

**ASSESSING THE EFFICIENCY OF POLICE GENDER DESKS IN PREVENTING
VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN, THE CASE OF BUNDA POLICE GENDER
DESK -BUNDA**

COLMAN A. MOSHY

**A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN GENDER
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2025

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that he has read and hereby is recommends for acceptance by The Open university of Tanzania a dissertation entitled; **“An Assessing the efficiency of Police Gender Desks in Preventing Violence Against Children in Bunda District ”** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for award of the Degree of Master of Gender Studies at the Open University of Tanzania.


.....

Dr. Johnas Buhori
(Supervisor)

.....
Date

.....
Dr. Straton Ruhinda
(Supervisor)

.....
Date

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DECLARATION

I, Colman Augustino Moshy, do hereby declare that this research report titled “Assess the Efficiency of Police Gender Desks in Preventing Violence against Children, the Case of Bunda Police Gender Desk -Bunda” is an independent work carried out by me. It has not been previously submitted for award of any Master’s.

.....

Signature

.....

Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated first to My Almighty God in Heaven and second to my lovely Wife Ms Witness David Wamboga and my Children Kendrick and Kendra as well as my parents Mr. Augustino Gabriel Moshy and Mrs. Anna John Shirima for their prayers and their moral support. They are truly my role models in all aspects and they were always a source of encouragement throughout my life especial in my studies.

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ABSTRACT

The primary purpose of this study was to assess the Efficiency of Police Gender Desks in Preventing Violence against Children, The Case of Bunda Police Gender Desk. The study was carried out in the Bunda District of the Mara Region. The study has specific objectives, which include the role of the Police Gender- Desks in ending Violence against Children, The alternative measures used to combat Violence against Children, and The challenges facing Police Gender Desks in the prevention of Violence against Children. The structural functionalism theory guided the study. Pragmatic research philosophy and explorative research design were employed, with a sample size of 137 purposively and randomly selected participants. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods were used and analyzed using thematic for qualitative data and descriptive for quantitative data through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study findings reveal that the efficiency of the gender desk depends on different factors like the well-equipped facilities, including transport and fuel, to facilitate Gender Desk operation/activities to prevent foul-up of VAC cases, and officers need to be trained. Moreover, community cooperation is strongly needed for the desk to be efficient. Most respondents from the interview suggested that the government should provide Mass education about the impact of VAC. Furthermore, the government should educate the families on their rights and the rights of their Children and where to report when they face VAC—more over during an interview with a Police officer in charge. The Gender Desk office said that another measure is that the Police force should give the gender desk its importance by preparing enough budgets. The other measure recommended by most respondents was severe legal actions that should be taken against those attempting Violation to violate Children.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

AI	-	Amnesty International
CRS	-	The Committee on the Rights of the Child
CEDAW	-	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
FGD	-	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	-	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GDO	-	Gender Desk Officer
ICCPR	-	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
LHRC	-	Legal Human Right Center
NPA-VAWC	-	National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children
NGOS	-	Non Governmental Organization
PGCD	-	Police Gender and Children Desk

RNP	-	Rwanda National Police
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SSA	-	Sub-Saharan African
TCC	-	Thuthuzela Care Center
TDHS	-	Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey
TPFR	-	Tanzania Police Force - Police Reform Program
TAMWA	-	Tanzania Media Women Association
TAWLA	-	Tanzania Women Lawyers Association
UN	-	United Nation
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Program
UNPF	-	United Nation Population Fund
UNODC	-	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VAC	-	Violence Against Children
WCD	-	Women and Children Desk

WHO	-	World Health Organization
ZVSU	-	Zambian Victim Support Unity

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.0. Chapter Overview

The study is assessing the efficiency of police gender desks in preventing Violence against Children, a case of Bunda District. Further, the chapter presents the background information of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, specific objectives of the study, research questions, and significance of the study. This study is guided by three goals, which inform the efficiency of the Police Gender Desks to protect against Violence against Children in Bunda District Council. In addition, this chapter aims to explain the background of the study, which briefly describes the problem of Violence against children from various perspectives, including global, regional, and local contexts.

1.1 Background to the Study

Historically, The Tanzania Police Gender and Children Desk was established in 2009 with the purpose, among others, of fighting against gender violence among different communities in Tanzania. During its inception, the TPGCD had a total of 320 desks countrywide. However, to date (2024), there are over 400 desks in Tanzania, including seven in Zanzibar. Likewise, in the Mara Region, there are 20 gender desks. Moreover, the Bunda District Council has five (4) gender desks: Kibara, Kisorya, Mugeta, and Bunda Mjini(Nyasigwa & Mbunda, 2023).

The Gender and Children's Desk are among the programs established under Community policing. Community Policing was in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania Article 146(2)(b), which provides for community involvement

in Policing to prevent and reduce crime and respect for human rights but came into practice during the period of IGP Said Mwema in 2006 after establishing Tanzania Police Force - Police Reform Program (TPF – RP). The basis of this reform was after political elections in 2005, where levels of crime and fear of crime rose throughout the country (Nyasigwa & Mbunda, 2023).

The vision of TPFR is to have a professional, modernized. Community centered force that supports the maintenance of public safety and security in the country, and its mission is to establish a more dispersed visible, accessible, and service-oriented Police force that interacts freely and gently with its community in the protection of both life and property of all people all the time. Community policing is practiced at the national, regional, and district levels, and within it, different programs were established to simplify its operation. Among those programs was a community policing program that involved the section of the Police Gender and Children's Desk. newPolice Gender and Children's Desk became full practice in 2008 after establishing the Tanzania Police Female Network (TPF Net). TPF Net is the network of Women Police in Tanzania aimed at responding to cases of gender-based Violence (Nyasigwa & Mbunda, 2023).

Violence against children (VAC) is a global concern; despite having little data on the prevalence of Violence against children worldwide, the few available data point to the fact that Violence against children is on the increase. UNICEF (2020) observed that globally, up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 years have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional Violence or neglect in the past year. In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 150 million girls and 73 million boys

under the age of 18 had experienced sexual Violence involving physical contact (Cookson, 2020).

Violence Against Children is a complex issue that has its roots in the structural inequalities between men and women that result in the persistence of power differentials between the sexes; hence, Girls and boys both experience violence, with girls at higher risk for sexual Violence, early or forced marriage, for example, Boys are more likely to be victims of physical fights, assaults or homicide. However, they are at risk for sexual Violence as well, where several risk factors for Violence against children have been identified, which include social and Gender norms, gender identity and sexual orientation, poverty, functional impairments, stigmatized illnesses, such as HIV and AIDS (Lokot, 2020).

The United States regards Violence against children as a public health and human rights concern. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include specific targets to end various forms of Violence against children, including violent discipline, sexual Violence, and intimate partner violence. Though widespread, Violence against children is preventable. In 2012, the United States Congress called for a "Multiyear strategy to prevent and respond to Violence against children, who led to the development of the first *US strategy to prevent and respond to Gender Violence Globally*. These elevated the human rights of women and girls globally as a priority for US national security, diplomatic, and foreign assistance (US Congress, 2012).

Violence against children occurs in multiple forms by different perpetrators, which include parents and caregivers, teachers, other authority figures, community and religious leaders, neighbors, peers, and adolescents' intimate partners. Violence

against children occurs across settings, including in the home, community, schools, and other institutions, as well as online. It occurs worldwide, affecting children of all ages, genders, and socio-economic strata. A 2018 meta-analysis and systematic review of 643 studies from 171 countries found that household members most commonly perpetrate emotional and physical Violence against children, while children aged 9–18 years are at high risk of Violence from teachers and family members (Bhatia, 2020).

