principle for the safeguarding of children. The International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) accepts that children are the most fragile segment of the community and that all kids have the right to be safe and protected. Referring to (Peterman, 2020), it is imperative that both national and international organizations participate in the welfare services of preventing and mitigating child abuse. As per Paul (2014), preventing children from violence, abuse, and exploitation is a matter of "shared responsibility" and the whole point of prevention. Protection of children by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies seeks to protect the children not only from abuse but also from exploitation, irrespective of nationality, culture, race, sex, religious or political views, socio-economic level, family, criminal background, or any other factor that may be deemed discriminating.

(Powell et al., 2020) claims that family welfare services are dedicated to creating a safe space for all children visiting them, by practicing child-safety measures, along with programs, activities, policies, and procedures. Family welfare service practitioners take control measures to ensure that all persons in direct contact with children are linked to the activities and programs. By reviewing the ideas of (Powell et al., 2020), the premise of safeguarding every child as the main concern and an overriding principle for

all children's interaction, the research investigates all the welfare services in terms of their participation in case of the latter being abuse.

The national level analysis findings are expected to facilitate the families through the awareness about the basic structures, processes and the major risk and protection factors that impact vulnerable children. Appropriate roles in the preparation are to be critically discussed. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most important family welfare service (Lundy, 2017) to protect children's rights. It enables the right of all children to survival and development, the best interests of the child to be primary consideration in all decisions involving children, and the right of all children to give their opinions freely along with the principle of non-discrimination. Family welfare services in coordinating, implementing, and evaluating activities safeguard children's rights, and they also look for ways to include children's voices in the relief and development programs that are impacting them; and they do so by supporting key international frameworks and standards like the Sphere standards and the Minimum Standards for Child Protection.

In terms of child protection measures, it was revealed that 19% of the survey participants reported physical abuse during their childhood, and 12% stated that such incidents happened occasionally or often (Armour, 2014). The majority of the respondents pointed out that the incidents took place at home, while one-third of the respondents mentioned schools as the location of the incidence, and even fewer, other places in society. Additionally, 21% of the participants admitted to having been sexually abused, and 14% said that such abuse happened either sporadically or regularly. School

was named as the major place where these events happened (50%), but a large portion of the respondents also said that such incidents took place at home (40%) and in other social settings (40%). According to Armour (2014), it is imperative that program strategies not only enable children to express their feelings about abuse, exploitation, or neglect but also encourage children to verbalize their thoughts as 'experts' on the larger societal issues influencing both boys and girls. In light of the study conducted by Banks et al.

According to a work published in (2017), Ugandas Children Act characterized the merging of both international and regional treaties pertaining to children's rights with local laws regarding the prevention of child abuse, which specifically included the National Constitution, the Children's Act, and the Trafficking in Persons Act. Furthermore, the institutions are formed on both the police and local levels, but still encounter serious difficulties that are rooted in limited financial support and inadequate human resource development.

The issue of Child abuse control in Uganda is one of the most horrifying daily child-related happenings in the world, and unfortunately, it takes places in schools and homes that ideally should be safe havens for children. The authors (Banks et al., 2017) are of the opinion that the research will guarantee the selection of children, especially presuming boys and girls from the most vulnerable categories (children who are subjected to abuse, neglect, exploitation ensuring hidden children, children on the move, children with a disability are included, and children living in situations of

emergency, conflict or natural disaster) and these children will illustrate a variety of groups in the society. UYDEL, as cited by (Johnson et al., 2013) has been actively working with police to provide direct support to abused children by facilitating their travels to police and court, obtaining evidence, offering counseling to children and their parents, alternative shelter, medical care and reporting; holding community dialogues with parents and community members to recognize and promote child protection issues and community initiatives to guard children against abuse; and empowering children (in and out of school) with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities along with life skills to make just decisions and to safeguard themselves via peer education and support clubs. When (Johnson et al., 2013), is mentioning these programs he does not consider the role that police and local leaders play in the prevention of child abuse.

It is very important to assign a child protection officer at the venue so that all participants are well aware of the reporting procedures for incidents that might occur during the events. At the same time, it is crucial that the adults are informed about the steps to be taken when children disclose to them present as well as past hardships of abuse, violence, and exploitation that might take place in the course of consultations with children.

2.3 The elements contributing to instances of child maltreatment and neglect, along with insufficient welfare assistance for families.

In Nigeria, child abuse cases are very common (Owolabi, 2012). Ignorance is another factor that could push a parent or caregiver to mistreat a child. In this light, a parent who does not know what a child with special needs requires or who has not experienced

nurturing in childhood is more likely to neglect a child; that is, he will not give the child the proper nurturing he will not be emotionally supportive to the child. Such tremendous stress can make a person to be abusive towards a child. Single teenage parents without emotional support for themselves are more prone to neglect and abuse kids. Socioeconomic factors. In view of concepts of (Owolabi, 2012), comparison of factors leading to child abuse in Mbarara district as well as Nigeria is made to draw better conclusions. The research is to both contribute to incorporating children's voices in programing as well as incorporate children in further consideration on abuse consequences as well as implications on next step in life through what is determined by their households. The practice is to be adapted or any tool to fit local situations of abuse on children since it is to be used as a tool for analysis of means of intervening to be used as is fit in different cultural as well as social situations for control.

According to (Straus & Smith, 2017), the continuous economic difficulties have resulted in hawking to become a widespread activity. In their efforts to provide for the family, parents and caretakers are endangering their little ones and maids by making them sell one food item or the other. In the case of young girls, this may lead to unplanned pregnancies or infections due to sexual relations with men who lure them to sex with money. Children are sometimes exposed to vices commonly associated with adults. Kids living in the households where their parents engage in drinking, drug-using, and prostitution, often imitate them. Some parents even allow their children to perform errands like buying of alcohol, drugs such as contraceptives, morphine, and pethidine thus introducing them to such destructive acts. With respect to ideas of Straus & (Smith,

2017), they did not examine the economic problems, social problems, cultural problems and psychological problems leading to child abuse.

Children give their best if they feel you love them and believe in their potential, and care is something they in turn transmit to others, and to the activity they are taking part in. (Stalker & McArthur, 2012) noted that denial of education is one form of child abuse. Education, which means training the child, is denied to these children when they are forced to be housemaids, street beggars, hawkers, and garage boys. This death of education leads to early marriage which is usually the case with illiterate parents who would rather drive their immature daughters into marriage just to avoid the burden of pregnancy. Most times for monetary reasons and this causes unsuccessful marriages. According to (Stalker & McArthur, 2012), the researcher identifies the major factors that lead to child abuse. The interaction with girls and boys is an ongoing series of activities that help to uncover the child protection issues that are of concern to the children. The interventions will also assist the children in defining the support systems and locations where boys and girls feel secure and how they are, in fact, contributing to making their communities more protective for children. (Bywaters et al 2016) posits that child maltreatment could result from a number of reasons.

It is not just one or two simple reasons that can lead to such a situation, rather the causes are mostly intricate. Parents in general would love to be able to shower their child with love and at the same time provide him/her with the care necessary in the house that is considered safe to them. However, in circumstances where there are family members, co-workers, etc. giving little or no support, the primary support that

the child's parents may have turns out to be quite stressful to the point of leading them to abuse the child. Drawing from concepts of (Bywaters et al 2016) studies gauge parents' contribution as the instigator of child abuse together with the issue of managing it. Boserup (McKenney, & Elkbuli 2020) summarizes that child abuse causes may really cover a lot, namely, isolation, and lack of support - a complete absence of family members, friends, partners, or community support thereby leading to the parents being unable to manage the demands of parenting. The next one is stress which could be in the forms of financial pressures, job worries, medical problems, or caring for a disabled family member. Then there is also the issue of unrealistic expectations that may arise from a lack of understanding about a child's developmental stages and behavior, and there could also be situations where the parents with an intellectual disability or mental illness might not be able to be with their child sufficiently.

With respect to ideas of (Boserup, McKenney & Elkbuli, 2020), the researcher assessed the social factors leading to child abuse. Child abuse through the use language, make suggestions or offer advice which is inappropriate including language that causes shame or humiliation, or is belittling or degrading to the child should be condemned; The research also shall promote child protection by showing how working with government and other key partners to strengthen existing structures and systems through: advocacy for policy and legislative reforms and empowerment of children and to promote child protection as an essential tool to mitigating child abuse.

Christian & Committee on Child (Abuse and Neglect 2015) proposed that the incapacity of the parents to nurture, that is, the case when they either have no money to meet a

child's needs or they mistake it for discipline and so they resort to beating the child or physically punishing him/her. They also mentioned that drug, alcohol, or gambling addiction or use of substances may detract from the parent's ability to meet the child's needs. Another factor is low self-esteem, where parents are doubtful if it is possible to give a child what he/she needs and do not have the means to seek assistance. The last factor is a history of childhood; parents might have been abused as children in their families, which could have resulted in an insecure type of attachment.

Mental illness. Child abuse may be induced by various factors. When referencing Christian & Committee on (Child Abuse and Neglect 2015), scholars investigated the causes of child abuse while accounting for parenting. Inability to consult someone, even a friend, on what is happening so the latter may help one whenever the latter feels terrified. Lack of proper advice alongside counseling by the parents not offered consequently the survivors are left alone and are forced to live through the emotional trauma.

It is generally agreed upon that abusive parents are usually mirroring a circumstance of having themselves been physically, emotionally, or even sexually abused as children (Straus & Smith, 2017). Nevertheless, we can come across parents who as children were not abused and become abusive parents, and those who as children were abused and never abuse children themselves. Characteristics which are present among some of the abusive parents are: low self-esteem, lower intelligence level, aggressiveness, solitude, alienation, anxiety, depression, indifference, fear of rejection, narcissist personality, immaturity, dependency, distrust, alcohol/drug abuse. Based on ideas of (Straus &

Smith 2017), on physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse of children, studies are aimed both on the question of whether abusing parents are capable of participating in child abuse and on the best regulatory control of it.

Substance misuse has emerged as an increasingly pressing issue (Taplin & Mattick, 2015). The Child Protection Unit suggests that the confluence of parental substance use and an individual's own traumatic encounters of childhood maltreatment contributes to a case load typified by profoundly dysfunctional familial environments. A lack of comprehension regarding child development may result in expectations that are either impractical or excessively rigorous. An inadequacy in sufficient parenting capabilities, along with inappropriate attitudes, can cultivate abusive behaviors; for example, the normalization of violence as a means of conflict resolution. Exceptional situations, such as unplanned pregnancies, health difficulties, and a reduced ability to emotionally connect with one's offspring, can substantially elevate the likelihood of abuse, especially when these elements are intensified by social distress and isolation within the home environment. In line with the findings of Taplin and Mattick (2015), their study did not aim to assess whether parental educational levels affect the frequency of child abuse occurrences. Parental involvement in child protection initiatives is correlated with more effective strategic interventions designed to shift perceptions and assist children in reinterpreting their immediate realities.

This is predicated on principles of familial openness and a blend of humility that facilitates the recognition of essential societal and personal changes.

According to (Stalker & McArthur 2012) child factors might lead to child abuse. Some children are more prone to being abused. The child's age, along with his or her physical, mental, emotional, and social development, can be a significant factor in the chances of abuse happening. Younger kids, because of their small size and lack of development, are particularly at risk for some kinds of abuse like the "battered child syndrome," the "shaken infant syndrome," and the "failure to thrive syndrome." As it is mentioned in the work of (Stalker & McArthur 2012) Child abuse, in the latter, more precisely drawing the conclusion of whether or not child factors are, and if yes, then to what extent are related to cases of child abuse, was one of the researcher's goals. This because the very essence of effective child protection is the balancing of the emotional, relational, and physical health of the children in a way that they can realize their lives and careers in the contexts of the loving and resilient family cultures.

(Bywaters et al., 2016) indicated that a child's act could lead to child abuse, e.g., crying and unresponsiveness could make abuse more likely, especially when the parent is not able to empathize with the child and has difficulties in controlling his/her feelings. Generally, children classified as "different", like those with disabilities, are more likely to become victims of maltreatment. Socially isolated children may also be very vulnerable. For instance, a child who lacks a close family bond and has no or very few friends could be more open to picking up signals of attention and love in exchange for sex. Regarding to ideas of Bywaters et al, healthy strategy for intervention by this research will provides order and clarity. It sets the direction, focuses effort, coordinates activities, and guides the allocation of resources that enhance the children's behaviour. The study examined how child's behavior can lead to child abuse

in context. This is so because bad behaviour allows the children in the community to direct their attention to the inappropriate alternatives of their lives,

(Fortson et al, 2018) propose that the family environment is a significant contributor to child maltreatment. Certain family life conditions are more likely to lead to the abuse, among them are marital discord, domestic violence, unemployment, financial stress and social isolation. The families that are abusing children usually have the same sort of interaction day in and day out where their communication is very little, they respond positively to good behaviour and negatively to bad behaviour. Abusive parents are less likely than non-abusive ones to show appropriate parenting behaviors and they also tend to apply ineffective and inconsistent discipline methods.

Regarding to ideas of Fortson et al. knowing that the big issues have not been taken into consideration. Unhealthy strategy will also position child abuse in ways that hinder possibilities for real time creative community and family engagement which was focus of the researcher on this study.

Saveanu and Nemeroff (2012) express the fact that environmental factors often coexist alongside the aforementioned factors. Child maltreatment occurs far more significantly within specific societies and cultures than others. Behavior potentially equating to child abuse in the context of a given culture may be observed to be accepted practices elsewhere. Economic demands, societal attitudes towards the position of children within the society, perspectives of physical punishment of youths, and the level of backing of caregivers seem to illuminate these differences. Poverty-related stress is significantly related to an increased number of reported cases of child abuse,

specifically where unemployment and the economy are escalating. Abusive families are often isolated from the wider social setting, as well as the wider society. To substantiate Saveanu and Nemeroff's claims, a significant dissociation exists between the child and the parent, which could lead to the undermining of established rules relating to child-rearing processes. Overwhelmed and helpless parents may utilize extreme physical punishment and occurrences of child abuse. This observation has interested the researcher to investigate the vulnerability of child maltreatment to the effects of the environment.

