

The Effect Of Defilement On The Girl Child Education In Uganda. A Case Study Of Bufumbira Sub County Kalangala District

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Abstract: *The goal of the study was to determine the impact of defilement on learners' academic performance in Kalangala District's Bufumbira Sub County. Out of a sample size of more than 310 respondents, 230 respondents provided accurate data that could be obtained for the study. The study's goals included determining how much people know about defilement, the frequency of cases reported each month, the academic achievement of students who have experienced defilement, and ultimately, identifying the primary offenders of debasement in the neighborhood. In the Bufumbira Police Station in Kalangala, information was gathered from the desecration victims, teachers, parents, and eventually police personnel. According to the study's findings, defilement is defined by more than 40% of respondents as having sex with a child under the age of 18, 80% of cases are always reported in the community, and most victims of defilement have poor academic performance. In addition, this report demonstrates that peer groups outside of school are the primary perpetrators of defilement.*

Keywords: defilement and girl child education

Background of the study

The main factors contributing to child exploitation worldwide are poverty, war, natural catastrophes, economic injustice, conflicts between both the rich and the poor, mass migration, and urbanization. Extra causes include illiteracy, a decline in family and societal values, attitudes in society, a lack of protection for children at risk, and inadequate financing for or poor delivery of social programs. The persistence of inequality and the exploitation of girls and women are further influenced by gender discrimination, gender inequalities in education and information, as well as a dual standard of ethics for men and women. 2018 (Julius Kupper).

The four element trauma genic theory put forth by Finkelhor serves as the foundation for this investigation (1984). The mechanics of contamination are attempted to be understood by this theory. By this theory, Finkelhor seeks to provide an alternative explanation for the characteristics of men who sexually assault young people. He contends that individual events, such as being abused as a youngster, a lack of interpersonal skills, and broader variables generally affect men's sexual orientation and socialization.

Finkelhor (1984) suggested a multi-factor model with explanatory power on both levels to bridge the gap between mental and societal explanations of sexual abuse.

After evaluating every possible cause of sexual assault, Finkelhor created a hierarchical model that took into account the victim, the perpetrator, and the father of the child as well as cultural and social variables. The model offers a flexible and adaptable framework that may take into account new studies to improve our understanding of the causes of sexual abuse and how it occurs both within and outside of the family. This perspective of view unequivocally focuses blame on the abuser.

Finkelhor's model has more explanatory power than other approaches because it takes into account sociological as well as psychological factors, including male socialization, pornography, social acceptance of eroticizing children, unequal power relations between men and women, and the patriarchal primacy of fathers and men. Psychological factors included in the model include the motivation of the abuser, the existence of internal inhibitors, and the child's ego strength.

This theory also assumes that potential victims have the ability to resist and are not always helpless.

Problem Statement

All serial child defilers have received harsh punishments or sentences, ranging from a baseline of 14 years to a maximum of life in prison. The issue is that despite these severe punishments, reports of child defilement continue to rise. This suggests that the children's environment is no longer a secure one. This causes the children, and the girl children in particular, to rent or believe in very tough situations, which has a severe effect on school performance for girls. The fact that there have been so many campaigns to raise awareness of child defilement is another cause for concern. The sharp increase in the number of reported defilement instances since 2000, however, indicates that these are not producing favorable consequences. In the hands of their fathers, step fathers, relatives, acquaintances, religious leaders, caregivers, and complete strangers, numerous children are defiled and raped.

A 16-year-old girl in Especially well-suited District's Bufumbira Sub County was defiled by her stepfather, who threatened the minor. As a result, the defiled developed health issues and chose not to return to school out of concern that she would feel ashamed and unfit to live with her classmates, which could easily prevent the girl from accomplishing her future goals.

The community, the administration, and especially the defiled person's mental and physical well-being are all impacted by defilement. The effects of defilement are too numerous to list all of them, but one of them is the contaminated person's mental state. Children experience severe emotional trauma, which causes them to lose trust in society as a whole. All of this cannot leave the victim of defilement unchanged, thus the researcher has the right to evaluate the influence of defilement on the education of girls in the students of the Bufumbira Sub County in the Kalangala District.

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the knowledge pupils, police and parents have about defilement.
2. To examine the rate of defilement cases in Bufumbira Sub County in Kalangala District.
3. To assess the performance of children who have ever been defiled.