Latin America and the Caribbean (VAC) are recognized as among the most violent geographic areas globally, particularly for young people. An estimated 58% of children 0 – 17 years of age in more than 99 million experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse each year. Health consequences include physical injury, mental health problems, and increased risk of substance use among children. Violence drains the health, social, and judicial sector budgets, with expenditures for treating survivors and prosecuting perpetrators. Furthermore, early exposure to Violence has been linked to multiple forms of violence perpetration and victimization in adulthood; Brazil and Guatemala combined intervention to develop a sub-national interdisciplinary network that forces the involved in response to VAC and to implement the new VAC protocol 77. In Brazil, the interdisciplinary network of providers for response to sexual Violence for children aged <18 years was associated with increased reporting and service seeking by survivors, increased numbers of referrals, and increased speed in the identification of perpetrators for Police to take appropriate action (Abaya, 2021).

In Africa, 50 percent of the child population is estimated to have experienced or witnessed some form of Violence, such as physical, sexual, or emotional and the situation is even worse in conflict situations, where children experience several forms of human rights violations, especially sexual and gender-based Violence such as rape, sexual slavery, and sexual mutilation. Currently, the report shows that Africa has the highest rates of Violence against children. Where every second a child reaches out to child helpline services to report abuse and Violence, Over 60 % of children experience physical punishment from family members and caregivers. In many countries in Africa, 1 in 4 children experience sexual Violence, each year 3 million girls are at risk of genital cutting in Africa, 15 million girls are married every year, with 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa married before their 18th birthday, 4 out of 10 boys in residential care institutions suffer physical Violence, while 2 in 10 experience sexual violence of one or another form. (Doris 2022).

In Tanzania, VAC continued to be subjected to various forms of Violence, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic Violence. LHRC documented 464 incidents of VAC, increasing from 350 documented in 2022 through media surveys and human rights monitoring. Sexual Violence continued to account for most reported incidents, at 79%. Analysis of Police data on VAC in recent years has shown that over 30 incidents of VAC occur in Tanzania each day and that over two-thirds of the victims, 8 out of 10 children, are girls. Sexual Violence, especially rape and Sodom is the biggest concern for children, and the perpetrators include fathers, stepfathers, teachers, and uncles whose motivations for committing such acts of Violence include getting rich, as directed by witch doctors. Girls account

for over 80% of rape victims, while boys account for 87% of child sodomy victims; therefore, the Government has established Gender and children's desks in police stations where gender violence survivors are being encouraged to report with assurance of professional treatment by trained police officers" (WHO, 2020).

There are several Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Law Institutes that also deal with Anti Gender Base violence, including Children Violence within Tanzania societies, and work hand in hand with the Tanzania Police Force Gender and Children's Desk to combat Violence against Children by giving education about gender violence in the societies, give legal assistance to the victims of Gender based Violence and material support like buildings to the Police post to provide confidential spaces in Police stations where victims of gender violence can tell their complaints to the Police officers deal with the Gender and children's Desk (Diana, 2023). Those NGOs and Associations were The Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), Tanzania Women Judges Association (TAWJA). It thus proposed to research this critical issue with a view on things to be considered by the Police Force towards its workforce on the Gender and Children's Desk to help it perform its duties efficiently (Diana, 2023).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Even though efforts have been made by the Government of Tanzania and its agencies to combat Violence against Children (VAC), little progress has been observed in the problem where children in society still experience some forms of Violence, including

physical, sexual, and neglect and this is shown from a survey conducted by UNICEF which found nearly 3 out of every ten females aged 13 to 24 reported experiencing at least one incidence of sexual Violence before turning 18. Among men in the same age group, 13.4% reported experiencing at least one incident of sexual Violence before the age of 18 (UNICEF et al., 2021). The literature also provides that child rape incidents increased in the first six months from 759 incidents to 2365 due to poor parenting, lack of parenthood and childcare, knowledge among parents, and household poverty, leaving children, especially girls, vulnerable to men who give them money for food, and conflict among parents (Reuben, 2021).

The Government and its intuitions established several measures to solve the problem of child violence, like the enactment of The Child Protection Committees (CPCs). Also, The Government has adopted and accepted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), the Optional Protocols to the CRC, and relevant provisions in other international, regional and sub-regional human rights instruments. In addition, guidelines and directives, such as General Comment¹³ and General Comment 8 of the Uncommitted on the Rights of the Child, the Joint General Comment of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on Ending Child Marriage, articulate the obligations of states concerning specific forms of VAC (Reuben, 2021).

Despite the efforts, there is still a gap in Tanzania in understanding the efficiency of the Police Gender Desk in protecting VAC. The current report from LHRC reports Mara as the first region with a high rate of VAC, at 66%, Bunda District as the first

district with a high rate of VAC, and Butiama as the last. Therefore, this study assesses the efficiency of police gender desks in preventing Violence Against Children.

1.3 Objective of the Study

1.3.1 Main Objective

The purpose of this study is to assess the efficiency of police gender desks in preventing Violence against children.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To examine the role of the Police Gender Desks to protect Violence against Children in Bunda District Council.
2. To assess the alternative measures to combat Violence against Children in Bunda District
3. To investigate the challenges facing Police Gender Desks in the prevention of Violence against Children in Bunda District Council.

1.4 Research question

1. What are the roles of PGD to protect Violence against Children committed in Bunda District?
2. What are the alternative measures to combat Violence Against Children in Bunda District?
3. What are the challenges facing Police Gender Desks in the protection of Violence against children in the Bunda District?

1.5 Significance of the Study

It is expected that the findings of this study will expand the knowledge and understanding of victims and the community with related Police Gender desk activities and responsibilities in dealing with eradicating and combating Violence Against Children in society, as well as reveal the efficiency of police gender desks in preventing Violence against children in the society so that the victim and community will collaborate to fight and end Violence Against Children in the society.

The study is helpful to the Government and the policymakers; these study will help the policy maker by showing a road map and direction on how to set their Plan and implementation measures of reviewing and setting of new strategies and Plans which will help to regulate and improve the policy and strengthen their strategies of fighting and eradicating all forms of Violence Against Children in the society to ensure successful implementation of the policy to eradicate Violence Against Children in the society.

This study helps the community members understand the efficiency of the Police Gender Desk in addressing the problem while providing recommendations and taking further measures to fight against and eradicate and prevent Violence against Children. Also, the study advises on the measures to address and overcome Violence against Children experienced in Bunda District; furthermore, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the impact of Violence against Children on the general public so that all can participate in fighting against it. The knowledge generated from the study can be used by other researchers who might intend and need to conduct further research on the same subject and studies related to Violence Against

Children. This will expand the researcher's knowledge about the subject matter and inspire him/her to conduct more studies and develop solutions and findings to help the community get out of Violence against Children. Also, upon completing the research study, the researcher will fulfill the partial requirement for being awarded a Master's degree in specific fields.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Chapter Overview

This chapter defines critical terms, provides a theoretical review in which researchers use theories related to the problem to explain why the problem occurs, reviews the efficiency of PGD in protecting Children from Violence, Reviews empirical studies and the research gap that this study intended to fill, and provides a conceptual framework.

2.1 Conceptualization of the Terms

To achieve a common understanding, the researcher specifies the meaning of basic terms used in this research, such as Gender, Children, Violence Against Children, and the Police Gender Desk for Women and Children.

2.1.1 Gender

These refer to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female and the relationships between women and men. These attributes, opportunities, and relationships are socially constructed and learned through socialization (Lindqvist & Renström, 2021). For this study, Gender refers to the different characteristics, roles, responsibilities, opportunities, needs, and constraints for women, men, girls, and boys.