2.4 The barriers that impact on children and inefficiency in providing welfare service to families

Some of those foremost government Ministries and Institutions which significantly play their role under the family welfare provision and child abuse control have no direct mandate concerning child protection (Wright, 2017). For example, with Ministry of Education and Sports which, even though it has most direct contacts with children, has no direct mandate of ensuring child abuse control. This not only limits those institutions' accountability concerning child protection, but also on allocation of human as well as financial resources on child protection functions. In the aspects of concepts of Wright that children as well as young individuals are not allowed to work within any place or occupation or situation of work hazardous or likely hazardous to their physical as well as mental health; The study examined government ministries' challenges of providing family welfare provision to children. This is because numerous households even including those households having regular functioning households require support so as to ensure social functioning of adults within their parent roles. (Atusingwize et al.,

2019) explained that there actually are real gaps of availability of the required number of skilled workforce as well as operational resources within almost all institutions of child abuse control. Gap of both human as well as operational resources remains most pronounced within the principal Ministry (MoGLSD) of national level as well as within the Community Based Services Department of the district level. Understaffing of MoGLSD rendered it virtually impossible for MoGLSD to coordinate as well as monitor the actors along with the responses.

At the regional level, the fact that the abuse control officers have a lot of other responsibilities means they are overworked and therefore not able to carry out their functions related to abuse control correctly. For instance, some minors in court cases do not have Probation and Social Welfare Officers (PSWOs) because the Officers are involved in other functions. The same issue is encountered with the Police Family and Child protection Units (CFPUs) where the Uganda Police Force (UPF) created them with the intention of better handling family and child abuse cases. By contrast, Atusingwize et al. Early intervention is essential in case of child abuse and neglect. The research worked out the disputes around the public institutions in the provision of family welfare services to children. Jamali et al., (2015) regard the staff capacity as one of the very crucial points in guaranteeing the provision of protection services for children. The workforce is considered to be composed of two interrelated factors that are mainly responsible for the level of service delivery, which are, availability and skill. There is a general agreement that the problem of inadequate manpower in the local government persists with both availability and skill affecting the service delivery. Along the lines of Jamali et al.

Informed teachers and students, in a way, are the direct recipients of the knowledge and information that besides the school and educational environment, there are other factors like child abuse and neglect that directly affect children. The study was conducted on the impact of the government's provision of social services in relation to child abuse in Mbarara District. On the other hand, (Fjeldstad & Heggstad, 2012) mentioned that the absence of financial independence and the unavailability of funds to back up the local government officials are responsible for the situation where most of the local government officials, including councilors, are voluntarily working without being paid. As a result, the problem of stealing and corrupt activities has increased among these officials, who engage in such practices in order to supplement their incomes. Paying reference to Fjeldstad and Heggstad's ideas it was very hard to find reasonable solution to child abuse and neglect when the local government councilors were seen as part of the issue. The challenge of local government in mitigating child abuse was the main reason for setting up a research study with the view to suggesting solutions as recommendations. (Nabasumba, 2017) tells us that most of the lower local councils had no knowledge of Children Statute 1996 but they had heard of it. It is only in those districts where child-centered NGOs work and mainly at the county or sub-county level, that interventions have had their impact recognized. Nakasujja noted that the staff shortage in the districts was the main reason for the slow dissemination of the Children Act, and even the district structures that were supposed to implement the Act had very poor accessibility in terms of transport and communication.

The challenges that Local Councils (LCs) face in implementing the children's act at the local level were the main focus of this study and it was suggested to conduct the

matching and fostering of family with child as an important 'good start' in the relationship to prevent repeated rejections and ensuing removals. This was in line with (Bequele, 2020) Framework of measuring government performance regarding child wellbeing. The child-friendly budget guarantees right budgetary allocations as one of the composite elements, and the continuous fight for the realization of the rights and welfare of the child is one of the ways the promotion of the progressive realization of the rights and well-being of the child is done. The report adds that 'services for victims are scarce and the institutions do not have substantial government support. Regarding (Bequele 2020), the study assessed the difficulties faced by the government in stopping the cases of child abuse. In the paper read on behalf of the World Bank (2013), which talks about budgetary issues and the future of welfare service provision for families in Uganda, one sees that the Ugandan local governments rely on central government transfers for up to 90% of the revenue they get. The challenge of raising revenue is further complicated by the diminishing own-source revenue from districts, especially after the abolition of the graduated tax, which restricted local governments' expenditure on social services provision. The research therefore pointed out the limitation within local government in the area of operations and in handling child abuse cases with the overriding reason being that child issues took precedence over what was good for that child in most cases. If parents or other caregivers are unable to perform this role, it is imperative that local governments take on the responsibility to provide proper childcare.

Nakasujja (2018) reports that the district level budgetary allocations to the welfare of children or the office of the Director of Probation and Social Welfare are so low that

they amount to only 0.25% of the budget allocated to children, and at town council level also, gender and community development which includes probation and social welfare gets only 2.2% of the district budget. This budget, which supports the PSWO and the work of CDOs, directly impacts the delivery of family welfare services for abused and vulnerable children in the community. In line with the concerns of this research, the researcher analyzed the government budget's effect on child abuse. The Government has been providing different means for the public to give their views on child abuse through the Ministry of Education organized activities and programs. Kaawa-Mafigiri & Walakira, (2017) opine that the major cause of the weakness and the gap in functionality of the child abuse control system in Uganda is the very low public financing of child abuse control structures, institutions and programs. The situation is such that apart from the salaries of the government child protection staff, almost all the funding for child abuse control programs comes from the donors. This is because the sector has not been able to effectively package and communicate child protection services in a way that they become a subject for increased public funding and at the same time Most of donor support is provided outside the government budget framework which does not, create government commitment to invest in child abuse control. This made the study seek to find out the effect of public resource on child abuse.

As a result, there exists a necessity of additional resources to support the existing programs of early detection, intervention and support for child abuse, especially for children having mild to moderate special needs, so that they could not only adapt to the regular school curriculum but also stay in the mainstream and perform well within the family. To illustrate, girls for example are more likely than boys to be murdered,

sexually abused, neglected educationally and in terms of food and forced into prostitution (Rahman & Tareque, 2013). Girls are neither allowed to be educated nor are they kept indoors so that they can look after their younger siblings or earn some money for the family by doing some tasks. In many countries male children are considered more vulnerable to physical abuse than female children. In most places, girls fall victim to infanticide more often than boys, but the reason for higher physical abuse of boys remains a mystery. It might be that such violence is viewed as a preparation for the rough and tough life and responsibilities of adulthood, or simply that boys are thought to need more physical punishment. According to Rahman & Tareque, it is very important to bring up the issue of the child-parent/caregiver relationship. The child physically abused by the parent/caregiver may manifest a fear of contact with that parent/ caregiver.

Research into the impact of the child's sex showed that it also affected the abuse of the children. According to Serin (2021), the resources and composition of the family present are the most important factors, or rather they are the main constituents of the problem. In most instances, the violators of physical abuse are very likely to be younger, single, economically deprived, and unemployed and to have fewer education qualifications than their non-abusing peers. The same situation is observed in both rich and poor countries where largely financially deprived, young, single mothers are the ones usually identified as posing the highest risk of committing violence against their children. As an example, research in the USA indicates that the rate of single mothers who reported using severe physical discipline was three times higher than that for those living in dual parent households. According to Serin (2021), family interactions as a

source of emotional and psychological abuse can really hinder the child's proper development. The child exposed in such a situation may eventually show symptoms of depression, developmental lag, low self-esteem, and disruptions in sleep and feeding. The research investigated the role of the family background as a possible cause of child abuse in Mbarara District.

The kin unit's structure and composition have significant influences on the occurrence of child maltreatment events (Petts, 2012). Furthermore, the real living situation could make individuals more prone to child maltreatment episodes. However, to understand this, it is crucial to accept the fact that the living situation is not the only decisive factor. The composition characterized by constant change, that is, the household composition being in a state of continuous change due to the movement of relatives and other factors, is the one mostly linked to chronic neglect episodes. In the light of Petts (2012) observation, the pattern of child neglect repeats itself, and when the housing demands are lower and the size of the household population is higher, these children are the most at risk of abuse. Therefore, the study reached the conclusion that the number of people sharing the house has an effect on the occurrence of child maltreatment. Children who suffered maltreatment at the hands of their parents are more likely to become abusers themselves (Widom, Czaja & DuMont 2015).

Parental factors such as young age, stress, isolation, living in a big family, drug addiction and poverty mentioned previously might be more predictive than, for instance, intimacy or quitting smoking. According to Widom, Czaja & DuMont (2015), the researcher conducted a study in Uganda investigating the connection between

parent factors and child abuse in Mbarara District. Domestic Violence is the increased focus on intimate partner violence and its link to child abuse. Studies have shown child maltreatment as an accompanying factor of domestic violence in different regions with a significant difference in culture and geography, e.g. China, the USA, Colombia, Egypt, India, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, and the USA. Besides, according to the theory of Beyer, Wallis, and Hamberger, it was suggested that the primary caregivers of children are the ones who should first identify the child's abuse when it is at the lowest point, report that, and consequently, intervention should be delivered within various households.

The study analyzed how intra-family violence simultaneously influenced the events of child abuse. Besides that, it was revealed that maternal distress and loneliness were other factors associated with child abuse (Brown et al., 2020). It is believed that the stress caused by job changes, financial insecurity, health issues, or where you live makes the family conflict worse and also reduces their ability to deal with the situation or to protect themselves. People who have more social support are said to be less likely to engage in child abuse even if other risk factors are present. The study done by Brown et al. (2020) talked about social issues that lead to child maltreatment. The correlation between child maltreatment and poverty levels has been documented in many different countries and by several studies through the years (Drake & Jonson-Reid, 2022). Abuse is usually widespread in places with a larger number of unemployed people and in places where poverty is concentrated. Moreover, these areas tend to be characterized by a high level of population movement and difficulties caused by overcrowding in residential settings. The noxiousness of poverty as a long-term impact on children is

manifested through the alteration of caregiver attitudes and limitation of access to community resources. High-poverty neighborhoods are usually characterized by the decline of physical and social infrastructures and by the lack of resources and amenities that poorer communities lack. Regarding the ideas of Drake & Jonson-Reid, Failure to acknowledge the dissonance between the financial upward shift and the current situation, and poverty plus the organization's design and cultural style not focusing on increasing the family wealth. So, the researcher looked into.

Social capital social capital denotes the level of closeness and unity that prevails among people in a community (Villalonga-Olives & Kawachi, 2017). Children who reside in areas characterized by low "social capital" or lack of social investment in the community are likely to suffer from more severe forms of abuse and undergo more psychological or behavioral difficulties than their counterparts living in areas with higher "social capital" or social investment in the community. Neighborhood connection and social networking have proved to be quite beneficial to children in terms of protection. In keeping with the viewpoint of Villalonga-Olives & Kawachi, inadequate capacity to uncover the underlying causes of inter-communal conflict in slum demographics by ignoring sources of grievance and by building community unity around mutual development assets have contributed to the rise of child abuse in Uganda.

The study looked into the impact of social problems on the phenomenon of child abuse. Kulmala, Rasell, and Chernova (2017) argued that a variety of society-level factors are considered to have important influences on the well-being of children and families. The

influence of cultural values and economic forces in directing and shaping the choices of families' responses to these forces.

Sexual and income-based inequities that characterize other areas of violence are most probably linked to child abuse as well. Cultural identification of parents and children according to gender roles and family privacy are two such parental-child relationship expectations that are related to violence. In reference to concepts of (Kulmala, Rasell & Chernova, 2017), no research was conducted on influence of environment on child abuse. As such, security of child or young person would come first. Institutional care of child or young person would be taken under consideration in view where necessary though as last option.

Child and family policies like those regarding parental leave, maternal employment, and child care were the focus of the research. The extent and nature of preventive health care for the youngest children and infants were considered a tool for identifying abuse in children cases. The social welfare system's strength was measured by the means of support providing a safety net for children as well as families. In line with Nollenberger & Rodríguez-Planas's ideas, the first verdicts about the child's well-being and safety are made through the provided parental and child care arrangements, then the arrangements are presented to a multi-disciplinary team composed of community leaders who interpret the discourse in a way that fits the situation of the child being subjected to abuse. The study acknowledged the limitations related to the implementation of child and family policies.

2.5 Strategies for Precluding Child Abuse and Improving the Quality of Family Welfare

Services (Mwambene 2018) indicate that children act by the Uganda law reform commission contends that the implementation of the Act is undermined by among others, inadequate human and financial resources in the established institutions and the negative attitudes of the society on matters of children's rights. With respect to concerns of (Mwambene, 2018), the researcher examined loopholes in children act by the Uganda law reform commission in Mbarara District. According to Matte (2017), local governments in Uganda persistently function below the acceptable minimum personnel standards, at times operating with as few as 9 percent of the approved personnel structure. Matte further emphasizes the importance of parents and significant others in sustaining ongoing communication with the child, supplying essential resources, and ensuring the protection of the child's rights, particularly when the child is temporarily placed in residential or alternative care. The study's findings provided local governments with recommendations as means to improve the safeguarding of children's rights. In the analysis conducted by Nakasujja (2018), it is noted that Probation and Social Welfare Officers at the district level play a pivotal role in statutory child protection initiatives. Nevertheless, these officials are also tasked with addressing a wide array of community development issues, which considerably diminishes their concentration on child protection concerns. As a result, the prioritization of child abuse cases often suffers in the operational plans at the district level, leading to inadequate resource allocation for programs at both the district and sub-county tiers.

In alignment with Nakasujja's (2018) assertions, local district officials should work to restore support systems and provide assistance to families in order to enhance their capacity to care for children. The investigation primarily concentrated on child protection services in the context of Mbarara district. Brownlee et al. (2012) highlighted the necessity for parents, guardians, and educators to actively engage in the moral education of children, advocating for governmental intervention to enact legislation prohibiting child abuse. Furthermore, the government is encouraged to establish institutions and foster homes to assist abandoned children within society. Regarding to Brownlee et al, that working with institution like for education on their solving problems with an aim to reconcile the sanity of the child with the parents and the community, without compromising the safety and interest of the child provides a good foundation to control of child abuse. The researcher formulates recommendations to patents and government to address or control child abuse. (Runyon and Deblinger, 2013) indicated that there is need to empower the parents on parenting capacity in order to provides an update on the impact of parental problems, such as substance misuse, domestic violence, learning disability and mental illness, on children's welfare and this can be done through increased awareness campaign, training and workshop, developing books and magazines on domestic violence, physical child abuse and self-esteem. Regarding to Runyon & Deblinger, the authorities to mandate the parents to take the necessary actions to ensure that their children's well- being is provided for. This serves as a form of early intervention for families experiencing difficulties in managing their children, or coping with parental roles. The study examined the roles of parents in protecting children's rights. (World Health Organization report, 2012). There is need for the

government and other civil society organizations who are adolescent's activist to sensitize the community on the danger of domestic violence, physical child abuse and negative self- esteem development and this can be done through advocacy and community dialogue in-order to equip them with better information on how to increase on their social intelligence. Regarding to report by World Health Organization, on creating awareness and sensitizing the community ensures that everyone is aware of dangers that come with physical abuse and domestic violence.