Research Questions

1. How knowledgeable are the pupils, teachers Police, parents about defilement in Bufumbira Sub County?
2. On what rate are cases of defilement reported at Bufumbira Sub County, community and the police?
3. How is the performance of children who were once defiled?

Methodology

Research Design

The Researcher used a Descriptive research design. Descriptive research design was used because it brings out clearly the findings of the study. The researcher in this case used Descriptive measures like percentages to make it possible to collect data from the respondents.

Population and sampling technique

The researcher used purposive sampling technique which was very effective when carrying out research on small populations like this study area. The researcher was ahead to determine the target population and the sample size from the target population to ease data processing and analysis.

Table 1: Sample Size

Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size	Percentage
Students	300	180	58 %
Teachers	70	60	19 %
Parents	80	50	16 %
Police	30	20	6%
Total	480	310	100

Methods of Data Collection

Questionnaires

This choice of tool was used due to the fact that the targeted population was literate and therefore capable of filling-in the questionnaires. It gave the respondents adequate time to give well thought out answers. Questionnaires were also self-administered and provided a quick means of collecting data from a large population's sample.

Interviewing

The teachers and children of Bufumbira Sub County were given an interview guide made up of pre-planned questions. The researcher was able to improve the responses from the ego questionnaires thanks to the information that was elicited by this instrument, and this would enable the researcher to cross-examine several important research questions. This equipment will be chosen due to its being highly regarded as an excellent approach for producing data that thoroughly covers the subject. A useful way to gather information based on informants' priorities, viewpoints, and ideas is through interviews. Informants had the chance to elaborate on their thoughts, defend their points of view, and list the elements they believed to be most important.

Data Collection Procedure

The Researcher will receive an introductory letter from the faculty of Education and Humanities which will be presented to the respondents at the study area. The researcher will go ahead to seek appointments letters from the residents of Bufumbira Sub County and security officers in order to design questionnaires to avoid having excess or less. The researcher will then reach to the respondents on the agreed times to carry out data collection.

Data Analysis

Data was processed from the questionnaires that were administered to the respondents, the researcher then went ahead and gathered the questionnaires from respondents in order to know the number of respondents who responded to the questionnaires from the sample size that will be used. The researcher then used Microsoft excels to analyze data and presented them into percentages on graphs and pie charts to be easily understood.

RESULTS

Response Rate

The response rate of the respondents is explained in the table below:

Table 2: Groups of respondents and number of questionnaires retrieved

Respondent Groups	Number of Questionnaires Distributed	Retrieved Questionnaires
Students	180	140
Teachers	60	45
Parents	50	35

Police	20	10
TOTAL	310	230

Source: Primary data (2020)

The table below clearly showed the response rate of the respondents with out of the 180 questionnaires that were distributed to the students, 140 were retrieved by the researcher the same applies to 60 questionnaires that were given to teachers and only 45 were retrieved, 35 Questionnaires were retrieved out of the 50 that was given to them and lastly 10 questionnaires were retrieved out of the 20 that were given to the Police.

Demographic Profile of the respondents

Table 3: Demographic Profile of respondents

Category		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	80	35
	Female	150	65
	Total	230	100
Age	15-35	120	52
	36-50	80	35
	51-Above	30	13
	Total	230	100
Education	Primary	150	65
	Secondary	30	13
	University	50	22
	None		
	Total	230	100
Marital Status	Single	150	65
	Married	50	22
	Divorced	30	13
	Total	230	100
Years of work experience	01_05	170	74
	06_10	30	13
	11_15	20	9
	16 and Above	10	4
	Total	230	100

Source: Field Data (2020)

Figure three above shows the demographic profile of the respondents through age, gender, education, marital status and years of work experience. The above table shows that females constituted the largest percentage in the study with 65% and the least for percentage (35%) was for males which implies that female respondents participated greatly in the study than their males counter parts.