2.1.2 Children

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), in Article 1, defines a child as a person below 18 unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for

adulthood younger. For the study, Children refer to children under 18 years of age, whether boys or girls, without regard to their tribe, education, race, roles, religion, responsibilities, opportunities, needs, and constraints for women, men, girls, and boys.

2.1.3 Violence Against Children

The UN defines Violence against Children in line with Article 19 of the CRC as all forms of physical or mental Violence, injury, abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment, or exploitation, including sexual abuse (Global Survey on Violence Against Children, 2021). Violence against children (VAC) includes corporal punishment, sexual Violence (rape/forced sex), child marriage, female genital mutilation, murder, and child labor (Tamale, 2020). For this study, VAC means the mistreatment behaviors conducted on children that abuse their rights cau, cause injury to children and affect their well-being, whether physical, physiological, emotional, or mental.

2.1.4 Police Gender Desk

The Gender and Children's Desk were among the programs established under Community policing. Community Policing was in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania Article 146(2)(b), which provides for community involvement in Policing aimed at preventing and reducing crime, reducing disorder and anti-social behaviors, increasing the feeling of safety, improving community accountability, reducing corruption in the Police services, enhancing respect in human rights but came into practice during the period of IGP Said Mwema in 2006 after establishing Tanzania Police Force (TPF, 2022). For this study, the Police Gender and Children's

Desk (PGCD) is formulated by the Government of Tanzania within the Police Office to deal with all disputes concerning gender problems and quarrels in the community.

2.2 Theoretical Review

Theory is an organized body of concepts and principles that explain a particular phenomenon. It allows researchers to make links between the abstract and concrete. The theoretical review also involves identifying, scrutinizing, and comparing different theoretical frameworks and concepts to clarify and determine their relevance, applicability, or contribution to the topic under discussion (Rossi & Sorensen, 2022).

2.2.1 Structural Functionalisms Theory

This study uses Durkheim's Structural Functionalism theory from 1917. **Émile Durkheim** was born in France on April 15, 1858, and died in Paris on November 15, 1917. During his lifetime, he developed a vigorous methodology combining empirical research with sociological theory. He is widely regarded as the founder of the French school of sociology.

Emile Durkheim's functionalism theory (1917) emphasizes a society's equilibrium. He explained that if something disrupts the system's order and flow, society must adjust to achieve a stable state. He envisioned society as an organism, and just like within an organism, each component plays a necessary part, but none can function alone. If one part changes, it impacts society as a whole. For example, the state provides public security to society through the Police force. The dispute advanced in this theory is that a system consists of various components or sub-systems, which must function together to work correctly. At any point when a sub-system within the

system fails, the whole system is in jeopardy and will cease to work. Accordingly, the Regime is like an organism, which is made up of structures. Each structure is interconnected and intertwined. A malfunctioning of one structure is bound to ripple effect on the whole unit. These studies examine the efficient role played by the Police Gender Desk in protecting VAC.

Like another functionalist, Durkheim believed that the shared beliefs, sentiments, and values of members of a society hold society together. That is to say that society exists because of specific agreements to follow the rules to keep society stable. According to Durkheim, the subject matter of sociology should be "social facts." He argued that sociology as a discipline should study these social facts, including all things external to individuals and coercive of them in society. They include social norms, traditions and customs, societal laws, common morality, and so on, which are external to the individual and have coercive power over her (Lilian, 2022).

On changing social lifestyle, he postulated that society improves from traditional to modern aspects. Society evolves from a traditional to a modern state due mainly to population growth, changes in social activities, and cultural interaction. This means that, due to continuous social interactions, new traditions are introduced to collect destructive norms that have existed for an extended period. In this description, he discusses his central theme and theoretical legacy in sociology (Rossi & Sorensen, 2022). This theory is attractive to this study as it campaigns and emphasizes social changes and equilibrium in society and between every organ dealing with VAC to create community balance and stability. Hence, this theory helps assess the efficiency of police gender desks in preventing Violence against Children.

2.2.2 Relevance of the Theory

This study assesses the relevancy of theories used as a guiding pillar in resolving the social problems discussed. The theory clarifies the concepts and their relationships to the study and quickly demonstrates how the study applies to its fundamental assumptions. The study uses Structural functionalism theory, which provides a foundation and way forward for variables under the study (Rossi & Sorensen, 2022).

The theory is relevant to this objective of the role of PGCD as it emphasizes cooperation societies with PGD in implementing their role as the society, reporting criminals and crimes from their societies to the Police force. The Police force adjusts in order to improve attempts to rehabilitate through jail and other means, but if the Police force reduces its performance, then the crimes must increase. If members of the societies reduce the rate of reporting crimes and criminals, the occurrences of crimes within the societies will increase. Still, none can function alone, so the efficiency of the Gender Desk depends on cooperation between society and the Police Gender Desk in a given role (Diana & Francis, 2023).

Gender and Children's Desk was established to resolve violations acts in society, among them VAC, as it is growing awareness of the PGD activities in society, which helps the victims to understand their rights; also, awareness creation, sensitization, and training of the public must be conducted to reduce VAC, promote community support in reducing exploitation of children right and handling cases at the grass root level. So, the theory is relevant as it emphasizes society as an organism to fight and remove VAC the society by cooperating with PGD, and just like within an organism,

each component must play a necessary part. Hence, the efficiency of the Gender Desk depends on cooperation between society and PGD (Nyange & Lyimo (2023).

Gender and children's desks face several challenges to resolve and eliminate VAC. This study suggests that the police force should have special funds for Gender and children's desks that will go towards building new offices, undertaking training of officers, and providing means of transport and required modern equipment (Korkmaz, 2020). So, the theories are relevant as they emphasize that society is a complex system of interrelated and interdependent parts that work together to maintain stability. On that matter, cooperation between society and PGCD is needed to remove the challenges of PGD so they can perform their duties well.

2.3 Empirical Literature Review

Literature and writings covering important aspects of the study have been reviewed. The literature review provides essential information that helps us understand the topic under study.

2.3.1 The role of the Police Gender- Desks to end Violence against Children

According to (UNFPA, 2021), The role of the Police Gender Desk is to perform the Objectives and Functions of Police Gender Violence and Child Abuse to ensure that all the cases and complaints about Gender -Violence, and Child Abuse are solved within a respective time and the criminals are taken to court. The activities and functions done by Police officers dealing with Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse to combat gender violence are as follows; To encourage survivors and victims to speak out, all survivors and victims of VAC have to feel safe, comfortable, and supported in order to explain and speak out the truth. This goes hand in hand with the

privacy area, especially a private room where a victim of VAC will be comfortable speaking about what has been done to him or her without hesitation. In order to do this, there must be a confidential room where the survivors of gender-gender-based violence violence and child abuse could be taken (UNFPA, 2021).

The gender desk is supposed to have a minimum of the following infrastructures and equipment: A separate room for survivors to report the crime, interviews to be conducted, and evidence to be collected and recorded in an atmosphere of privacy. It was supposed to have transportation means to respond to reported incidents of Violence, including removal of the perpetrator from the home where applicable to escort the survivors to other vital services, such as a medical center or shelter, and to return to the crime scene to collect further evidence, a free telephone line for survivors of Violence and others to report incidents of Violence and follow up on cases; a camera and essential forensic equipment to collect the evidence needed for prosecution and a secure record storage space. The investigating officer was supposed to be in civilian clothing to increase a survivor's comfort in approaching security personnel (UNFPA, 2021).