The study provided policy recommendations to victims of child abuse. (Ahmed, 2017) indicate that there is also need for the teachers and school official to provide psycho-social support such as counseling and guidance to victims of domestic violence and abuse which can be achieved through hiring of professional counselor such as community psychologist, clinical psychologist and counseling psychologist in order to help them terminate their personal problems with the violent situation. Regarding to thoughts of Ahmed, that the training center is staffed by mainly social workers, and offer a full range of preventive, developmental and remedial programs for the family. The study provided suggestions to different authorities involved in addressing child abuse. (Fulton, 2016), pointed out that counseling can be of benefit in helping to develop patience and empathy for the partner as those were aspects pointed out by survivors as important. There was a report that couples needed to inject a sense of hope which can be developed in therapy through helping to encourage the strength that is within the couple. There can also be broader implications outside of therapy such as assisting survivors to develop criteria of potential partners which would make a long-term satisfactory committed romantic relationship more probable. In terms of concepts

of Fulton, that boys on the other hand are over-represented where physical abuse is involved. There is much significant gender disparity for emotional/psychological abuse cases as well as neglect cases.

The study analyzed the services provided to child abuse victims. (Molnar et al., 2020) suggest that the consensus panel advised that counselors adopt a broad approach when dealing with clients who suffer from substance abuse issues and who experienced childhood abuse and neglect such that meaning of the experience to the client is taken to consideration rather than legal meaning of child abuse and neglect. Counselors must thus be aware of what clients believe on account of their experiences. All abuse is not that which satisfies the legal as well as common understanding of abuse, nor is abusive behavior as perceived by clients that which may be construed as "abuse" under the law. With reference to Molnar et al's ideas, that familial crisis was noted as one of those factors that are used in abuse cases. Others are superstitious as well as cultural beliefs that led to emotional rejection of the child as well as tendency to ill-treat the child. The researcher studied varied approaches used with child abuse victims when it comes to counseling. Blank et al. (2019) argue that it is premature to make policy recommendations for most of those interventions that deal with family violence without a research foundation that includes rigorously constructed evaluations. The committee in four different arenas—reporting practices, batterer treatment programs, record keeping, and joint law enforcement approaches—has drawn on its evaluative expertise and deliberations to encourage service deliverers as well as policymakers to introduce measures that are congruent with the existing research landscape. With regard to the viewpoints articulated by Blank et al., it is significant to point out that there has been

an absence of research focused on policies related to child abuse. As a result, there exists a deficit in understanding the developmental requirements of children, a sense of helplessness, and a lack of capability to manage the disruptive behaviors exhibited by the child, accompanied by unrealistic expectations held by caregivers concerning the child, which culminated in a deterioration of the parent-child relationship and a rise in maltreatment incidents.

Straughan (2014) emphasizes the critical importance of educating children about their rights. When children are made aware of their intrinsic worth and their right to personal safety, they are more likely to report instances of abuse rather than suppressing the experience internally. It is essential to provide support for preventative strategies. Frequently, interventions are only enacted post-reporting of abuse. There exists a pressing necessity for heightened investment in programs proven effective in preventing the occurrence of abuse, such as home visitation programs conducted by nurses who aid newborns and their parents. In alignment with Straughan's viewpoint, additional factors including financial difficulties, marital discord, social isolation, substance abuse, and mental health issues also play a role in the emergence of abuse. The research examines the contributions of various organizations, encompassing educational institutions and religious bodies, in promoting awareness regarding children's rights. Fundamentally, this study aims to establish a framework for permanency planning that facilitates effective and informed decision-making pertaining to the long-term placement of a child. This process involves thorough interventions, assessments, and consultations with a variety of professionals, as well as with parents, relatives, and authorities who have interacted with the family involved. The plan is

brought forth at a beginning point in the practice of case supervision with the aim of defining a permanent placement approach that meets the requirements of a child for stability, security, protection from harm as well as lifelong identification. In addition, for children who are placed outside regular care, planning ensures that such placement is not remaining in perpetual ambiguity. Whilst above researchers made attempts to family welfare service provision as well as control of child abuse, a gap emerges at contextual level.

At methodological level, research was not empirical research on family welfare service provision as well as control of child abuse since the above research was not undertaken in the District. This led to this empirical research within the context to try to investigate the relationship between family welfare service provision as well as control of child abuse. The researchers never brought forth the topics of child abuse within this district, since the occurrence of child abuse cases continues to be high as well as undermines the right of children to survive.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter intends to convey the research methodology applied in conducting the study. The research design, target population, sampling method and sample selection, research tools, reliability and validity of the tools, and methods of data administration and analysis are all discussed.

3.2 Research Design

The research used cross-sectional design given that data was gathered from a reasonable number of participants or respondents. The design was suitable for acquiring a snapshot of study variables' relationship thereby eliciting mixed methodologies that integrated both qualitative as well as quantitative methods in researching on provision of family welfare service as well as child abuse control within Mbarara District.

3.4 Area of Study

Area of study is geographical area where study was conducted (Kothari, 2014). The study was conducted in Mbarara District in south west Uganda. Mbarara District is surrounded by Ibanda District on its northern side, Kiruhura District on its eastern side, Isingiro District on its southeastern side, on its south western side is Rwampara District, on its western side is Sheema District while on its northern west is Buhweju District. The district is about 290 kilometres by road south west of Kampala Capital City of Uganda. The area was selected for study due to high cases of child abuse that are reported as well as numerous complaints regarding family welfare service.

3.5 Study Population

According to (Best and Kahn 2019) a population is a group of individuals who have one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher. (Lokesh, 2018), defines study population as a large group from which a sample population is selected. The study population of this study comprised of parents, adolescents, youths, children and stakeholders involved in provision of family welfare services such as local leaders, probation officer, child and family protection, police in-charge and CDOs at division. Parents are responsible for guiding and upbringing their children in good morals. Adolescents and youths are former or have ever been victims of child abuse. Children are direct victims of child abuse. Probation officer is responsible for handling cases of child abuse and provision of welfare services. Police in-charge is responsible for handling immediate cases of cases of child abuse in the community. CDO is overall supervisor of welfare services and protection of children in the District.

3.6 Sample Size Determination

The process of determining the sample size refers to the selection of the number of observations or repetitions that will be included in a statistical sample (Sapsford, 2016). An empirical study with a considerable sample size has the power to draw conclusions about the population as illustrated in (Krejcie and Morgan (1970)). The study included 496 participants since this number was judged to be reasonable for the whole population representation. It seems that for survey studies, a sample size larger than 50% of the population is still considered reasonable according to (Ayuman, Bernardita, 2015).

Table 3.1: Sample size determination

Category of respondents	Population size	Sample size	Sampling Technique
Probation officer	1	1	Purposive Sampling
Police officer in charge of children and families.	1	1	Purposive Sampling
Local leaders	10	10	Purposive Sampling
CDO	1	1	Purposive Sampling
Parents (Women and men)	220	140	Simple random sampling
Adolescents	340	181	Simple random sampling
Children (Youths)	280	162	Simple random sampling
Total	853	496	

3.7 Sampling Techniques and Procedures

Sample is defined as a small part that is drawn from the whole population (Ayuman, Bernardita, 2015). Sampling involves finding those people (respondents) who participated in research. The sample was used to create generalizations on the attributes under study within the whole population. The research used both purposive sampling and simple random sampling methods. Purposive sampling is based on background knowledge on a population as well as particular research investigators' aims

according to Fraenkel and Wallen (2010). It makes it possible to make personal opinions while selecting a sample. As such, purposive sampling was used to select probation officers, police officers for children and families, community leaders, as well as community development officers (CDOs), since these are the main players in family welfare service. The assumption here is that these respondents are well-informed on issues of family welfare service as well as taking control of child abuse. Simple random sampling was used to determine parents (women as well as men), adolescents, as well as children (youths) to participate in the study due to its nature that ensures that those people within a total population are to be equally as well as independently probable to be selected as part of becoming a sample member. In implementing simple random sampling, the research wrote "YES" as well as "NO" on different pieces of paper.

Therefore, he folded the papers and put them in a container. The container was shaken, thereafter she allowed respondents to pick one by from the container. Every respondent who picked papers written on 'YES 'was allowed to participate in the study.

3.8 Data Collection Techniques

The research employed questionnaire surveys and interviews as means of obtaining data as stipulated below;

3.9 Questionnaire Survey Method

Questionnaire survey is one of the quantitative means of data collection where respondents are presented with questions from the stand of how participants perceive the research issue at hand (Fraenkel and Wallen, 2010). This research approach was

avored due to its fairly straightforward and uncomplicated method to approach the research at hand. The questionnaire survey approach was utilized as a means of collecting data from parents.

3.10 Interviewing

Interviewing is a qualitative data collection method by which the researcher collects details of the respondent's answer through face to face conversation on the items of the study variables (Fraenkel and Wallen, 2010). Interview method was used to obtain qualitative data from probation officer and police officer in charge. These were subjected to interview because they have much information current cases of child abuse reported or recoded in their offices. Interviews helped in digging out additional information that was not captured by the questionnaires.

3.10.0 Data Gathering Tools

Data tools are instruments used in obtaining data (Fraenkel and Wallen, 2010). In this research case, instruments utilized involved questionnaires, interviews, as well as focus groups.

Surveys

A questionnaire is a set of questions asked to a specified group with the intention of obtaining quantitative informations regarding the researched question. Moser and Kalton (2019) confirm that questionnaire usage requires far less time and money compared to other methods, such as focus groups. The questionnaire used included

both open-ended as well as closed-ended questions. The open-ended questions were created to obtain additional details through explanations as well as detailed answers. In contrast, closed-ended questions were prepared to verify as well as affirm answers with a general inclination to receive only brief-specific answers. Open-ended questions offered respondents wider freedom to express opinions, emotions, or attitude on the subject matter at hand while closed-ended questions held respondents to accurate answers for purposes of measuring as well as estimation of extent. The questionnaires were distributed to parents. This tool was chosen owing to its ability to obtain detailed information from a large number of people within a very short duration along with its economy in terms of money as well as time.

Interview Guides

An interview is a purposeful conversation and thus qualitative data is gathered readily.

Interviews are also more flexible with a chance to reshape questions (Kothari, 2014).

An interview guide was drawn up to help facilitate the researcher gather data by means of face to face interviews that were undertaken with the police officer and probation officer in charge. Interview guides were utilized since these help to keep the interviewer on track during probe time for more in-depth information.

Implementation approach

Implementation strategy refers to methods or techniques used to enable adoption, implementation, and sustainability of a clinical program or practice. Prevention of child

abuse includes referrals to community resources, education to parents to enable them to use positive discipline strategies, as well as behavioral therapy to support improved parental coping ability and strengthen parent-child relationship. These are going to result in decreasing cases of child abuse in Mbarara District.

3.10.1 Data Quality Control

Data quality control comprised validity and reliability of instruments as shown below.

3.10.2 Validity of Instruments

Validity is stated as the degree to which an instrument is successful in measuring its intended construct (Kothari, 2014). The research instruments' validity was ensured through the testing of questionnaire items during instrument development. The researcher made a pre-visit to the study area before commencing with the study. This practice made it easier to build rapport with the stakeholders as well as verified that a study was needed. The pre-visit helped in the validation of the instruments. The content validity of the questionnaire involved taking it for review to two separate experts or consultants. Their opinions entailed finding out the relevance of questions regarding study objectives as well as later on calculating the content validity index. Below is presented the formula used in measuring validity;

Number of items rated relevant

$$\text{Content Validity Index (CVI)} = \frac{\text{Number of items rated relevant}}{\text{Total number of items}}$$

$$\text{Content Validity Index (CVI)} = \frac{36}{40}$$

Therefore CVI = 0.9

Content validity index was thus estimated from different parts of the questionnaire.

The value that resulted from this was 0.9, which was above 0.7; therefore, the tool was validated. This result supports what was stated by Amin (2010), whose view was that a tool is required to attain an average index of 0.7 and above in order to be valid.

Dependability of Instruments

A measuring instrument's reliability is the extent to which it consistently measures the specific construct under review. The research tool stability is of concern when it comes to questionnaire administration (Kothari, 2014). In questionnaire administration, TestRetest method was applied such that participants who had responded earlier to questionnaire forms were asked to do so again after a gap of two weeks so as to compare their answers for consistency. Test-retest, or test of stability, gives evidence that scores from test administration at one point in time (the initial test) are stable or nearly so when repeated administration is made later on another day. Upon obtaining data, systematic observation was carried out with consideration on maintaining accuracy as well as correcting any error that may be encountered. The reliability was calculated for the items through Cronbach Alpha method as made possible through SPSS software program. The resulted reliability coefficient for the items was 0.87 as compared to commonly used 0.70 as standard cut-off point. As such, these items provide for obtaining accurate data.

3.11 Data Collection Procedure

The term data collection procedure signifies the gathering and measuring of data, information or any variables of interest in a standardized and established manner, which allows the collector to reach a conclusion or test a hypothesis and determine the success of the particular collection. After the data collection instruments had been validated and their reliability tested, a researcher was granted an introduction letter from the department of research and post-graduate studies of Uganda Christian University. This was presented to the district probation officer to grant the researcher permission to conduct data collection among the respondents in the area. In the first two weeks of the study, questionnaires were distributed and then collected after two weeks to give the respondents enough time to fill the questionnaire at their convenience. The responses from the questionnaires and interviews were compiled into statistical data for analysis. There were continuous consultations with the supervisor until the dissertation was typed and submitted.

3.12 Data Management and Analysis

Data analysis

Data analysis and management involves studying the facts collected from a questionnaire thereby forming conclusions and assumptions (Kothari, 2014).

3.13 Quantitative Data Analysis

The quantitative data was subjected to analysis with the help of descriptive statistical equations offered by the software package SPSS v.20. The findings from the analysis

were well structured in table form using graphs, charts, frequency distributions, and sample percentages to well illustrate the answers generated from the questionnaires. In addition, Pearson correlation was used in the study to determine the extent of statistical relationship between family welfare service provision as well as child abuse control within Mbarara District.