The study indicated that majority of the respondents were in primary with 65% followed by university (22%) and finally secondary (13%) and this implies that the degree of literacy among the respondents was average. And finally majority of the respondents were single with 65% followed by married respondents (22%) and finally 13% of the respondents were those who divorced and this implies that the degree of family stability among the respondents is minimal.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of findings

The level of knowledge of respondents about defilement

Table 4: Knowledge of respondents about defilement

Defilement	Frequency	Percentage (%)
A child below the age of 18 years	90	40
A child not yet in consent age	60	26
A child from birth to puberty	40	17
A child below 12 years	30	13
A child who has high value	10	4
Total	N=230	100

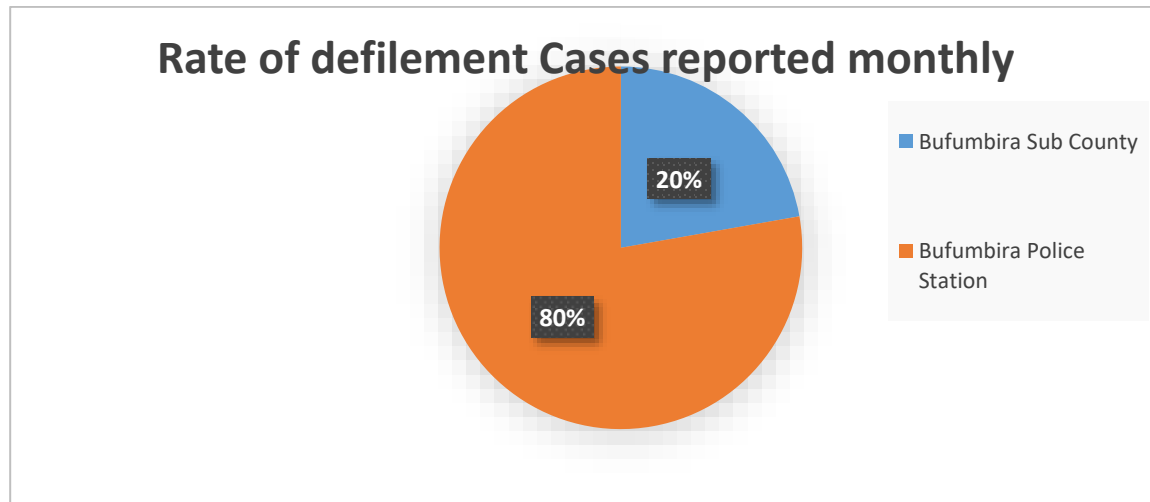
Source: Field data (2021)

N=Number of respondents

In table 4 above, the respondents were asked how they know about defilement and according to the findings, various answers were given as shown above. However over 40% of the respondents told the researcher that defilement is having sex with a child below the age of 18 years followed by 26% of the respondents who understood defilement as having sex with a child who is not yet in his or her consent age, 17% of the respondents suggested that defilement is when a child is involved in sexual intercourse before puberty stage, 13% of the respondents knew defilement as having sex affairs with a girl below the age of 12 years and finally 4% of the population described defilement as a child who has high value irrespective of the age.