The Police force, through the Gender-Based Violence desk there, is responsible for ensuring that all VAC cases and complaints brought to the Police stations are responded to quickly and accordingly. The victims are satisfied with the service they get from the gender desk workforce and ensure they victims are the best ambassadors to others who face gender violence and child abuse in their societies. This helps minimize VAC crime occurrences in society (UNFPA, 2021). Recording the number of VACs handled by the Police station and submitting a quarterly report on all cases

of VAC to the Local government authorities, social welfare offices, as well as other stakeholders who are recognized collaborating partners in the area and these recordings are done to keep the records of Child Abuse cases to measure if there is there rise or the decline of the occurrences of VAC to plan and make strongly action for the future solution to end the problem of Violence to Children (UNFPA, 2021).

Keeping Child Abuse and VAC case records confidential and secured and ensuring that only authoritarian personnel can access them; this is done in order to ensure that the confidentiality and security of the records are kept to encourage many victims of VAC to continue reporting the acts of Violence done to them and their neighbors. This is done to build trust in the societies and make the victims of VAC feel safe and secure (UNFPA, 2021).

Collaborating with other actors to assist, secure, and protect survivors of VAC by giving them appropriate areas to stay is made especially for the victims of gender violence who have nowhere to go and for those who escape from their homes to report the Violence done to them by their partner and need humanitarian support so Police Gender Desk collaborating with NGO'S and Community development organization such as TAMWA, TAWLA, KIVULINI and other actors help to give support to the victims of Gender Based Violence in different aspect of life such shelter and food (UNFPA, 2021).

Implementation of National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children (2016/17-2020/2021) for Tanzania Mainland, which emphasizes ending Violence against Women and Children in the Mainland and Zanzibar's five-year National Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) 2017-

2022 are developed and used correctly. They emphasize three key issues: prevention, enabling the environment, and strengthening supportive services. Strategies and activities to be implemented and the M&E framework to guide the monitoring of the implementation of the Plan have also been developed with precise mechanisms and structures (Mlay, 2020).

Implementation and Addressing child and forced marriage, and a National Plan of Action to end Violence. The Police Desk offers plans and developed different measures to address Violence against women and children, including girl children, and is expected to contribute towards the achievement of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Sustainable Development Goals (2030), Africa Development Agenda (2063), The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1989), Tanzania Development Vision (2025), National Five Year Development Plan II (2016/2017 – 2020/2021) the Ruling Party Manifesto 2030, Women and Gender Development Policy (2000); and Child Development Policy (2008) helped them to fight against and eradicate Women Violence in the society (Mlay, 2020).

In Tanzania, The Police force, through PGCD, ensures that all VAC cases and complaints brought to the Police stations are responded quickly and accordingly, as well as Keeping VAC case records confidential and secured and ensures that only authoritarian personnel can access them also to ensure that the victims satisfy with the service they get from the gender desk workforce and ensuring the victim are being the best ambassadors to others who face gender violence and child abuse in their societies through this help to minimize the occurrences of VAC crimes in the

society (UNFPA, 2021). Moreover, PGCD has the role of planning and developing different measures to address Violence against women and children including girls child and expected to contribute towards the achievement of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Sustainable Development Goals (2030), Africa Development Agenda (2063), The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1989), Tanzania Development Vision (2025), National Five Year Development Plan II (2016/2017 – 2020/2021) the Ruling Party Manifesto 2030, Women and Gender Development Policy (2000) and Child Development Policy (2008) helped them to fight against VAC in the society (Mlay, 2020).

2.3.2 The alternative measures used to combat Violence against Children

Globally, the UN Joint Global Programme on Essential Services, which aims to eliminate the many forms of Violence, requires a multi-disciplinary approach with effective coordination among the different actors. This must also include comprehensive multi-sectoral and mutually reinforcing prevention strategies that address the root causes of violence violence. Providing access to a set of quality health care, justice policing, and psycho-social services can enable women and girls to break recurrent cycles of Violence and mitigate its consequences (Blair & Jassal, 2022).

In India, police reform experiments aimed at improving women's access to justice for crimes of Violence against Children. The experiment involved establishing "women's help desks" within police stations, where female officers would interact with female complainants. The trial outcomes were varied: there was an increase in incident

reports filed, and some police officers exhibited changed attitudes towards Violence against Children (Blair & Jassal, 2022).

However, the likelihood of Children reporting crimes did not improve, and the arrest rate remained unaffected. The article underscores the challenges associated with studying access to justice, particularly in distinguishing whether observed effects are driven by increased citizens attempting to access justice or changes in law enforcement practices. Blair and Jassal (2022) concluded that the reforms may have increased police filings. Moreover, arrests and the establishment of women-only stations in India resulted in regular police stations referring survivors to alternate sites, thus necessitating victims to travel no longer distances to seek justice (Blair & Jassal, 2022).

A study conducted by Babalola and Lawson examined the contextual influences and statutory laws that impact the attitudes of police officers towards domestic violence against women and children in Lagos State, Nigeria. Through a qualitative study that included interviews and focus groups of police officers and victims of domestic Violence, the authors sought to uncover how contextual influences and statutory laws shape police attitudes toward domestic Violence (Bankole & Urhere, 2021).

According to the study conducted on the efficiency of the Police Gender Desk by Bankole and Urhere (2021), results indicated that police officers generally had a negative attitude towards child violence and viewed it as a private matter, not a criminal matter. However, the study also found that statutory laws, such as the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, had an impact on police attitudes toward

domestic Violence, leading to greater empathy and a greater willingness to intervene. The authors conclude that while there is still a need for more excellent education and training of police officers on the issue of Violence, contextual influences and statutory laws can be important catalysts to foster positive attitudes among police officers (Bankole & Urhere, 2021).

Tanzania, like other countries, has been taking various measures to fight against gender-based Violence; the Government introduced the Provisions Act of 1998, which poses harsh penalties for perpetrators of sexual Violence. Each ministry has a gender focal point, and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, and Children has initiated efforts to train the focal points on ways to mainstream Gender in their ministry work plans and budgets. Also noteworthy, the Inspector General of the Tanzanian Police Force, Saidi Ali Mwema, has instituted reforms to make the Police more accessible and responsive to the community's needs. Out of this initiative, the Tanzania Police Female Network (TPFNet) was created, and with it came the creation of gender desks to respond to cases of GBV at police stations (Bankole & Urhere, 2021).

According to research conducted on a study of police reform experiment in India aimed at improving Children's access to justice for crimes of Violence against them, the experiment involved the establishment of "women's help desks" within police stations, where female officers would interact with female complainants. The outcomes of the trial were varied. There was an increase in incident reports filed, and some police officers exhibited changed attitudes toward Violence against women (Blair & Jassal, 2022). According to TPF (2022), police gender and children's desks

have the role of ensuring that all cases related to gender and children violence are eliminated in societies, cases such as rape, impregnating students, child labor, indecent assault, other forms of assaults, genital cutting, abduction, and other natural offenses ought to be dealt with accordingly and minimized. Gender and children desk police officers should create a user-friendly environment such that survivors and victims of Violence feel safe, comfortable, and impressed to speak out the truth without hesitation (Lilian, 2022)

Literature shows that Tanzania, like other countries, has been taking various measures to fight against gender-based Violence; the Government introduced the Sexual Offence Special Provisions Act of 1998, which poses harsh penalties for perpetrators of sexual Violence. Each ministry has a gender focal point, and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, and Children has initiated efforts to train the focal points on ways to mainstream Gender in their Ministry work plans and budgets. Also noteworthy, the Inspector General of the Tanzanian Police Force, Saidi Ali Mwema, has instituted reforms to make the Police more accessible and responsive to the community's needs. Out of this initiative, the Tanzania Police Female Network (TPFNet) was created, and with it came the creation of gender desks to respond to cases of GBV at police stations (Lilian, 2022)

2.3.3 The challenges facing Police Gender Desks in the prevention of Violence Against Children

Globally, according to Gill (2021), one of the challenges faced by the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) in the United States of America investigators in dealing with Violence against Women and their Children (VAWC) cases is the reluctance of victims to reveal the facts. As a result, police officers may be unable to

immediately capture the offender and turn over the case for due process, as they need to have full details and the identity of the batterer before proceeding (Gill, 2021).