Qualitative Data Analysis

Qualitative data was systematically structured within patterns as well as themes, coded using content analysis then tabulated. This method entailed presenting data, condensing such data within categories or themes as a means of allowing rightful interpretations as well as inferences when aiming at drawing firmer study conclusions.

Ethical Consider

An ethical consideration pertains to the established norms or standards that guide behavior, enabling a distinction between right and wrong (Barry, 2011). A preliminary letter was procured from the Coordinator of Research and Post-Graduate Studies at Uganda Christian University. Additionally, authorization was acquired from the district probation officer. Written informed consent will be secured from each participant in the study following the explanation of the study's objectives and the participants' rights to terminate the interview at any moment. A consent form was endorsed by parents, permitting the researcher to gather data from their children. Participants were guaranteed confidentiality concerning the information provided. They were further assured that the data obtained would solely be utilized for research purposes. Moreover, participants were informed that they could withdraw from the study without facing any repercussions. To ensure confidentiality and uphold the anonymity of the

respondents, no names were recorded on the questionnaires; instead, only codes were employed during the data entry process. This methodology ensured that no response could be attributed to a specific respondent.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains presentation, analysis, as well as result interpretation. The results thus generated were organized according to the chronological sequence of research objectives. Quantitative data was generated through questionnaire survey while qualitative was gathered through interviewing method.

4.2 Response rate

Among 483 questionnaires that were administered, 480 questionnaires were properly completed and submitted Achieving 99.4% response rate Among 13 interviewed participants, 12 responded positively achieving 92.3% response rate This response rate was deemed enough since 50% and above response rate is acceptable for social research surveys.

4.3 Background Information

Table 4.1: Respondents' Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	196	39.8
Female	296	60.2
Total	492	100

Source: Field Data April, 2022

Findings in Table 1 indicates that majority of the respondents 296 equating to 60.2% were females, while the least 196 equaling to 39.8% were males.

Table 4.2: Background Information of respondents (n=492)

	Items	Male		Female		Total Frequency	Total Percentage
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%		
Marital status	Single	77	15.7	120	84.3	197	40.0
	Married	100	20.3	146	79.7	246	50.0
	Widow	15	3.0	34	97.0	49	10.0
Age	Below 18 years	58	11.8	90	88.2	148	30.1
	18-30 years	50	10.2	78	89.8	128	26.0
	31-40 years	42	8.5	67	91.5	109	22.2
	41-50 years	38	7.7	60	92.3	98	19.9
	51 years and above	4	0.8	5	99.2	9	1.8
Occupation	Student	54	11.0	83	89.0	137	27.8
	Civil servant	52	10.6	81	89.4	133	27.0
	Farming	42	8.5	67	91.5	109	22.2
	Business	38	7.7	60	92.3	98	19.9
	Peasant	6	1.2	9	98.8	15	3.0

Source: Field Data April, 2022

Results in Table 2 indicates background information or respondents that is; half of the respondents 246 consisting of 50% were married while the least 49 equivalent to 10.0% were widows. Concerning age group, most of the respondents 148 equaling to 30.1% were below 18 years, and the least 9 equivalent to 1.8% were 51 years and above. As regards to occupation most of the respondents 137 equaling to 27.8% were students, and the least 15 equaling to 3.0% were peasants.

Section A: Quantitative Data

4.4 The effect of family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District

Results under this section were obtained in line with objective one of this study which stated as “To examine the effect of family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District” results were obtained using questionnaires from parents / community members and interviews from probation officer and police officer in charge. In this regard, the objective formed the main theme since the questions were asked in this line. The items were scaled using the five-point Likert scale Where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = agree and 5 = strongly agree. During analysis: Agreeing statement = strongly agree + agree; Disagreeing statement = strongly disagree + disagree; Moderate about statement = undecided. The findings were presented in form of frequencies and percentages as given in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Descriptive statistics for the effect of family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District (n=480)

Items	Responses	Male		Female		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
<i>Children in this community are given psychosocial support.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	15	3.1	33	6.9	48	10
	<i>Undecided</i>	77	16.0	43	9.0	120	25
	<i>Agree</i>	100	20.8	212	44.2	312	65
<i>Abused children in this community are given legal support.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	20	4.2	27	5.6	47	9.8
	<i>Undecided</i>	72	15.0	46	9.6	118	24.6
	<i>Agree</i>	100	20.8	215	44.8	315	65.6
<i>Cases of child abuse are always reported to probation officer</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	19	4.0	29	6.0	48	10.0
	<i>Undecided</i>	46	9.6	68	14.2	114	23.8
	<i>Agree</i>	127	26.5	191	39.8	318	66.3
<i>Children are given all the basic needs</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	16	3.3	24	5.0	40	8.3
	<i>Undecided</i>	40	8.3	60	12.5	100	20.8

<i>such as food, shelter, clothings, education, & health care.</i>	<i>Agree</i>	136	28.3	204	42.5	340	70.8
<i>There is advocacy about the control of child abuse in this community</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	20	4.2	30	6.2	50	10.4
	<i>Undecided</i>	39	8.1	59	12.3	98	20.4
	<i>Agree</i>	133	27.7	199	41.5	332	69.2
	<i>Disagree</i>	17	3.5	25	5.3	42	8.8

<i>Children in this community are brought up in good morals.</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	30	6.3	46	9.6	76	15.8
	<i>Agree</i>	145	30.2	217	45.2	362	75.4
<i>The religious leaders in this community play the role of counselling abused children.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	19	4.0	28	5.8	47	9.8
	<i>Undecided</i>	32	6.7	49	10.2	81	16.9
	<i>Agree</i>	141	29.4	211	43.9	352	73.3
	<i>Disagree</i>	27	5.6	40	8.4	67	14.0

<i>There are works on capacity building among local leaders on how to control child abuse</i>	<i>Undecided</i>	41	8.5	61	12.8	102	21.3
	<i>Agree</i>	124	25.8	187	39.0	311	64.8
<i>Child protection policies in Uganda are well implemented</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	116	24.2	174	36.2	290	60.4
	<i>Undecided</i>	39	8.1	59	12.3	98	20.4
	<i>Agree</i>	37	7.7	55	11.5	92	19.2
<i>NGOs such as Uganda Human Rights provide Services to children in this community.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	29	6.0	43	9.0	72	15.0
	<i>Undecided</i>	47	9.8	71	14.8	118	24.6
	<i>Agree</i>	116	24.2	174	36.2	290	60.4

Source: Field Data April, 2022

Results in table 4.3 indicated, descriptive statistics for the effect of family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District. That is; With respect to whether children in are given psychosocial support, most of the respondents 312 equaling to 65% agreed while the least 48 equivalent to 10% disagreed. This implies that children

Mbarara district are given psychosocial support. Concerning whether abused children are given legal support, most of the respondents 315 equivalent to 65.6% agreed and the least 47 equivalent to 9.8% disagreed. This is an indication that abused children in Mbarara District are always given legal support. As regards to whether cases of child abuse are always reported to probation officer, most of the respondents 318 equivalent to 66.3% agreed and the least 48 corresponding to 10.0% disagreed. This implied that cases of child abuse are always reported to probation officer.

Concerning whether children are given all the basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education, & health care, majority of the respondents 340 corresponding to 70.8% agreed and the least 40 corresponding to 8.3% disagreed. This implied that children are given all the basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education, & health care. With respect to whether there is advocacy about the control of child abuse in this community, most of the respondents 332 corresponding to 69.2% agreed and the least 50 corresponding to 10.4% disagreed. This is an indication that there is advocacy about the control of child abuse in this community. With respect to whether children are brought up in good moral, majority of the respondents 362 corresponding to 75.4% agreed and least 42 corresponding to 8.8% disagreed. This implies that children in Mbarara District are brought up in good morals. Concerning whether the religious leaders play the role of counselling abused children, most of the respondents 352 corresponding to 73.3% agreed and the least 47 corresponding to 9.8% disagreed. This implied that the religious leaders Mbarara District play the role of counselling abused children.

With respect to whether there are works on capacity building among local leaders on how to control child abuse, more than half of the respondents 311 corresponding to 64.8% agreed and the least 67 corresponding to 14.0% disagreed. This implied that there are works on capacity building among local leaders on how to control child abuse. Concerning whether child protection policies in Uganda are well implemented, most of the respondents 290 corresponding to 60.4% disagreed, and the least 92 corresponding to 19.2% agreed. This implies that Child protection policies in Uganda are not well implemented. Concerning whether NGOs such as Uganda Human Rights provide services to children in this community, most of the respondents 290 corresponding to 60.4% agreed and the least 72 corresponding to 15.0% disagreed. This implies that NGOs such as Uganda Human Rights provide services to children in this community.

The above study findings imply that there is a positive relationship between family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District. Ranging from giving psychological support, legal support, immediate reporting of cases, provision of all the basic needs, advocacy, guidance and counselling, capacity building, among others.

4.5 The causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District

Results under this section were obtained in line with objective two of this study which stated as “to find out the causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District” results were obtained using questionnaires from parents / community members and interviews from probation officer and police officer in charge.

In this regard, the objective formed the main theme since the questions were asked in this line. The items were scaled using the five-point Likert scale Where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = agree and 5 = strongly agree. During analysis: Agreeing statement = strongly agree + agree; Disagreeing statement = strongly disagree + disagree; Moderate about statement = undecided. The findings were presented in form of frequencies and percentages as given in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Descriptive statistics for causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District (n=480)

Items	Responses	Male		Female		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
Death of parents cause child abuse	Disagree	19	4.0	29	6	48	10.0
	Undecided	77	16.0	115	24	192	40.0
	Agree	96	20.0	144	30	240	50.0
Polygamous families lead to child abuse	Disagree	10	2.0	14	3	24	5.0
	Undecided	29	6.0	43	9	72	15.0
	Agree	154	32.0	230	48	384	80.0
Drug abuse among parents / care givers leads to child abuse	Disagree	10	2.0	14	3	24	5.0
	Undecided	38	8.0	58	12	96	20.0
	Agree	144	30.0	216	45	360	75.0

Poverty or low economic status leads to child abuse	Disagree	23	4.8	35	7.3	58	12.1
	Undecided	38	8.0	58	12	96	20.0
	Agree	130	27.2	196	40.7	326	67.9
Unemployment of parents leads to child abuse	Disagree	19	4.0	29	6	48	10.0
	Undecided	58	12.0	86	18	144	30.0
	Agree	115	24.0	173	36	288	60.0
Violence between parents causes child abuse	Disagree	19	4.0	29	6	48	10.0
	Undecided	29	6.0	43	9	72	15.0
	Agree	144	30.0	216	45	360	75.0
Lack of education leads to child abuse	Disagree	58	12.0	86	18	144	30.0
	Undecided	67	14.0	101	21	168	35.0
	Agree	67	14.0	101	21	168	35.0
Poor or low enforcement of child protection policies leads to child abuse.	Disagree	40	8.3	60	12.5	100	20.8
	Undecided	56	11.7	84	17.5	140	29.2
	Agree	96	20.0	144	30	240	50.0
Disability or mental illness	Disagree	115	24.0	173	36	288	60.0
	Undecided	58	12.0	86	18	144	30.0

leads to child abuse	Agree	19	4.0	29	6	48	10.0
Lack of parenting skills causes child abuse	Disagree	10	2.0	14	3	24	5.0
	Undecided	38	8.0	58	12	96	20.0
	Agree	144	30.0	216	45	360	75.0

Source: Field Data April, 2022

Table 4.4 indicated descriptive statistics for causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District; that is; concerning whether “death of parents cause child abuse” half of the respondents 240 corresponding to 50.0% agreed while the least 48 corresponding to 10.0% disagreed. This implies that death of parents cause child abuse. As regards to whether polygamous families lead to child abuse, majority of the respondents 384 corresponding to 80% agreed and the least 24 corresponding to 5% disagreed. This implies that polygamous families lead to child abuse. As regards to whether drug abuse among parents’ / care givers leads to child abuse, majority of the respondents 360 matching with 75% agreed and the least 24 matching with 5% disagreed. This is an indication that drug abuse among parents / care givers leads to child abuse.

With respect to whether poverty or low economic status leads to child abuse, most of the respondents 326 matching with 67.9% agreed while the least 58 matching with 12.1% disagreed. This implies that poverty or low economic status leads to child abuse. Concerning whether unemployment of parents leads to child abuse, most of the

respondents 288 matching with 60% agreed while the least 48 equivalent to 10% disagreed. This implies that unemployment of parents leads to child abuse. Concerning whether violence between parents causes child abuse, majority of the respondents while the least 48 equivalent to 10% disagreed. This is an indication that violence between parents causes child abuse. As regards to whether lack of education leads to child abuse, most of the respondents 168 equivalent to 35% agreed while the least 144 equivalent to 30% disagreed. This implies that lack of education leads to child abuse.

Concerning whether poor or low enforcement of child protection policies leads to child abuse, half of the respondents 240 equivalent to 50% agreed while the least 100 equivalent to 20.8% disagreed. With respect to whether disability or mental illness leads to child abuse, most of the respondents 288 equivalent to 60.0% disagreed while the least 144 equivalent to 30% agreed. This implies that disability or mental illness does not cause child abuse. With respect to whether lack of parenting skills causes child abuse, majority of the respondents 360 equivalent to 75% agreed while the least 24 equivalent to 5% disagreed. This is an indication that lack of parenting skills causes child abuse.

The above study findings imply that there are many causes of child abuse in Mbarara District, ranging from Death of parents, polygamous families, drug abuse, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, poor or low enforcement, disability or mental illness, lack of parenting skills.