Monthly rate of defilement cases received

Figure 1: Rate of defilement cases reported monthly

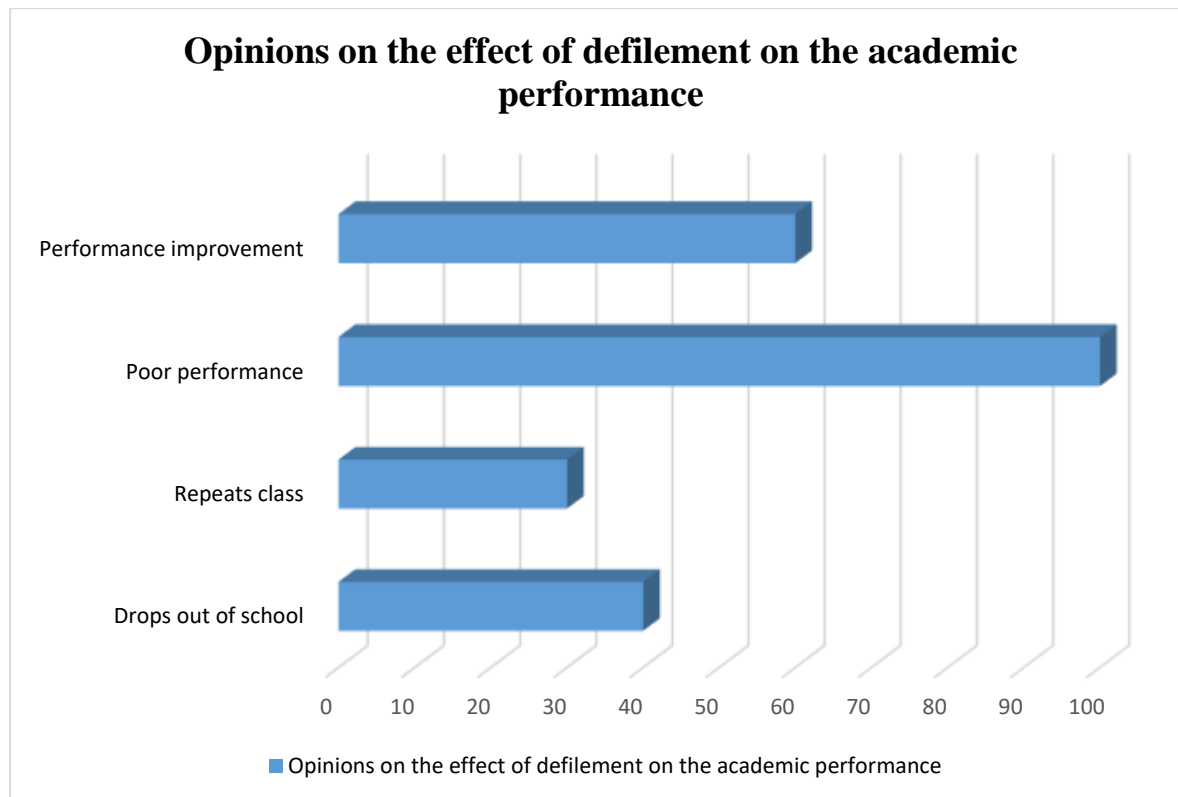


Source: Field data (2021)

In the figure above, data that was collected from Bufumbira Sub County from its teachers indicated that 20% of the reported cases of defilement are usually from their school with their students becoming victims of defilement and finally according to Bufumbira PoPolice station 80% of the reported cases are always from within the community which are always reported at the police station.

Performance of Children who undergo defilement

Figure 2: Opinions on the effect of defilement on the academic performance



Source: Field Data (2021)

Figure 2 above shows how 60 respondents out of the 230 respondents showed that with enough counseling and concentration, a child who has been defiled can perform higher than before. However 100 respondents discussed that a defiled child cannot perform better than before because of trauma, loneliness, physical torture among others which cannot make him or her to concentrate while in class and hence this can exactly lead to poor performance, once again the figure indicates that 30 respondents informed the researcher that defiled children in most cases repeat classes because they always take time to recover from the healthy problems that have been put unto them by the defilers and also to make their minds settle and reduce the trauma of defilement which clearly affects his or her performance and finally 40 respondents argued that defilement leads to school dropout because of healthy problems, early pregnancy and fear of being ashamed at school which also affects the academic performance.

Conclusions

According to the report's results, many people define defilement as having intercourse with a child who is younger than 18 years old, while others think of minors who are not yet of legal age to agree. The study's results additionally demonstrated that only 20% of the defilement cases reported to the police station in the community had victims from Bufumbira Sub County, while 80% of the crimes are always from the community. The majority of respondents, according to the study's findings, thought that defilement victims could not maintain their school achievement because they are constantly traumatized, which could prevent them from meeting their expectations. However, some respondents disagreed, saying that if they receive the right counselling services, defilement victims could surpass their previous levels of performance.

In conclusion, the study's findings also showed that adults living outside of school and their peer groups are the primary offenders of defilement.

Recommendations

The following suggestions are made in light of the study's findings on the impact of defilement on students' academic achievement at Bufumbira Sub County:

Effective defilement sensitization is necessary to increase people's knowledge and comprehension of defilement and to help them learn how to prevent it.

The police stations and schools should keep granting free access to researchers who come to them in need in order to conduct research on the kids and residents of the neighborhood in order to assist develop answers. In regard to the maximum number of recorded cases coming from the community, the police should make plans to make sure that the people are aware about the dangers of defilement and the possible legal outcomes to the people who plead guilty of defilement.

Schools should hire professional counsellors to deal with defilement victims in accordance with the findings of the study on whether debasement affects students' academic performance, as the study's findings show that only those who receive appropriate counseling have a high chance of academic improvement.

According to the study's findings, parents should consider enrolling their kids in boarding school because many respondents indicated that peer groups who hang out outside of school, such as drug users and unemployed youth, are the primary offenders of defilement.

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