Kimani (2007) and Lilian (2022) show that achievements made throughout the continent to address VAC continued to be hampered by the absence of adequate reporting mechanisms. The author noted the limited capacities of law enforcement agencies and social-cultural issues that obstructed reporting. The failure to pay the amount demanded by the Police resulted in the Police not pursuing and apprehending the perpetrators. There was inadequate transport to and from police stations and courts. This made the investigations last longer than the 24-hour limit stipulated by law to detain a suspect before being arraigned in court (Lilian, 2022).

Findings from Bieler & Boren (2021) show that the persistent challenges, including the widespread perceptions that women who report violence risk criticism, harassment, and humiliation from members of their community and that domestic Violence is a private matter to be settled within families rather than a criminal matter calling for the involvement of law enforcement. Both of these perceptions are likely to discourage Children from reporting crimes against them, allowing VAC to continue to threaten their safety and well-being (Bieler & Boren, 2021).

The 24-hour period did not allow for the conclusion of the medical report findings, given that an official medical examination report had to be completed by a certified doctor. Moribund police gender desks where police stations were themselves understaffed. This situation affected the effectiveness of the Police and fundamentally limited service delivery to the people. A report from the Policy Brief forum against the VAC (2012) showed that a frequent problem which showed up was

that of officers attached to the women's and children's desks being given other police duties and were not available for the gender desk services (Bieler & Boren, 2021).

According to research by Clara (2016) in the Katavi Region, the researcher asked 13 respondents about the challenges facing the Police Gender Desk in the Katavi Region. The result of eight respondents, which are equal to 61.5%, said there was a lack of materials, which includes confidential rooms and their associates and transport, 1 Respondent, which is equal to 7.7%, said many people feel 52 shameful to report crimes concerning Gender Violence and Child Abuse. Others did not know where to report or were afraid to report. Two respondents, which is equal 15.4%, said the lack of enough cooperation from the society with the destructive culture of the surrounding societies causes many witnesses to fail to go the court of law due to distance and fear to break their families, two respondents which is equal to 15.4 respondents said there is no special fund allocated to the Desk with few well and trained personnel (Lilian, 2022).

Results from the study (Lilian, 2022) indicated that many gender desks at various police stations have insufficient police officers working there. Most of the desks have deployed only two to three police officers to work at the desks, a pattern which is awkward to instruction that demands each Desk to have eight police officers to work at gender desks. Quantitative data revealed that 77 percent of respondents agreed that the number of police officers at gender desks does not meet requirements. In comparison, 23 percent accepted that there are few gender desk police officers (Lilian, 2022). In addition, there is poor deployment of officers to work as Police Gender and Children Desk Officers. Those selected to work at gender desks were

unhealthy, stressed, officers with family problems, and pregnant women Police. Quantitative data further revealed that 29.5 percent of respondents accepted poor selection of police officers at Gender and children's desks, while 70.5 percent believed that selection was done correctly. The notion of poor selection was supported by qualitative data whereby one police officer clearly explained during FGDs that "Most of Gender and children desk officers are selected poorly such that some of them suffer from permanent illnesses (unhealthy) and some are pregnant as well as elderly. Sometimes, those trained on gender issues are not posted to work at Gender and children's desks. Instead, they are working for other police duties, and nobody seems to care much (Lilian, 2022).

Lack of Transport, Police gender and violence need to move here and there to rescue survivors, make arrests of perpetrators, visit crime scenes, and send victims to hospitals as well as other areas for assistance. Qualitative data revealed that Police at Gender and children's desks face transport problems. During in-depth interviews and FGDs, many participants claimed they could not assist victims because of a shortage of transport. In open-ended questions, one respondent explained, "We police officers at gender desks are facing a huge challenge once we get violence victims. We must take them to hospitals, social welfare offices, or crime scenes. We do not have means of transport, and sometimes we are forced to spend our money to fulfill such demands." Findings indicated further that the shortage of transport brings additional difficulties to awareness programs. Gender desk police officers could not even reach many people at the grassroots level to educate them on preventing and reporting gender violence issues (Lilian, 2022).

2.4 Research Gap

The literature and studies done on the efficiency of the Police Gender and Children's Desk show a few reasons for the Efficiency of the Police Gender and Children's Desk, like the shortage of shelter for survivors of Gender Violence (GBV) and limited formal support services for survivors in rural areas. This made the workforce fail to do its work efficiently and effectively because many victims of Gender- Based Violence need help from a place to live while there is nowhere to go. However, no specific research or studies go directly into deep analysis of the effectiveness of the Police Gender and Children's Desk (Diana, 2023).

Also, most of the study did not suggest the way forward on making police Gender Desk efficient in Violence against Children and what they can improve in their daily activities of protecting VAC and achieve that goal; police officers at gender desks need empowerment in terms of training, equipment, offices and the like. The assessment was done on such aspects, and forecasts have shown that police gender and children's desks are facing several challenges apart from that in line with the decrease in Gender and children's violations, which will be covered in this research. Moreover, the study indicated that the challenges of gender-based Violence must be tackled as a gender equality and human rights issue that requires increased gender equality measures. Police gender desk duty is to reduce GBV and Violence Against children incidences since it was created for that goal. Participants stated that the primary duty of the Police gender desk was to solve some problems of gender victims (Tsapalas & Bernales, 2021). Violence against Children as offenses occurs in communities, especially within a family, and such offenses include rape, early

marriage, touchier, beating, family abandonment, and female genital mutilation. Most research has not suggested how the Police Gender Desk will collaborate with different stakeholders to eradicate VAC in society and remove its challenges (Mlay, 2020).

Murthy and Bilimale (2020), in their paper titled "Perceptions and Possible Solutions for Violence Against Children among mothers of under-five," discovered that Violence in school children has severe repercussions for their growth as it makes them more stubborn and less attached to their family members. This suggests that if there are no deliberate actions taken to control Violence against under-five children, we indirectly nurture a violent and isolated future generation. This is supported by Hetherington and Kelly (2002) in Afolabi(2014) indicated that even though most child victims are resilient, a significant few still suffer long-term adverse psychological and biological consequences in life (Murthy & Bilimale, 2020)

Also, most studies recommend that the Government should give awareness to the citizens about gender desks, which will help the victims know where to address their problems. The victims of VAC might not get the required services from the gender desk due to their unawareness of the existence of the gender desk in their area (Mlay, 2020). However, the police gender desk, NGOs, and other agencies should continue to protect, promote, empower, and solve community problems and encourage survivors of Child Abuse to speak out or express their internal problems and maintain the secrecy and humanity of affected persons, but did not show how Gender desk will use different measure apart sending the offense to court to be more efficiency so this motivated the researcher to conduct a detailed study on efficiency

of Police Gender and Children's Desk (PGCD) in protecting Children from Violence to come up with the suggestion that should be done.

2.5 Conceptual framework

The efficiency of Police Gender Desks in Preventing Violence against Children is assessed through the following variables.