4.6 The challenges affecting children and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District

The findings discussed in this section corresponded to the second objective of the study which read as “to investigate the problems of children and low family welfare services in Mbarara District” results were collected through questionnaires from parents/community members and interviews with a probation officer and the police officer in charge. Thus, the objective was the major topic of discussion and the questions were framed accordingly. The items were rated with the five-point Likert scale where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = agree and 5 = strongly agree. In the course of analysis, an Agreeing statement was counted as strongly agree plus agree; a Disagreeing statement was counted as strongly disagree plus disagree; and a Moderate about statement as undecided. The results were shown in terms of frequencies and percentages as indicated in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Descriptive statistics of issues that influence children and poor quality of family welfare service provision in Mbarara District (n=480)

Items	Responses	Male		Female		Total	
		<i>F</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
<i>Lack of enough basic needs</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	21	4.3	31	6.5	52	10.8
	<i>Undecided</i>	78	16.3	118	24.5	196	40.8
	<i>Agree</i>	93	19.3	139	29	232	48.3
<i>Lack of recreational facilities</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	10	2.2	16	3.2	26	5.4
	<i>Undecided</i>	30	6.3	46	9.5	76	15.8
	<i>Agree</i>	111	23.2	167	34.7	278	57.9
<i>Depression and psychological problems in the family</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	8	1.7	12	2.5	20	4.2
	<i>Undecided</i>	37	7.7	55	11.5	92	19.2
	<i>Agree</i>	147	30.7	221	46	368	76.7
<i>Violence in the community</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	24	4.9	35	7.4	59	12.3
	<i>Undecided</i>	39	8.1	58	12.1	97	20.2
	<i>Agree</i>	130	27.0	194	40.5	324	67.5
<i>Living in dangerous neighborhoods</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	19	4.0	29	6	48	10.0
	<i>Undecided</i>	60	12.5	90	18.8	150	31.3
	<i>Agree</i>	73	15.2	109	22.7	182	37.9
	<i>Disagree</i>	21	4.3	31	6.5	52	10.8
	<i>Undecided</i>	34	7.1	51	10.6	85	17.7

<i>Racism and discrimination in some communities</i>	<i>Agree</i>	137	28.6	206	42.9	343	71.5
<i>Lack of enough health care support</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	56	11.7	84	17.5	140	29.2
	<i>Undecided</i>	64	13.3	96	20	160	33.3
	<i>Agree</i>	72	15.0	108	22.5	180	37.5
<i>Increase in child labour</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	38	7.9	57	11.9	95	19.8
	<i>Undecided</i>	58	12.1	87	18.1	145	30.2
	<i>Agree</i>	96	20.0	144	30	240	50.0
<i>Exposure to immoralities in the community</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	112	23.3	168	35	280	58.3
	<i>Undecided</i>	60	12.5	90	18.8	150	31.3
	<i>Agree</i>	20	4.2	30	6.2	50	10.4
<i>Lack of moral guidance.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	11	2.3	17	3.5	28	5.8
	<i>Undecided</i>	39	8.2	59	12.2	98	20.4
	<i>Agree</i>	102	21.2	152	31.7	254	52.9

Source: Field Data April, 2022

Table 4.5 revealed the challenges affecting children and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District. That is; most of the respondents 232 equaling to 48.3% agreed with “lack of enough basic needs” and the least 52 equaling to 10.8% disagreed. This implies that children in Mbarara district lack enough basic needs. Majority of the respondents 278 equaling to 57.9% agreed with “lack of recreational facilities” while

the least 26 equaling to 5.4% disagreed. This implies that there is lack of recreational facilities. Majority of the respondents 368 equaling to 76.7% indicated agreement with “depression and psychological problems in the family” and the least 20 equaling to 4.2% disagreed. This implies that depression and psychological problems in the family.

Most of the respondents 324 equaling to 67.5% agreed with “Violence in the community”, and the least 59 equaling to 12.3% disagreed. This implies that violence in communities is one of children in Mbarara District. Most of the respondents 182 equaling to 37.9% agreed with “living in dangerous neighborhoods”, and the least 48 equaling to 10.0% disagreed. This implies that living in dangerous neighborhoods is one of the challenges of children. Majority of the respondents 343 equaling to 71.5% agreed with “racism and discrimination in some communities” followed by 85 equaling to 17.7% who were undecided and 52 equaling to 10.8% disagreed. This implies that there is racism and discrimination in some communities. Most of the respondents 180 equaling to 37.5% agreed with “lack of enough health care support” while the least 140 equaling to 29.2% disagreed. This implies that there is lack of enough health care support.

Half of the respondents 240 equaling to 50% agreed with “Increase in child labour”, and the least 95 equaling to 19.8% disagreed. This is an indication that there is an increase of child labour in Mbarara District. Slightly more than half of the respondents 280 equaling to 58.3% disagreed with “exposure to immoralities in the community” while the least 50 equaling to 10.4% agreed. This implies that children in Mbarara district are

not exposure to immoralities. Almost half of the respondents 254 equaling to 52.9% agreed with “lack of moral guidance” and the least 28 equaling to 5.8% disagreed. This implies that there is lack of moral guidance for children in Mbarara District.

Findings from prior research suggest that various issues affect children in Mbarara District such as; inadequate fulfillment of basic needs, inadequate provision of recreational facilities, depression and psychological issues at home, community violence, racism as well as discrimination among some communities, inadequate support for health care, as well as inadequate moral leadership.

4.7 Child abuse control strategies and increase welfare level of service for families in Mbarara District

The results presented in this section are aligned with the second objective of the research study that said, “to establish strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services in Mbarara District.” The results were obtained through the use of questionnaires directed at parents/community members and through interviews conducted with a probation officer and the police officer in charge. Thus, the objective became the main theme, as the questions were asked in this line. The items were scaled using a five-point Likert scale Where 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = agree and 5 = strongly agree. In the process of analysis: Agreeing statement = strongly agree + agree; Disagreeing statement = strongly disagree + disagree; Moderate about statement = undecided. The findings were presented in the form of frequencies and percentages as indicated in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Descriptive statistics for strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services in Mbarara District

Items	Responses	Male		Female		Total	
		F	%	f	%	f	%
Laws protecting rights of children should be effectively implemented	Disagree	23	4.8	34	7.1	57	11.9
	Undecided	80	16.7	120	25	200	41.7
	Agree	89	18.6	134	27.9	223	46.5
<i>There is need for effective follow-ups of child abuse victims should be made</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>5.4</i>
	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>14.7</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>36.7</i>
	<i>Agree</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>34.7</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>57.9</i>
<i>The government and other stakeholder should fund projects addressing cases of child abuse in the community</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>5.0</i>
	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>20.0</i>
	<i>Agree</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>75.0</i>
<i>Parents, guardians and educators should be interested in the moral education of the children</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>12.5</i>
	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>20.4</i>
	<i>Agree</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>26.8</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>40.3</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>67.1</i>
<i>Parents should be encouraged to practice</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>10.4</i>
	<i>Undecided</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>12.3</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>30.8</i>

<i>family planning so as to have the number of children they can conveniently cater for</i>	<i>Agree</i>	73	15.2	109	22.7	182	37.9
<i>Government should enact laws against child abuse in the communities</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	19	3.9	28	5.9	47	9.8
	<i>Undecided</i>	36	7.5	54	11.3	90	18.8
	<i>Agree</i>	137	28.6	206	42.9	343	71.5
<i>The government should come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the community</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	57	11.8	85	17.8	142	29.6
	<i>Undecided</i>	65	13.6	98	20.4	163	34.0
	<i>Agree</i>	70	14.6	105	21.9	175	36.5
<i>The government and other stakeholder should provide enough basic needs</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	39	8.1	58	12.1	97	20.2
	<i>Undecided</i>	60	12.4	89	18.6	149	31.0
	<i>Agree</i>	94	19.5	140	29.3	234	48.8
<i>There is need to create income generating projects to parents.</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	20	4.2	30	54.1	50	58.3
	<i>Undecided</i>	60	12.5	90	18.8	150	31.3
	<i>Agree</i>	112	23.3	168	35	280	58.3
<i>There is need for imposing penalties and punishments to offenders of rights of children</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	11	2.3	17	50.6	28	52.9
	<i>Undecided</i>	79	16.5	119	24.8	198	41.3
	<i>Agree</i>	102	21.2	152	31.7	254	52.9

Source: Field Data April, 2022

Table 4 indicated descriptive statistics for the strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services. That is; concerning “laws protecting rights of children should be effectively implemented” most of the respondents 223 corresponding to 46.5% agreed, and the least 57 corresponding to 11.9% disagreed. This implies that laws protecting rights of children should be effectively implemented. Concerning “there is need for effective follow-ups of child abuse victims should be made” slightly more than half of the respondents 278 corresponding to 57.9% agreed, and the least 26 corresponding to 5.4% disagreed. This implies that there is need for effective follow-ups of child abuse victims should be made.

In regards to whether "the government and other stakeholder should fund projects addressing cases of child abuse in the community" majority of respondents 360 corresponding to 75.0% agreed while the least 24 equivalent to 5.0% disagreed. This is a sign that the government and other stakeholder should fund projects addressing cases of child abuse in the community. In regards to whether "parents, guardians and educators should be interested in the moral education of the children" more than half of the respondents 322 equivalent to 67.1% agreed while the least 60 corresponding to 12.5% disagreed. This means that parents, guardians and educators should be interested in the moral education of the children. In relation to whether "parents should be encouraged to practice family planning so as to have the number of children they can conveniently cater for", majority of the respondents 182 that is 37.8% agreed while the least 50 that is 10.4% disagreed. This implies that parents should be encouraged to

practice family planning so as to have the number of children that they can comfortably provide for. In relation to whether "government should enact laws against child abuse in the communities" majority of the respondents 343 that is 71.5% agreed while the least 47 that is 9.8% disagreed. This implies that government should enact laws against child abuse in the communities. In relation to "come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the community" majority of the respondents 175 that is 36.5% agreed while the least 142 that is 29.6% disagreed. This implies that government should come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the community.

As regards to whether "the government and other stakeholder should provide enough basic needs" most of the respondents agreed, followed by 149 corresponding to 31.0% who were undecided and 97 corresponding to 20.2% disagreed. This implies that the government and other stakeholder should provide enough basic needs. Regarding to whether "there is need to create income generating projects to parents" most of the respondents 280 corresponding to 58.3% agreed and the least 50 corresponding to 58.3% disagreed. This implies that there is need to create income generating projects to parents. As regards to whether "there is need for imposing penalties and punishments to offenders of rights of children" most of the respondents 254 consisting 52.9% agreed, and the least 28 corresponding to 52.9% corresponding to disagreed. This implies that there is need for imposing penalties and punishments to offenders of rights of children.

The above study findings imply that more strategies to control child abuse and its effects children in Mbarara District should be implemented including; laws protecting rights, effective follow-ups, funding projects addressing cases of child abuse, moral education of the children, practice family planning, foster homes for the abandoned children, provision of enough basic needs, and imposing penalties and punishments to offenders of rights of children.

PART B: Qualitative Findings

5.1 The effect of family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District.

In interviews regarding the impact of provision of family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District, respondents made these reactions:

One of them mentioned that;

Certain life circumstances such as single parenthood, spousal abuse, and other distressing events can contribute to episodes of child abuse. Stress caused through changes in job, reduced income levels, health problems, or other familial circumstances can increase the level of conflict within the home as well as weaken parents' ability to cope with pressure or obtain help. Some predictors that work in child abuse's protection include positive familial relationship patterns, positive peer relationships, competent communication abilities, strong parent-child relationships, as well as other factors."

(Probation Officer)

Besides that, he also stated that;

Child social care or welfare professionals frequently engage in critical decision-making that profoundly affects both children and their families. It is essential for practitioners and policymakers to comprehend the ways in which parents and children navigate and experience obligatory interventions, thereby enhancing their ability to effectively support involvement with child protection plans and consequently mitigate instances of child abuse (Police in charge).

In terms of child abuse factors as well as poor service delivery of family welfare service in Mbarara District, one of the respondents indicated that:

Discrimination is evident regarding physical disabilities, in contrast to mental disabilities. Children who have physical disabilities are expected to attend school; however, this expectation is contingent upon the specific nature of the disability. If a child is capable of independently reaching the educational institution, he ought to participate in schooling. Conversely, a child with a mental disability, or one lacking control over his motor functions, should receive appropriate treatment prior to considering his enrollment in school (Parent).

Another respondent stated that;

Families who are poor often suffer from a lack of education on what rights are due to them. Common social and cultural opinions view child labor as a reluctant fate for children of poor households. The idea that these kids would be properly contributing to providing for their own families is inaccurate. The child involved in labor would be

helping their family much more through seeking education, which would open up wider prospects.

Another respondent stated that;

The employment of child labor is continued because of various factors such as their susceptibility to coercion, their acquiescence to lower compensation, and their ability to perform repetitive jobs under poor circumstances. The penchant of a child to conform reduces the possibility of unionizing or rebellion against an employer. Children innately accept authority and are prone to defer confidence to adulthood (Police in Charge).

In addressing issues that concern children as well as poor coverage of family welfare service in Mbarara District, it was reported that:

Young people report that violence is prevalent on high levels within their homes as well as in other settings. They desire that these events be taken into consideration and that support be rendered when bringing them forward. They suggest some methods of dealing with violence that involve putting a stop to physical corrections, providing more child-relevant service provision, as well as increased participation in the solutions to reported problems. Children desire more information on their rights within the system of criminal justice, with it being essential that those in power investigate ways that contribute to trusting relationships for children with actors within that system. Children must resist detention as a method with community service replacing it as a better approach. In addition to that, children who are detained provide many recommendations on improvements for living that are often substandard, especially in non-industrialized countries (Local leader).

The other member indicated that; -

Children of jailed parents are in need of open attention and support. Despite their firm conviction that they must be consulted in the paramount decisions that touch on them, these children are presented with a number of inhibitions such as overly elaborate procedures and lack of concern on the part of adults. It is essential to create a diversified set of mechanisms for facilitating participation among various groups and settings, and children ought always to be made aware of the effect of their opinions as well as the nature of that impact. Children assert that more support and interference are essential to prevent them from being sent to care. In circumstances where being sent to care cannot be circumvented, they would want to be ensured that they are receiving the best possible quality of attentions offered (Police In-Charge).

Another respondent claimed that;

A significant number of children experience discrimination on multiple bases, leading to what is termed “double discrimination,” whereby they face prejudice not only due to their age but also for additional reasons. The phenomenon of age-based discrimination against children is often overlooked or inadequately recognized, necessitating a concerted effort to address it through enhanced awareness and legislative measures. Children belonging to marginalized groups, including those from cultural and racial minorities as well as those with disabilities, seek increased recognition of their unique experiences and cultural backgrounds. Moreover, children express a desire for expanded opportunities to engage in both their educational environments and in the decision-making processes that affect their schooling. In

regards to methods to monitor child abuse and build up the standard of service for family welfare in Mbarara District, one questionnaire filler indicated that; Law enforcement officials should take several roles in society's response to child abuse and neglect. Since police officers are seen as the symbol of citizen security, they are in a good position to increase awareness in society on child abuse and neglect. Their perspective on this issue has significant impact on both the media community as well as society at large. As such, many police agencies are involved actively in educating communities on reducing child abuse and neglect with increased reporting. The most common prevention programs are usually carried out in school settings with emphases on extra-familial child abuse (Police in-Charge).