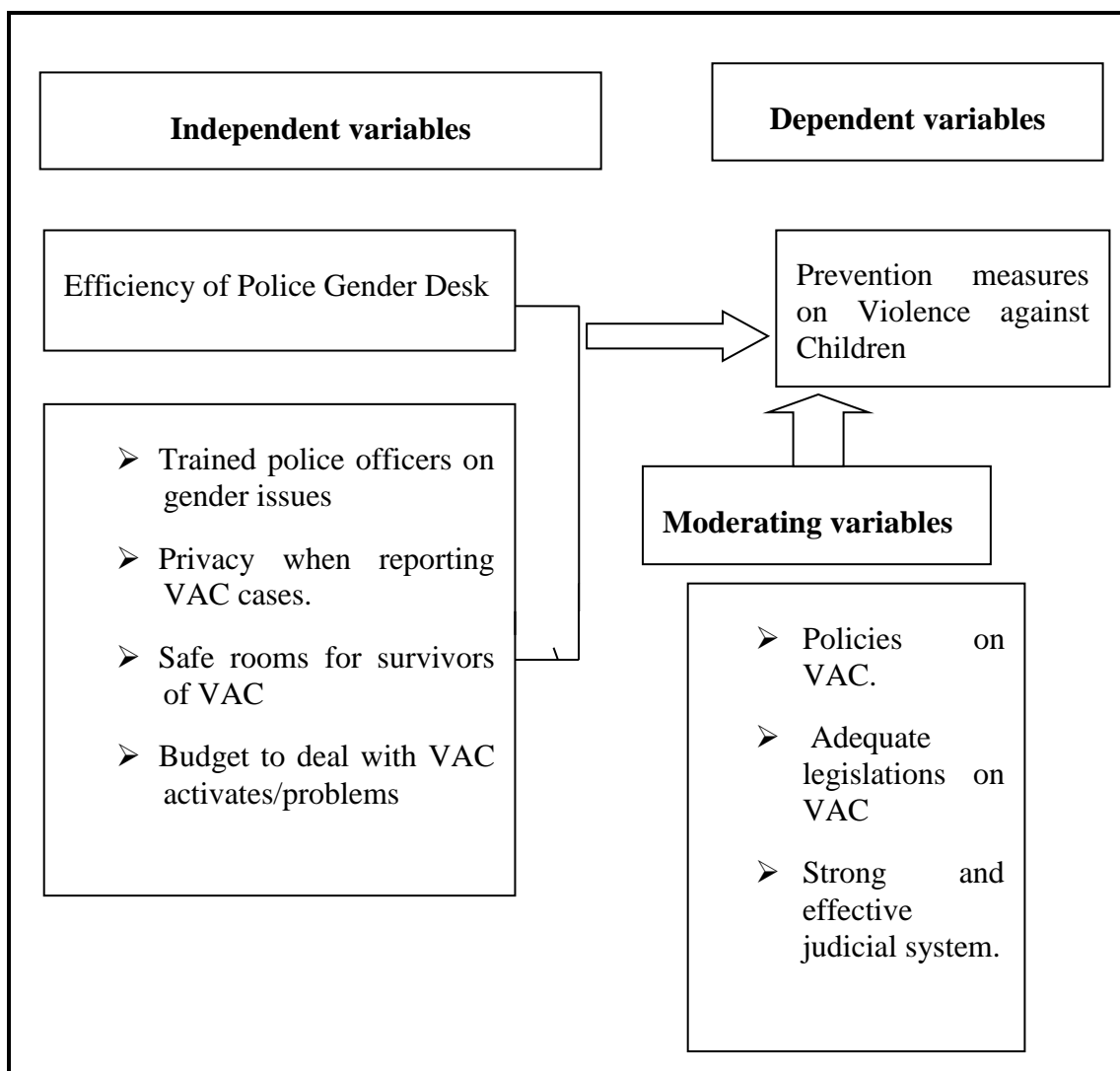


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework for the efficiency of Police Gender Desks in Preventing Violence Against Children

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Chapter Overview

This chapter presents research methodology, a systematic approach to solving research problems (Kothari, 2023). It gives an overview of the research philosophy, research design, study area, target population, sample and sampling techniques, methods of data collection, and data analysis techniques.

3.1 Research Philosophy

A research philosophy is a set of fundamental beliefs that guide the design and execution of a research study, and different research philosophies offer different ways of understanding scientific research (Kothari, 2023). Due to the nature of the study and the study method, the searcher uses pragmatic philosophy (pragmatism) tools to study phenomena. The reason for selecting this philosophy is that pragmatism helps a researcher to bridge the gap between how someone views and interprets reality (positivism and interpretivism) and accommodates the mixed method used of qualitative and quantitative research.

3.1.1 Research Design

A research design is an arrangement of conditions for data collection and analysis that combines relevance to the research purpose with economy in the procedure (Kothari, 2023). This study uses a descriptive research design, enabling quantitative and qualitative research methods. This design is used because it is the easiest method for the researcher and the most cost-efficient way to gain feedback on a topic. For example, this design enables a researcher to collect data by collaborating with data

collection methods like observation, interviews, and questionnaires (triangulation) (Kitchin & Nicholaus, 2000).

3.1.2 Research Approaches

The study was carried out using a mixed-method approach, which allows it to use both quantitative and qualitative research methods. This approach integrates positivism and interpretivism philosophical frameworks (Dawadi & Giri, 2021).

3.1.2.1 Qualitative Approaches

The study uses a qualitative approach that explores and provides deeper insights into real-world problems. Instead of collecting numerical data points like in quantitative research, qualitative research helps generate hypotheses to investigate further and understand quantitative data. Qualitative research gathers participants' experiences, perceptions, and behavior. It answers the how and why instead of how many or how much (Dawadi & Giri, 2021).

3.1.2.2 Quantitative Approaches

The study uses a quantitative approach because it allows the researcher to analyze and gather numerical data to uncover trends, calculate averages, evaluate relationships, and derive overarching insights. Quantitative data analysis is used in various fields, including the natural and social sciences. It employs statistical techniques for processing and interpreting numeric data. Research designs in the quantitative realm outline how data is collected and analyzed with methods like experiments and surveys (Dawadi & Giri, 2021).

3.2 Study Area

Study Area is a specific area within which the researchers conduct the research (Dawadi & Giri, 2021). The study was carried out in the Mara Region at Bunda District, where 2024 reported by LHRC as the first region with the highest rate of VAC at 66%, followed by Dododma at 54% and Kagera at 53 % (LHRC, Report 2024). Among all districts in the Mara Region, Bunda District is the first district with a high rate of VAC, and the last one is Butiama District. So, Bunda District was selected due to the high reported rate of VAC and the lack of published research concerning VAC, which measures the efficiency of the Police Gender and Children's Desk (PGCD) in protecting VAC in Bunda District. Therefore, this study needs to be conducted in Bunda District to determine the effectiveness of PGCD in protecting VAC.

3.3 Study Population

The population of the study refers to people the researcher has in mind from which information can be obtained (Busha & Harder, 1980). According to NBS, which was conducted in 2022, Bunda District has a total population of **243,822**, where Males **118,757** and **125,065**

3.4 Sampling Procedure

According to Kothari (2023), a sampling procedure is a design applied by the researcher to select a sample from a given population. The study employs simple random and purposive sampling procedures for selecting a sample from the targeted population (Kothari, 2023). Sampling is the act, process, or technique of selecting a suitable sample or a representative part of the population. A sample is the finite part

of a statistical population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole (Kothari ,2023).

3.4.1 Probability or Non-probability Sampling

The study used both methods of sampling. In probability sampling, the researcher's methods include simple random, systematic, stratified, and cluster sampling. In non-probability sampling, the researcher selects respondents based on non-random criteria, and not every member of the population has a chance of being included.

3.4.2 Sample size

The sample size was determined using a Yamane formula of 1967 and the sample size for the current study sample. A sample is the finite part of a statistical population whose properties are studied to gain information about the whole. The study has a sample size total of 137 participants. The study includes the following categories of respondents: 123 stakeholders of VAC, two senior Police officials, 4 Police Desk officers, one 1Public Prosecutor (PP), two social welfare officers, one lawyer, two magistrates, and two religious leaders, victims of violence. Also included in the study are stakeholders who assess their satisfaction and get their views on the services they get. Based on the above consideration, the researcher adopted Yamane's (1967) simplified formula to calculate the appropriate.

Table 3.1: Study Population and Sample Size

Distribution of category	Population	Sample Size	Sampling method
Victim of VAC	137	123	Random sampling
Senior Police Office		2	Purposive sampling
Police Gender Desk Officer		4	Purposive sampling
Public Prosecutor (PP)		1	Purposive sampling
Social welfare officer		2	Purposive sampling
Magistrate		2	Random sampling
Religious leaders		2	Purposive sampling
Lawyer		1	Purposive sampling
Total	137	137	

3.5 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

According to Fontana and Frey (2022), using different methods known as "triangulation" minimizes the possibility of making erroneous conclusions and increases the credibility of the findings. This study combines different methods of collecting data to ensure the accuracy of the work and minimize the occurrence of weaknesses that may happen due to the use of one method.

3.6 Primary Data Source

Primary data are those collected afresh and for the first time and thus happen to be original in character (Kothari, 2023). In this research, primary data were collected using three methods: questionnaires, interviews, and observation tools. The primary data on the efficiency of PGCD were collected using these methods.

3.7 Data Collection Method

Data collection is an essential stage where information is gathered for this study. In this study, both primary and secondary data are used to collect data and enable the researcher to make an appropriate decision regarding data analysis.

3.7.1 Questionnaire

According to Kothari (2023), a questionnaire is a method of collecting data which uses a set of questions for collecting data. The semi-structured questionnaire, having both open and close-ended questions, enables to determine the efficiency of the Police Gender and Children's Desk and the objective of examining the role and the challenge of the Police Gender Desks to protect against Violence Against Children in Bunda District Council use this tool to collect information to VAC stakeholders.

3.7.2 Key Informant Interview

Interviewing is a tool that involves data collection through direct verbal interaction between the researcher and respondents (Bhandari, 2024). This study uses semi-structured interviews as it enables not to repeat asking the questions already answered by the respondent when explaining issues asked. The interview was conducted with police officers who work in PGCD and their leaders, Social Welfare officers, magistrates, Religious leaders, Lawyers, and Public prosecutors. Some statements were provided to respondents using a Likert scale in order for them to agree or disagree with the statement. The interview is chosen due to its strength in capturing empirical data in formal and informal settings. This method is used for objectives evaluating measures to combat VAC in Bunda District.

3.8 Validity & Reliability

The result only has meaning if it measures what it is supposed to measure (valid) and does so accurately and consistently (Reliability). Evaluating whether data are reliable and valid is critical in applying research findings. If a study's results are not deemed to be valid, then they are meaningless to the study.

3.8.1 Validity

Validity relates to the quality of a study, which measures what it claims to measure Bhandari, (2024). To ensure the validity of the data, the triangulation method was used in sampling, and adequate data was collected. This means that different sampling and data collection methods, like questionnaires, interviews, and direct field observation, are used. Triangulation helps to demonstrate validity and open up a new perspective on the topic investigated.

3.8.2 Reliability

Studies are reliable if the same or similar results are obtained when a study is carried out by others using the same tools (Bhandari, 2024). To ensure the Reliability of methods for data collection and analysis, pre-testing is conducted with selected respondents across the study area before actual data collection.

3.9 Qualitative Data Rigor

Qualitative rigor refers to the transparency of the research, which is achieved by applying systematic and disciplined methods to ensure the credibility, dependability, conformability, and transferability of research findings. In qualitative inquiry, these attributes ensure that the research accurately reflects the phenomenon it is intended

to represent, that others can use its findings, and that its processes and results are open to scrutiny and validation (Bhandari, 2024).

3.9.1 Dependability

Dependability is the stability of findings over time, which involves the participant's evaluation of the findings, interpretation, and recommendations of the study such that all are supported by the data received from the study participants. The logic for selecting people and events to observe, interview, and include in the study should be presented. The more consistent the researcher has been in this research process, the more dependable the results (Bhandari, 2024).

3.9.2 Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is an expectation in qualitative methodologies that the researcher should provide enough explanation, transparency, and evidence that their results can be confidently believed (Bhandari, 2024).

3.9.3 Conformability

Conformability is the standard by which a qualitative study is expected to be supported by informants (participants) involved in the study and by events independent of the researcher. Reference to literature and findings by other authors that confirm the researcher's interpretations can strengthen the study's conformability, in addition to information and interpretations by people other than the researcher from within the inquiry site (Bhandari, 2024).

3.10 Data Analysis and Presentation

According to Kothari (2023), data analysis means computing specific measures and searching for relationship patterns among the data group. Thus, in the analysis process, relationships or differences supporting or conflicting with the original or new hypothesis are subjected to statistical tests of significance to determine if valid data can indicate any conclusion (Kothari, 2023).

3.10.1 Data analysis

According to Kothari (2023), data analysis is systematically working with data or applying statistical and logical techniques to describe, organize, summarize, and compare the data collected and divide them into manageable portions. Data was analyzed using thematic for qualitative data and descriptive for quantitative data through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16 because it was easily presented in the form of figures and tables.

3.10.2 Data Presentation

Data presentation refers to clearly and understandably displaying research findings, analysis results, and data (Kothari, 2023). This study's data analysis results are presented in tables.

3.11 Ethical Consideration

These are the set of principles to which researchers must adhere and which guide research design and practices. Scientists and researchers must consider a certain code of conduct when dealing with or collecting research data and findings from people (Bhandari, 2024). The researcher was conversant that collecting data from offenders

and closed systems is susceptible, and therefore, ethical issues must be abided by. Therefore, the research permit to collect data was acquired from authorities after the supervisor's approval of the research proposal and after the letter from the Open University of Tanzania was issued. During data collection from the respondents, the researcher complied with the following ethical issues.

3.11.1 University clearance

This is an introductory letter given to students, presenting specific authority that enables students to conduct research and collect data obtained from the University (OUT), indicating the researcher's identity and intentions.

Moreover, before collecting data, the researcher obtained a clearance letter from the Open University of Tanzania, which was presented to Bunda District Authorities to allow the researcher to collect data. Therefore, written permission to conduct the research study was obtained from the mentioned authority.

3.11.2 Confidentiality

(Bhandari, 2024), confidentiality is the researcher's agreement with persons about what may be done with their data. There was an agreement of confidentiality between the researcher and the Police Gender Desk, social welfare officers, and police officers, whereby names were on the questionnaire and privacy issues were discussed during the interview; therefore, all information collected from respondents remains confidential even after this study.

3.11.3 Informed Consent

Informed Consent is the process of telling potential research participants about the critical elements of a research study and what their participation will involve (Bhandari, 2024); the researcher obtained informed Consent and voluntary participation from all participants in the study. The researcher used a custodian instead of the consent form for pupils who are children under 18 years old to get the information required for this study. The researcher asked the victim's parents a question. The researcher provided introductory remarks to the respondents concerning the study's purpose before collecting data.

3.11.4 Voluntary Participation

In this study, voluntary participation is considered to ensure that all research subjects are free to choose or participate without any pressure or coercion. All participants can withdraw from or leave the study at any point without feeling an obligation to continue.