Fundashon Tafulia reported that

"The control implementers of child abuse should abide by the constitution of Uganda regarding the Child Justice Act. As it gives guidelines to the probation officers as well as other stake holders within the criminal justice system on what to do with children who are suspected of offending against criminal jurisdiction. Probation officers should form part of this process since their recommendations based on deep consultations with those who are affected can decide on the fate of the child" (Probation Officer).

Responses from children (10-18 Years)

From interviews children concerning the relationship between family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District. With their parents' consent because children have freedom of withdrawing any time even when the exercise is still going on.

One of the child said that;

“.....my step mum is very harsh to me, she does give enough food, I sleep on ground and I work very hard at home. I sleep on a wooden platform with no mattress or bedding. I am stripped naked and sometimes spent days without clothes or shoes and sometimes given cold food.....” (A 10-year-old female child).

Another child said that;

“.....I am discriminated at home. I don't know why, I am not given enough basic needs at home like other children such as clothing, children, denial of food, among others.....” (A 13year old female child).

Another child said that;

“.....I experience physical violence such as being beaten too much when I do wrong, punishment of fetching water all the day, spending the whole day digging, and denial of food.....”A 12year male child).

In conclusion, the study findings indicate that causes of child abuse in Mbarara District include; death of parents, polygamous families, drug abuse, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, poor or low enforcement, disability or mental illness, lack of parenting skills. Challenges affecting children include; lack of enough basic needs, lack of recreational facilities, depression and psychological problems in the family, violence in the community, racism and discrimination in some communities, lack of enough health care support, and lack of moral guidance.

Strategies to control child abuse and its effects children include; laws protecting rights, effective follow-ups, funding projects addressing cases of child abuse, moral education of the children, practice family planning, foster homes for the abandoned children, provision of enough basic needs, and imposing penalties, punishments to offenders of rights of children, law enforcement officers should play many roles in the community's response to child abuse and neglect, and the implementers of control of child abuse should follow the constitution of Uganda about the Child Justice Act.

CHAPTER FIVE: EVALUATION OF RESULTS

5.1 Summary

This chapter discusses findings as were presented in chapter four in line with the purpose of the study; to examine the relationship between family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District as indicated in chapter one of this dissertation. The study is the relationship between Family Welfare Services and Control of Child Abuse in Mbarara District.

5.2 Discussion

Findings were then summarized as relevant with study aims. Background was stated prior to that.

5.2.1 Contextual Examination

This section presents discussion in relation background information such as gender marital status, age, and occupation as below;

The results of the survey showed that most of the respondents 296 which makes 60.2% were females and the lowest 196 which makes 39.8% were male. It is because any of the genders of the children may be exposed to child abuse.

Half of them 246 that is 50% are married then 197 that is 40.0% who are single then 49 that is 10.0% who are widows. This indicates that majority of those who participated are married. But majority abused are those who are from single parent background and from the orphanage.

With regards to the age bracket, the largest percentage of respondents 148 equalling 30.1% were aged below 18 years, then 128 equalling 26.0% aged 19-30 years, 109 equalling 22.2% aged 31-40 years, 98 equalling 19.9% aged 41-50 years, 9 equalling 1.8% aged 51 years and older because the child would be cared for within the natural or the extended family setting where there would be continuity of bringing him or her up. This is because respondents aged below 30.1% were largely the children in making the decision of what would be best for each child, the meeting would also consider issues of attachment and the desires of the child, while others were the parents and officials concurring with the family welfare services and prevention of child abuse in the Mbarara District.

According to occupation, the largest number of respondents 137 equalling 27.8% were students, 133 equalling 27.0% were civil servants, 109 equalling 22.2% were farmers, 98 19.9% had businesses, and 15 equalling 3.0% were peasants. From this, it indicates that occupation of the caregivers or the parents is among the factors responsible for child abuse in Mbarara District. Since victims of child abuse normally have to go through the memory of what they suffered upon investigations.

5.2.1 Accessibility of family welfare services and the management of child abuse in Mbarara District.

This part highlights findings on the impact of service provision in family welfare as well as child abuse control in Mbarara District. It assists in evaluating whether a positive or negative relationship is present inbetween service provision in sectors of family welfare service as well as child abuse control in Mbarara District.

The study found out that there is an effect of family welfare services on control of child abuse in Mbarara District. Therefore, most of the respondents 65% indicated that children are given psychosocial support as mentioned; 65.6% abused children are given legal support; 66.3% cases of child abuse are always reported to probation officer; 70.8% children are given all the basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education, & health care; 69.2% there is advocacy about the control of child abuse in this community; 75.4% children are brought up in good moral; 73.3% the religious leaders play the role of counselling abused children; 60.4% there are works on capacity building among local leaders on how to control child abuse; child protection policies in Uganda are well implemented supported; and 60.4% NGOs such as Uganda Human Rights provide services to children in this community.

These findings such as advocacy about control of child abuse, children being brought up in good morals are in agreement with Sicilia et al., (2016) who notes that family welfare services specify governments with various levels. Family welfare services contribute to the protection of children's rights and the improvement of the relationship between parents and their children. The local government councils at the village and district levels are expected to; appoint one of its members (the secretary for children's affairs) whose main task is to implement the services designed to prevent child abuse and promote their welfare. In addition, the World Health Organization (2017) places great emphasis on the training of Child Protection Officers so that they will acquire the skills needed to deal with child abuse cases properly. It is equally necessary that the other stakeholders of the child protection system receive the same training; thus, the application of the basic principles of standards and professionalism will become regular.

Agencies providing family welfare services are required to report to the competent authorities all cases in which children rights have been violated, including but not limited to the right to property. More than that, children with disabilities together with other vulnerable and marginalized youths should be especially cared for, and their conditions recorded and support provided as necessary.

The above study findings such as giving attention to children with disabilities further agree with Hermenau et al., (2015) who showed that despite family welfare services not being considered by some parents, many parenting skills courses, offered to caregivers accused of maltreatment, focus on reducing physical punishment in favor other methods of punishment which is one the hand termed as child abuse. Sexual abuse as form of child abuse can be constituted by nearly any sexual act involving a minor. Sexual abuse can include non-contact acts, such as the perpetrator exposing their body to the child, or having the child expose him or herself, or contact acts, such fondling or sexual assault.

The above study findings such as sexual involvement with the minor, are further in line with Powell et al., (2020) who asserted that the family welfare services are committed to providing a safe environment for any child with whom it comes in contact, through implementing child-safe practices, through programs and activities, policies and procedures. Family welfare service ensure anyone in contact with children is in connection with the activities and programs that promote control of child abuse.

Last but not least, various creative media such as the utilization of dramatic media are brought to classrooms to inform children of their rights. The poster on child's rights and

responsibilities that is internationally won should be distributed tremendously. The child abuse area is young in terms of number of local writings generated. Research that is comprehensive up to this point has mainly focused on perception studies of professionals' and individuals' perceptions regarding abuse of various forms as well as programme evaluation study on programmes. The concern is to determine ways in which families can be the foundation in an attempt to stop child abuse.

5.2.2 Causes of child abuse and the reason for ineffective family welfare services in Mbarara District.

This paper reports on the review of results relating to the reasons behind child abuse, and the poor delivery of family welfare services in Mbarara District, explained subsequently:

The study findings found out the causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District; these included; 50.0% death of parents cause child abuse. This is in consistent with Owolabi (2012) that children who lost their parents, without sufficient emotional support for themselves are more vulnerable, end up in child abuse like child labour looking ways of how to care for their lives.

The majority of 80% responded that polygamous families are the source of child abuse in Mbarara District. This is in tandem with Straus & Smith (2017) who notes that in attempts to make ends meet perpetual problems of polygamous families, parents and guardians leave the children and maids vulnerable to harm on the road by subjecting them to hawkery of one foodstuffs to another. The eventual outcome of such in particular for young girls is unwanted pregnancy or sexual infection by some

irresponsible men who will persuade them to sexual intercourse with money. Leaving children vulnerable to adult vices.

The most of the respondents 75% mentioned that drug abuse among parents / care givers leads to child abuse. This is in agreement with Straus & Smith (2017) that children whose parents are involved in some vices such as drinking, drug addiction, drug abuse often imitate them. Some parents make their children run errands like buying of alcohol, drugs such as contraceptives, morphine and pethidine willingly introducing them to such destructive acts.

The most of the respondents 67.9% poverty or low economic status leads to child abuse. This is in consistent with Saveanu & Nemeroff (2012), that stress caused by poverty is associated with higher rates of reported child abuse, as evidenced at times of increased unemployment and economic recessions. Abusive families are often isolated from their neighbors and the community.

More than half of the respondents 60% indicated that unemployment of parents. This is line with Fortson et al., (2016) who asserted that family factors are one of the causes of child abuse. Specific life situation of some families can increase the likelihood of abuse, such as marital conflict, domestic violence, unemployment, financial stress and social isolation. Families involved in child abuse tend to exhibit a pattern of day-to-day interaction characterized by minimal social exchange, low responsiveness to positive behavior and high responsiveness to negative behavior.

The most of the respondents 75% mentioned that violence between parents causes child abuse. This is agreement with Taplin & Mattick (2015) that lack of parenting skills and inappropriate attitudes can contribute to abusive behavior, for example, acceptance of violence as a way to solve problems. Specific situations, such as unwanted pregnancy, physical illness and the poor ability to empathize with their children can substantially increase the likelihood of abuse, particularly when social stress and social isolation characterize the family.

It was found out that 35% of the respondents indicated that lack of education leads to child abuse. This is line with Stalker & McArthur (2012) that denial of education is one form of child abuse. This is when education which is the training of a child, mentally, physically and socially to enable him or her fit into the society is being denied of them as they are turned to housemaids, street beggars, hawkers and garage boys. Early marriage is usually common with illiterate parents who will want to drive their young daughters who are not matured enough to bear the burden of pregnancy into marriage. Half of the respondents 50% mentioned that poor or low enforcement of child protection policies leads to child abuse. This is agreement with Brownlee et al., (2012) that parents, guardians and educators should be interested in the moral education of the children Government should enact laws against child abuse as a way of reducing cases of child abuse. The government should come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the society.

The most of the respondents 60% mentioned that disability or mental illness leads to child abuse. This is in agreement with Boserup, McKenney & Elkbuli (2020) that

Unrealistic expectations, a lack of understanding about a child's developmental stages and behavior intellectual disability or mental illness parents may be unable to adequately care for their child. The causes of child abuse can include: isolation and lack of support no family members, friends, partners or community support to help with the demands of parenting. Stress financial pressures, job worries, medical problems or caring for a family member with a disability.

A large number of respondents, that is 75%, indicated that cases of child abuse can be traced to a lack of adequate parenting skills. This understanding is in tandem with Bywaters et al.'s (2016) finding that child abuse can result from a host of factors. In summary, causes are multifaceted in nature, thus it would be unrealistic to factor them down to a single factor. The majority of parents would want to love and take care of their children with a warm home life. Stress, lack of energy, poor child-rearing skills, or lack of support from relatives may multiply such problems in child-rearing that can result in cases of abuse.

5.2.3 The problems that concern children and absence of social welfare support for households in Mbarara District.

The research explored barriers that impact children along with inadequacies in Mbarara District's service provision for family welfare. Most of the respondents (48.3%) lack of enough basic needs as a challenge of children. this is in agreement with Slack and Berger (2020) that neglect is failure to provide the child with basic needs such as food shelter, clothing, and medical needs is one the challenges of children. Beyond that, while physical and sexual abuse rates have seen a sharp decline since the early 90s of up to 36% and 47% respectively, neglect saw only a 7% decline during this same period.

Slightly more than half of the respondents 57.9% lack of recreational facilities is one of the challenges of children. This is agreement with Banks et al., (2017) that Control of Child abuse in Uganda is one of the most shocking occurrences that happens to children on a daily basis of recreational facilities in schools and homes where they should be protected. Children act Uganda ratified international and regional instruments on the rights of the children and domesticated them into laws that directly relate to control of child abuse.

The majority of the respondents 76.7% depression and psychological problems in the families of abused children. This is agreement with Straus & Smith (2017) who stated that challenges identified in some abused children include: loneliness, depression, and fear. This is as a result of increased psychological abuse of the children which damages straight thinking and analyzing.

Most of the respondents 67.5% mentioned violence in the community as a challenge to children. This is in agreement in with Serin (2021) that in both developing and industrialized countries, poor, young, single mothers are among those at greatest risk for using violence towards their children. Physically abusive parents are more likely to be young, single, poor and unemployed and to have less education than their nonabusing counterparts. Children being abused, which can result to negative cognitivebehavioral treatment model with strong psycho-educational and skills training components to address abuse issues.

It was found through the survey that a substantial number of respondents, i.e., 71.5%, agreed upon the fact that racism and discrimination are common occurrences within

certain communities and present difficulties for the children. This goes parallel to the observations of Paul (2014), according to whom the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) remains firmly dedicated to keeping the children aside, both from abuse and exploitation, without any regard for their nationality, culture, ethnicity, sex, religious and political views, socio-economic level, criminal records within the families, physical and mental health, or any form of discrimination.

Just 37.5% of respondents concurred that inadequacy of sufficient health care support is a challenge to children. This supports Slack and Berger (2020) who presented that child neglect, as experienced in roughly four-out-of-five substantiated cases of child maltreatment (U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). Neglect is the act of failing to provide essential needs for the child such as food shelter, clothing, as well as medical needs (health care service). This will consequently lead to physical abuse among infants as well as young children can result in brain dysfunction while at times it can lead to death.

Half of the respondents, specifically 50%, mentioned the increase in child labor among the minors' difficulties. This is in line with a report issued by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) in 2016, indicating that about 70% (1,890,000) of Uganda's working children are involved in child labor. The results have been supported by studies that have shown that aggressive and hostile behaviors are manifested by different family members of the aggressive child leading to the child's dysfunction and consequently, the child being mistreated. Hence, the impact of

parental conflict and violence on the child can be reduced through intervention as evidenced in the child's functioning clinical measures therefore aiding in the prevention of the evil act. The majority of the respondents, specifically 58.3%, pointed out that the community's immorality was a major factor. This finding corroborates with that of Chiang & Hollis (2018) which states that children's violence against them is largely influenced by the surrounding societal practices, to the point where punishments, witchcraft and beliefs about women's violence become the main sources of vulnerable children. Thus, the study adds that upbringing children amid global complexities might be the most difficult task of all, yet very few parents are actually ready for it. Lack of readiness for parenthood is one of the main causes of child abuse and neglect, parent-child relationship problems and dysfunctional families.

Most of the respondents 52.9% noted that there is lack of moral guidance. This is in agreement with Ahmed (2017) that there is a need for the teachers and school official to provide psycho-social support such as counseling and guidance to victims of domestic violence and abuse which can be achieved through hiring of professional counselor such as community psychologist, clinical psychologist and counseling psychologist in order to help them terminate their personal problems with the violent situation.

5.2.4 Means of reducing occurrences of child abuse and expanding the access of family welfare services of Mbarara District

This next section covers the findings concerning strategies, which could help lower child abuse and improve the quality of family welfare services within Mbarara District, outlined as follows:

Nearly half of them 46.5% proposed that children's rights be enforced entirely with law. This is concurring with Brownlee et al., (2012) who stated that parents, guardians as well as educators be engaged with morality education of children Government should pass child abuse laws. The government should devise institutions as well as houses of adoption for society's abandoned children.

Most of the respondents 57.9% mentioned that there is need for effective follow-ups of child abuse victims should be made.

This concurs with Ochen et al., (2012), who mentioned that family welfare servicers includes carrying out inquiries as requested by the Magistrate's courts, submitting social inquiry reports for the courts especially about child offenders and control of child abuse, supervision of probationers and other persons placed on supervision order, supervision of young people after release from national rehabilitation center, supervision of approved and babies homes, tracing, resettlement and follow up of children from children and babies' homes and inspection of children and babies' homes, and identifying and removing children whose lives are in danger. The majority of respondents 75.0% indicated that projects addressing issues of child abuse in society should be funded by the government and other stakeholder. This aligns with World Health Organization. (2017) that under family welfare services, stakeholder is required to intervene in circumstances where rights of a child are violated including right to property among other rights. Children with disabilities and other vulnerable as well as needy children should be considered separately and registered as well as provided with assistance where needed. The majority of those who responded 67.1% stated that

parents, guardians and teachers ought to be concerned with the children's moral education. This is in agreement with Brownlee et al., (2012) that parents, guardians and teachers ought to be concerned with the children's moral education Government ought to pass anti-child abuse laws. The government ought to devise institutions as well as foster homes for the children who are left in society.

Less than half of respondents 37.8% mentioned that parents should be encouraged to practice family planning so as to have the number of children they can conveniently cater for. this is agreement with Runyon & Deblinger (2013) that there is need to empower the parents on parenting capacity in order to provides an update on the impact of parental problems, such as substance misuse, domestic violence, learning disability and mental illness, on children's welfare and this can be done through increased awareness campaign, training and workshop, developing books and magazines on domestic violence, physical child abuse and self-esteem. Therefore, a systematic and comprehensive parent education programme is needed to provide information, skills training, and support to parents at every stage of their child's life, even before they become parents. Most of the respondents 71.5% stated that government ought to pass laws against child abuse within the communities. This tallies with Ochen et al., (2012) that Uganda government through family welfare services made substantial moves in enacting the appropriate laws, structures as well as policies on child abuse control within communities. Therefore, government programmes ought to focus on effective communication between parents and children. Furthermore, positive relationship among parents themselves within the societies also requires consideration from childhood through adult life since it is the cornerstone of a stable home. Slightly more

that quarter of respondents 36.5% showed that the government should come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the community.

This agrees with Mwambene (2018) that children act by the Uganda law reform commission contends that the implementation of the Act is undermined by among others, inadequate human and financial resources in the established institutions and the negative attitudes of the society on matters of children's rights. So the right to freedom of accommodation and expression, to profess and practice their religion and to propagate it, and to freedom of association and assembly must be elaborate. Only 31.0% of the respondents show that the government and other stakeholder should provide enough basic needs. This is in agreement with Slack and Berger (2020) that child neglect, being experienced within about four-out-of-five substantiated child maltreatment cases. Beyond that, while physical and sexual abuse rates have seen a sharp decline since the early 90s of up to 36% and 47% respectively, neglect saw only a 7% decline during this same period. Neglect is failure to provide the child with basic needs such as food shelter, clothing, and medical needs. This means that the children need to be given appropriate basic needs, opportunities to learn to express themselves, to make responsible decisions, and to participate in processes that affect their wellbeing and their future, according to their age and maturity. Most of the respondents 58.3% mentioned that there is need to create income generating projects to parents.

This concurs with Runyon & Deblinger (2013) that there is need to empower the parents on parenting capacity in order to provides an update on the impact of parental problems, such as substance misuse, domestic violence, learning disability and mental

illness, on children's welfare and this can be done through increased awareness campaign, training and workshop, developing books and magazines on domestic violence, physical child abuse and self-esteem. Just under half of respondents 41.3% stated that it is necessary to impose sanctions and punishments on violators of children's rights. Straughan (2012) that it is necessary to educate children on their rights and punish violators of children's rights acts. If children are educated that they are special and have a right to be safe, then they are less probable to believe that abuse is their own fault, and more probable to report a perpetrator. Support prevention programs. Intervention is too frequently delayed until abuse is reported. More resources are necessary for programs that are known to prevent abuse from occurring - such as home counseling for families and home visits with nurse home visitors who offer support for newborns' parents. Lastly, with regard to the runaway child case, delinquent behavior as a teenager might be an adaptive response to short-term situations of abuse within the home even though it may be deleterious in the long term to the child's well-being.

In children who fall into this category, one might hypothesize that the long-term consequences would be varied, particularly for those abused individuals who do not display such acting-out behaviors during their adolescent years.

In any case, influence from abusive experience during earliest life would be in types that are unrelated to delinquency as well as running away, but would be in subtle expressions of emotional damage such as low self-esteem, depression, withdrawal, or even suicide in extreme situations.

PART B: Qualitative Findings

5.2.5 Effects of family support services on the handling of cases of child abuse in Mbarara District.

Birkişi arasında söyleyen o bulundu

Certain situations, such as single parenthood, might cause symptoms of depression, while some stressors, such as the risk of child abuse, might be increased. Other stressors, such as residential relocation for employment, financial difficulties, illness, or any of the household issues, might increase tension between households and hinder the capacity of parents to manage the stressors or seek help. Buffers for the prevention of child abuse are family connectedness, positive interpersonal relationships, communication ability, and healthy interactions with adolescents, among others.

(Probation Officer

To the challenges posed by the children, apart from the scarcity of availability of family welfare services available in Mbarara District, the respondent elaborated this way:

Children have reported higher degrees of violence both in the domestic sphere and within various other settings. They would like proper management of disclosures and support whenever the disclosures are made. Strategies proposed by the children to curb violence include the elimination of physical punishment, the use of more appropriate child-friendly service systems, and better mechanisms for effectively addressing matters raised. In addition, it would be useful for children to have greater awareness of rights they have within the criminal justice system, and officials have the obligation

of creating confidence among those who are operating within the same system. It would be best for children not to be detained but for the application of the use of community service as an alternative method. In addition, children detained present useful insights towards making recommendations, suggesting there are major improvements required in those locations, which are significantly poor in the less-industrialized countries (Local leader).

Within the context of policy interventions aimed at reducing the incidence of child abuse and enhancing the provision of welfare services in Mbarara District, it was noted that:

Law enforcement officials are responsible for fulfilling numerous roles within society to tackle child abuse as well as neglect. Since law enforcement officials are held so accountable as protectors of public security, they are potentially central to helping bring attention for society as it pertains to these matters. Their perspectives of this document have significant influence through media attention as well as society at large. Due to that thought alone, police forces are involved with educational initiatives on the grassroots level that are utilized to help bring down child abuse as well as neglect rates within society and encourage reporting of it. Traditional modes of punishment are almost always brought up within the educational setting as well as are utilized to help decrease inter-familial child abuse.

(Police in.

Finally, it was revealed that there is a correlation between control of child and family welfare service. The significant child abuse causes in Mbarara District are death of parents, polygamous households, drug abuse, poverty, unemployment of parents, violence among parents, as well as inadequacy of parenting skills. Inadequate provision of basic needs is a significant challenge of children. The rights of children should be protected through good enforcement of relevant laws and effective follow-ups should be made on child abuse cases.

CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter present summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study based on study findings. They are presented according to study objectives; namely; - the effect of family welfare services and control of child abuse, the causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services, the challenges affecting children and low level of family welfare services, and strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services.

6.2 Overview

The results of the study were presented accordingly, aligned to the study aims: the impact of family welfare services for the minimization of child abuse cases, the factors behind the child abuse and the ineffective delivery of the family welfare services, the difficulties faced by children and the inadequate access to the family welfare services, and the prevention measures implemented to curb child abuse and enhance the efficiency of the family welfare services.

6.2.1 How the role of family support services helps to prevent child abuse in Mbarara District.

The study findings found that there is effect of family welfare services on control of child abuse in Mbarara District. Therefore, most of the respondents 65% indicated that children are given psychosocial support as mentioned; 65.6% abused children are given legal support; 66.3% cases of child abuse are always reported to probation officer; 70.8% children are given all the basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education, &

health care; 69.2% there is advocacy about the control of child abuse in this community; 75.4% children are brought up in good moral; 73.3% the religious leaders play the role of counselling abused children; 60.4% there are works on capacity building among local leaders on how to control child abuse; child protection policies in Uganda are well implemented supported; and 60.4% NGOs such as Uganda Human Rights provide services to children in this community.

Uganda youth development link (UYDEL) implements control of child abuse child project that aims to contribute towards the creation of a protective environment where children's rights and responsibilities are recognized promoted and protected by the relevant authorities (such as law enforcement officers and local leaders), children, parents, teachers and community members in Kampala, Mukono and Kalangala Districts of Uganda. The Introduction to family welfare services pays special attention to care and support of the most marginalized children. This is based on a child rights approach, emphasizing how children's rights are introduced, nurtured and protected within communities, as well as how community based mechanisms and systems for controlling child abuse.

Though family welfare services are not given any thought by certain parents, most parenting skills courses, given to those charged with abuse, are aimed at decreasing physical punishment favoring other forms of punishment which on the one hand are labeled as child abuse. Sexual abuse as child abuse may be constituted by almost any sexual act where the person involved is of minor status. Sexual abuse may involve non-

contact acts, e.g., the abuser exposing himself or herself to the child, or making the child expose him or her, or by contact acts, e.g., fondling or sexual battery.

6.2.2 The underlying cause of the abuse of the child, alongside ineffective service provision of welfare to the families of the Mbarara District.

The study findings found the causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District; these included; 50.0% death of parents cause child abuse,

80% polygamous, 75% drug abuse by parents/care givers results in child abuse,

67.9% poverty or low economic status leads to child abuse, 60% unemployment of parents, 75% violence between parents causes child abuse, 35% lack of education leads to child abuse, 50% poor or low enforcement of child protection policies leads to child abuse, 60% disability or mental illness leads to child abuse, 75% lack of parenting skills causes child abuse.

The persistent economic problems has made hawking a common practice. In an attempt to make ends meet, parents and guardians expose the children and maids to the hazards on the road by subjecting them to the hawking of one food item or the other. The end result of this especially for the young girls is unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection by some irresponsible men who will lure them into sexual intercourse with money. Exposure of children to adult vices. Children whose parents are involved in some vices such as drinking, drug addiction, and prostitution often imitate them. Some parents make their children run errands like buying of alcohol, drugs such as contraceptives, morphine and pethidine willingly introducing them to such destructive acts.

Denial of education is one form of child abuse. This is when education which is the training of a child, mentally, physically and socially to enable him or her fit into the society is being denied of them as they are turned to housemaids, street beggars, hawkers and garage boys. Early marriage is usually common with illiterate parents who will want to drive their young daughters who are not matured enough to bear the burden of pregnancy into marriage. Most times for love of money and this leads to unsuccessful marriages.

There are potentially any number of reasons responsible for the child abuse phenomenon. Underlying reasons for this act are frequently complicated, with any simple or solitary description. For the most part, the overwhelming majority of parents are driven to nurture and assist their young towards the safety of a sheltering home.

Stress, insufficient appropriate rest, lack of appropriate child-raising skills, or lack of support from family members can heighten concern over parenthood, then manifest as adversarial effects on abuse conduct.

6.2.3 Challenges experienced by children and poor access to family welfare services by Mbarara District.

The study discovered the challenges affecting children and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District. That is; most of the respondents (48.3%) lack of enough basic needs; 57.9% lack of recreational facilities, 76.7% depression and psychological problems in the family, 67.5% Violence in the community, 71.5% racism and discrimination in some communities, 37.5% agreed lack of enough health care support, 50% Increase in child labour, 58.3% exposure to immoralities in the community, 52.9%

lack of moral guidance. The majority of the lower LCs had no knowledge of the Children Statute 1996 though they had heard of its existence. It is only in districts in which child-focused NGOs operate, and in the majority of instances, at county or sub-county level where the impact of interventions is vivid. Nakasujja observed that the understaffing in districts also affected dissemination of the Children Act, and even the district structures mandated to implement the children Act generally had inadequate transport and communication facilities.

Human resource capacity as one of very important in ensuring the delivery of protection services for children. The human resource has two issues to it which mostly affect service delivery, that is, availability and knowledge. There is general agreement that the problem of inadequate human resource capacity continues to exist in local governments both in terms of availability and knowledge ability, thereby affecting service delivery too.

The lack of economic independence, along with limited resources accessible to local authorities, means the latter are drawn to voluntary unpaid posts. This, therefore, breeds increased rates of corruption among the latter, as the officials seek to supplement their inadequate pay through the mismanagement of financial resources and extortion of the public.

A significant number of these lower-tier local governing bodies exhibited a notable deficiency in understanding the Children Statute of 1996, despite their awareness of its existence. This issue is particularly pronounced in sub-county administrative regions that house child-focused non-governmental organizations; it is predominantly at the

county or sub-county tiers where the impacts of such interventions are chiefly observed. Nakasujja identified that inadequacies in staffing at the district level exacerbated difficulties related to the dissemination of pertinent information regarding the Children Act, resulting in district authorities responsible for implementing the provisions of the Children Act often lacking appropriate transport and communication support.

The quality of the performance of the governments towards realizing the wellbeing of children. The child friendliness index ensures equitable distribution of budget as one of the key components of it for its good efforts towards ensuring progressive realization of the rights of the children as well as children's wellbeing. The report further states that 'services for victims are thin on the ground and institutions lack meaningful government support.

6.2.4 Ways of Preventing Child Abuse and Promoting Family Welfare Services in Mbarara District

The study findings indicated the strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services in Mbarara District. These included; 46.5% laws protecting rights of children should be effectively implemented, 57.9% there is need for effective followups of child abuse victims should be made, 75.0% the government and other stakeholder should fund projects addressing cases of child abuse in the community, 67.1% parents, guardians and educators should be interested in the moral education of the children, 37.8% parents should be encouraged to practice family planning so as to have the number of children they can conveniently cater for, 71.5% government should enact laws against child abuse in the communities, 36.5% the government should come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the community,

31.0% the government and other stakeholder should provide enough basic needs, 58.3% there is need to create income generating projects to parents, 41.3% there is need for imposing penalties and punishments to offenders of rights of children.

There is need to empower the parents on parenting capacity in order to provides an update on the impact of parental problems, such as substance misuse, domestic violence, learning disability and mental illness, on children's welfare and this can be done through increased awareness campaign, training and workshop, developing books and magazines on domestic violence, physical child abuse and self-esteem.

There is need for the government and other civil society organizations who are adolescent's activist to sensitize the community on the danger of domestic violence, physical child abuse and negative self- esteem development and this can be done through advocacy and community dialogue in-order to equip them with better information on how to increase on their social intelligence.

There is also need for the teachers and school official to provide psycho-social support such as counseling and guidance to victims of domestic violence and abuse which can be achieved through hiring of professional counselor such as community psychologist, clinical psychologist and counseling psychologist in order to help them terminate their personal problems with the violent situation.

It would be possible through the practice of counseling interventions to build patience and tolerance towards one's partner, since these are listed as primary virtues of survivors of trauma. Partners would be likely to endeavor and build hope, a process this

might be encouraged within relationships of therapy through the recognition of resources within their union. Furthermore, there are broader possibilities outside the parameters of the therapeutic bond potentially realized through the identification of positives within potential partners for survivors of trauma to build the odds of long-term fulfillment within an agreed romantic union.

Consensus panel demands the counselors to adopt the holistic method in the provision of the counseling services to the clients who have tendencies of substance use, most particularly those individuals who were abused and neglected as children. This method should focus on the significance of these experiences to the client, not the legal meanings of child abuse and neglect.

6.3 Conclusion

The study was concluded according to study objectives:- the effect of family welfare services and control of child abuse, the causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services, the challenges affecting children and low level of family welfare services, strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services as given below;.

It was concluded that there is effect of between family welfare services on control of child abuse. Therefore, children are given psychosocial support, abused children are given legal support; cases of child abuse are always reported to probation officer children are given all the basic needs, children are brought up in good moral, there are works on capacity building among local leaders on how to control child abuse; child

protection policies in Uganda are well implemented supported; and NGOs such as Uganda Human Rights provide services to children in this community.

It was concluded that there are many causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District which include; death of parent's cause child abuse, polygamous, drug abuse among parents' / care givers poverty, unemployment, violence between parents, lack of education, poor or low enforcement of child protection policies, disability or mental illness, and lack of parenting skills causes child abuse.

The study revealed that various issues are impacting the children, and they are furtheraggrieved by the poor provision of family welfare services in Mbarara District. These issues are the failure to access the basic needs, the absence of recreational facilities, the existence of psychiatric and depression disorders within the families, social violence, incidents of racism and discrimination within the communities, weak healthcare support, the rise of child labor, exposure to immorality within the society, and the absence of moral guidance.

It was concluded that laws protecting rights of children should be effectively implemented, there is need for effective follow-ups of child abuse victims should be made, the government and other stakeholder should fund projects addressing cases of child abuse in the community, parents, guardians and educators should be interested in the moral education of the children, parents should be encouraged to practice family planning so as to have the number of children they can conveniently cater for, and government should enact laws against child abuse in the communities, the government should come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the

community. In general conclusion, there is association between family welfare services and control of child abuse in Mbarara District. However, causes of child abuse and challenges of children can be addressed if strategies such as enacting laws protecting children rights among others are well implemented. 6.4 recommendations. Research recommendations from findings should be evaluated in research considerations, particularly with regards to influencing family welfare service provision as well as child abuse control in Mbarara District as highlighted below: The police force alongside LCs, Parents, and child's rights protection promoting cultural beliefs as well as concerned citizens should appropriately implement child rights shielding legislation in our society. This involves appropriate child abuse case follow-ups. The government in collaboration with various stakeholders needs to grant funding for projects that touch on child abuse cases in society, enact child abuse cases-related laws in these areas, and set up institutions as well as child shelters in society for abandoned children. Parents, particularly of minor children, ought to exhibit notable concern for the rearing of children of respectable moral position. Furthermore, these parents ought to be encouraged to implement Family Planning measures so the number of children remains tolerable, therefore, issued regulations of responsible authorities. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and other human rights institutions such as UN agencies, Government of Uganda, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission

Commission, National Council of Disability, Parliament of Uganda, Justice, Law and Order Sector, Director of Public Prosecution, CSOs should penalise violators of children's

rights with punishments and penalties. In relation to qualitative findings: Law enforcement officers should play many roles in the community's response to child abuse and neglect. The implementers of control of child abuse such as Uganda Human Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission, National Council of Disability, Parliament of Uganda, should follow the constitution of Uganda about the Child Justice Act. Our knowledge of the long-term consequences of childhood maltreatment into adulthood is extremely limited, with sparse information on intellectual and academic outcomes and medical and physiological sequelae. The need for early intervention will help in redirecting the study and the control of child abuse in the district.

6.5 Research contributions to filling the knowledge gap.

The study findings would add to the existing body of knowledge for academic purposes and policy making as well as to provide an empirical basis upon which corrective action would be taken to improve the capacity for efficient and sustainable delivery of family welfare services children's rights and protection services within the respective local government systems. The study findings would help in setting grounds for the policy makers like government, NGOs, Church, International bodies and other services to see the necessity of initiating projects and policies/laws aimed at addressing gaps between family welfare services and control of child abuse. This information would be used for advocating and mobilizing people and local leaders who would end up leading to national policy and strategy on control of child abuse.

6.6 Future Research Directions Research should be continued on the following

- I. Factors affecting the delivery of family welfare services within the country of Uganda.
- II. Government role towards the management of child abuse within the region of Eastern Africa.
- III. Attitude, awareness, and perception of the parents towards the minimization of child abuse within the nation of Uganda.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Determining Sample Size

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357

100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	1000000	384

Note.—N is the population size. S is the sample size.

Source: Robert V. Krejcie and Daryle W. Morgan (1970)

Appendix 2: Questionnaire for Children and Parents

Respectful Response

I am Kevina Tumuhairwe, Postgraduate of Uganda Christian University, where I am doing my Master's in Social Work and Social Administration. I am soliciting your participation in conducting this study on the topic "Family Welfare Services and Child Abuse Control in Mbarara District" Information shared shall be kept anonymous and solely for this study.

Instructions: Tick the boxes given and fill in the spaces given:

Section B: Background Information

1. Sex

(1) Male (2) Female

2. Marital Status

(1) Single (2) Married (3) widow (4) Others specify.....

3. Years of Age

(2) 31-40 years

(1) 18-30 years (3) 41-50 years (4) 51 years and above

4. Occupation

Section B: Effects of family welfare services and prevention of child abuse in

Mbarara District

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning the impact of family welfare services and child abuse prevention within Mbarara District?

Where 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=undecided, 4=agree and 5=strongly agree.

No.	Items	1	2	3	4	5
1	Children in this community are given Psychosocial support.					
2	Abused children in this community are given legal support.					
3	Cases of child abuse are always reported to probation officer					
4	In this community, children are given all the basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education, and health care among others.					
5	There is advocacy about the control of child abuse in this community.					
6	Children in this community are brought up in good morals.					
7	The religious leaders in this community play the role of counselling abused children.					
8	There are works on capacity building among local leaders on how to control child abuse					
9	Child protection policies in Uganda are well implemented					

10	NGOs such as Uganda Human Rights provide Services to children in this community.					
	Any other specify					

Section C: The causes of child abuse and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District.

1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements concerning the causes of child abuse in Mbarara district?

Where 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=undecided, 4=agree and 5=strongly agree.

No.	Items	1	2	3	4	5
1	Death of parents cause child abuse					
2	Polygamous families lead to child abuse					
3	Drug abuse among parents / care givers leads to child abuse					
4	Poverty or low economic status leads to child abuse					

5	Unemployment of parents leads to child abuse					
6	Violence between parents causes child abuse					
7	Lack of education leads to child abuse					
8	Poor or low enforcement of child protection policies leads to child abuse.					
9	Disability or mental illness leads to child abuse					
10	Lack of parenting skills causes child abuse					
	Any other specify					

Section D: The challenges affecting children and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District

3. To what extent do you agree with the following statements concerning the challenges affecting children and low level of family welfare services in Mbarara District?

Where 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=undecided, 4=agree and 5=strongly agree.

No.	Items	1	2	3	4	5
1	Lack of enough basic needs					
2	Lack of recreational facilities					
3	Depression and psychological problems in the family					
4	Violence in the community					
5	Living in dangerous neighborhoods					
6	Racism and discrimination in some communities					
7	Lack of enough health care support					
8	Increase in child labour					
9	Exposure to immoralities in the community					
10	Lack of moral guidance.					
	Any other specify					

Section E: Strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services in Mbarara District

4. To what extent do you agree with the following statements concerning strategies to control child abuse and improve level of family welfare services in Mbarara District?

Where 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=undecided, 4=agree and 5=strongly agree.

No.	Items	1	2	3	4	5
1	Laws protecting rights of children should be effectively implemented					
2	There is need for effective follow-ups of child abuse victims should be made.					
3	The government and other stakeholder should fund projects addressing cases of child abuse in the community.					
4	Parents, guardians and educators should be interested in the moral education of the children.					
5	Parents should be encouraged to practice family planning so as to have the number of children they can conveniently cater for.					

6	Government should enact laws against child abuse in the communities					
7	The government should come up with institutions and foster homes for the abandoned children in the community					
8	The government and other stakeholder should provide enough basic needs.					
9	There is need to create income generating projects to parents.					
10	There is need for imposing penalties and punishments to offenders of rights of children					
	Any other specify					

Honorable Participant,

I am **Kevina Tumuhairwe**, a postgraduate of the Uganda Christian University undertaking the Master of Social Work and Social Administration. I shall be pleased to have your co-operation to undertake the study on "Family Welfare Services and Control of Child Abuse in Mbarara District." Information you would be giving shall be kept absolutely confidential and would be used only for the purpose of this study.

Mark your choices accordingly by checking the corresponding boxes and writing the corresponding spaces.

Section A: Background Information

1. Sex

(1) Male (2) Female

2. Marital status

(1) Single (2) Married (3) widow (4)

3. Age in Years

(2) 31-40 years

(1) 18-30 years (3) 41-50 years (4) 51 years and above

4. Profession

Questions

1. How often do you report / receive child abuse cases in a week?
2. What kind of child abuse cases are most likely reported?
3. What are the Causes of Child abuse?
4. Briefly describe the welfare services offered by your office to prevent child abuse.
5. The reasons for the low level of family welfare services offered by the council are:
6. What are the challenges you encounter in the campaigns to prevent child abuse?
7. To what extent have welfare services helped to prevent child abuse in Mbarara District?
8. What action do you think should be taken to strengthen the regulation of child abuse?
9. Effects of family welfare services and child abuse control in Mbarara District
10. How are measures to contain child abuse and enhance level of family welfare services in Mbarara District?

Thank You Very Much

Appendix 4: Checklist of Questionnaire for Interview of Police Officer-in-Ch

Honorable Participant,

I am **Kevina Tumuhairwe**, the postgraduate student of Uganda Christian University, where I am doing my Master's Degree in Social Work and Social Administration. To most respectfully invite you to be included in providing data for conducting the study, "Family Welfare Services and the Prevention of Child Abuse in Mbarara District." Your data will be maintained absolutely confidential and shall only be utilized for the purpose of the present study.

Instructions: Tick the boxes designated for this and fill the spaces given.

Section B: Background Context

1. Sex

(1) Male individuals (2) Female individuals

2. Marital status

(1) Single (2) Married (3) widow (4) Others specify.....

3. Years of Age

(2) 31-40 years

(1) 18-30 years (3) 41-50 years (4) 51 years and above

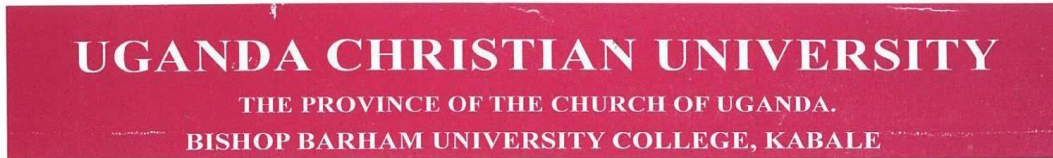
4. Work .

Questions

1. How often you document / receive child abuse cases in a week?
2. What type of child abuse cases are consistently reported?
3. What are the reasons of Child abuse?
4. How does your workplace serve welfare services to deal with child abuse?
5. Why are family welfare services poorly offered in Mbarara District?
6. What are some challenges faced by the system of child abuse management?
7. To what extent have welfare services contributed to the control of child abuse in Mbarara District?
8. What action, you think, should be taken to improve the regulation of child abuse?
9. What are the outcomes of family welfare services and prevention of child abuse in Mbarara District?
10. How are child abuse control strategies and level of family welfare services in Mbarara District to be improved?

Thank You

Appendix 6: Introductory Letter



DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & POST GRADUATE STUDIES

P. O Box 613, Kabale, Uganda, E. Africa

Tel: 256-757673720

Email: bbuc@bbuc.ucu.ac.ug



16th March 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

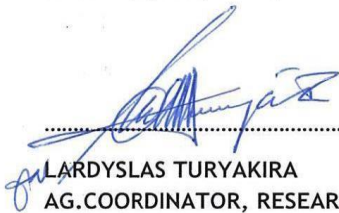
This is to introduce to you *TUMUHAIRWE Kevina M17/BBUC/MSW/003* who is currently a student at Bishop Barham University College Kabale in the Master of Social Work Program. The student would like to carry out a research project in your Organisation on the following topic:

Family Welfare Services and Control of Child Abuse in Mbarara District.

This research is for academic purposes only. Your assistance to our student is highly appreciated.

NB: The researcher is advised to observe rules concerning permission and consent from minors or their representatives as well as vulnerable persons in doing interviews and questionnaires.

Sincerely yours,



.....



LARDYSLAS TURyakIRA

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