3.11.5 Do not Harm Principle

It is the researcher's responsibility to avoid, prevent, or minimize harm to others. The Principle of minimizing harm implies that research involves the fewest human subjects and the fewest tests on these participants required to ensure that data is scientifically valid.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This study aims to assess the efficiency of Police Gender desks in protecting Children Against Violence in Tanzania, a case study of Bunda Police Gender Desk. Therefore, the chapter presents the research results obtained from the study, which were analyzed using Scientific Package for Social Science (SPSS). Moreover, information obtained was categorized into two subtopic demographic characteristics of research respondents, and the findings were obtained through the study's research questions. The research questions of the study are as follows;

1. What are the roles of PGD to protect Violence Against Children committed in Bunda District?
2. What are the alternative measures to combat Violence Against Children in Bunda District?
3. What are the challenges facing Police Gender Desks in the protection of violence against children in Bunda District?

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Social demographic characteristics present feature characteristics information on the socio-demographic information of the respondents (Diana, 2023). In the Current study, demographic characteristics were categorized with a focus on age, sex, marital status, and level of education.

4.1.1 Age of Respondents

The researcher observed the population age distribution of the area under study to determine the age groups involved in the study and their level of understanding of the subject matter, as presented in the table below.

Table 4.1: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Response (%)
18-24	20	14.6
25-30	15	11
31-35	40	29.2
36-40	18	13.1
41-45	11	8
46-50	23	16.8
Above 50	10	7.3
Total	137	100

Source: Field data, 2024

The above table interpretation the age profile of participants in frequency and percentage, the findings revealed the percentage of respondents by Age whereby 29.2% of the respondents which equals to 40 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 31-35 years, while 16.8 percentage of the total respondents which equals to 23 respondents out of the 137 respondents in sample had the Age ranging 46-50 years ,14.6% of the total respondents which equals to 20 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 18-24 years, 13.1% of the total respondents which equals to 18 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 36-40 years, 11% of the total respondents which equals to 15 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample

had the Age ranging 25-30 years 8% of the total respondents which equals to 11 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 41-45 years, and the rest 7.3% of the respondents which equals to 10 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 50 years and above. The majority of the respondents had the Age ranging from 31-35 years and 46-50 years, which are the age group that has children who are at risk of being violated. Most of the respondents in these age groups are either in marriage or in a relationship with children, in which they tend to face violence. This helped the researcher to get a good understanding of the violence occurring to Children who are either in their families or in community marriage.

4.1.2 Sex of Respondents

The variable sex of respondents was categorized as male and female, presented in the table below.

Table 4.2: Sex of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Response (%)
Male	47	34.3
Female	90	65.7
Total	137	100

Source: Field data, 2024

Table 4.2 presents the sex of the participants. The findings revealed that (65.7%) of the respondents were female while male were 34.3% were male. This implies that women are ready to explain Violence against Children issues because they are always parenting Children at home as compared with men. Also, the ratio of women

is higher than that of men because women spend more time with their Children, who are the victims of violence so that they can raise their voices through this study.

4.1.3 Marital Status of Respondents

The study participants' marital statuses were categorized into four levels, namely: Married, Not married, Divorced, and widowed, as indicated in Table 4.3 below;

Table 4.3: Marital status of Respondents

Status	Frequency	Response (%)
Married	85	62.0
Not married	27	19.7
Divorced	16	11.6
Widowed	9	6.7
Total	137	100

Source: Field data, 2024

Table 4.3 presents the marital status of participants, and the findings show the marital status of respondents from households. As shown in Table 4.3, the majority (62.0%) of the respondents was married, about 19.7% were single, 11.6% were divorced, and (6.7%) cases were widowed. This implies that both statuses are in an excellent position to explain the actual situation and the children's experience.

4.1.4 Level of Education of Respondents

The study participants were categorized into five levels of education, namely primary, secondary, Certificate, Diploma, and University, as indicated in Table 4.4 below;

Table 4.4: Level of Education of Respondents

Education Level	Frequency	Response (%)
Primary school education	53	38.7
Secondary school education	27	19.7
Certificate	19	13.9
Diploma	17	12.4
Higher education	21	15.3
Total	137	100

Source: Field data, 2024

Table 4.4 observed the respondents' education levels to determine the respondents' level of understanding of child rights opportunities in the education system. The findings reveal that 38.7% of participants, which equals 53 respondents out of 137 respondents, had a primary level of education, followed by 19.7 % of the total respondents, which equals 27 respondents out of the 137 respondents, had a Secondary education, 13.9% of the total respondents which equals to 19 respondents out of 137 respondents had Certificate education, 15.3% of the total respondents which equals to 21 respondents out of 137 respondents had Higher education. In comparison, only 12.4% of the respondents had a diploma education, which equals 17 out of 137. Since most of the respondents had secondary and primary levels of education, this implies that most did not get enough education as most did not get any college education. Hence, they had little understanding of Children's rights and were faced with poverty due to unemployment as the result of lack of education; thus, they were prone to gender-based Violence.

4.2 The role of the Police Gender Desks to protect Violence Against Children

The objective of the study aimed to examine the role of the Police Gender Desk in protecting against Violence against Children in Bunda District. In this part, the researcher identified specific questions that were asked of the participants about their perceptions of the role of the Police Gender Desk in protection against Violence against Children. Questionnaires were used to collect data from the participants to address this objective. The study findings revealed that the participants have a good knowledge of social factors contributing to child sexual abuse. The obtained results are described and presented below.

4.2.1 The meaning of Police Gender Desk (PGD)

Respondents were asked about the meaning of the Police Gender Desk to understand their knowledge about the gender desk. All 123 contributors, which is equal to 100%, show that they have enough knowledge about a Gender and Children's desk 51 respondents out of 137 respondents, which is equal to 41.5%, define it as a desk that deals with all crimes based on women and children's Violence and others said that it is a desk which deals with all cases based on men, women, and children's Violence. 39 out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 31.7% of respondents, definitions Desk deals with all cases based on men, women, and children's Violence. In comparison, another 21 respondents, equal to 17.1 %, defined it, and 12 respondents, equal to 9.6%, answered that they didn't know the meaning of Gender Desk. Hence, for those definitions of police Gender Desk to work, the gender desk needs to prepare a friendly environment for the victims of Gender Violence so that they can be motivated to report their cases as TAWLA (2019) in which the author elaborated that

Police Gender Desk introduced to make the Police station environment less intimidating to Children victims of sexual Violence. Findings also reveal that the roles are not well performed in the District.

Table 4.5: Meaning of Police Gender Desk (PGD)

Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Desk, which deals with all crimes based on women and children's violence	51	41.5
Desk which deals with all cases based on men, women and children's violence	39	31.7
I don't know the meaning of Gender Desk	12	9.6
Desk in which a victim was taken to the secrecy place so as to be free to give out his complaints about the violence	21	17.1
Total	123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.2.2 The meaning of Violence Against Children (VAC)

On Violence against Children, participants were asked about the meaning of Violence Against Children to get their understanding of Violence committed against children, as presented in Table 4.6. Findings reveal that 123 respondents, equal to 100%, show they have enough knowledge about the meaning of Violence against Children (VAC). The majority, 41 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 33.3%, explain that the VAC is physically touchier committed to Children that cause harm to Children. Also, 32 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 26.1%, explain that the meaning of VAC as Bad behavior that exploits children Sexual, 27 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 21.9%,

clarify that the meaning of Violence Against Children is Mistreatment that harms children Psychological or Emotional, 23 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 18.7% explain that the meaning VAC as the Negative occult and bad cultural practices committed to Children like FGM.

Table 4.6: Meaning of Violence Against Children (VAC)

Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Physical touchier committed to Children that cause harm to Children.	41	33.3
Mistreatment that harm children Psychological or Emotional	27	21.9
Bad behavior that exploit children Sexual	32	26.1
Negative occult and bad cultural practices committed to Children like FGM.	23	18.7
Total	123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

Moreover, the findings supported by (UNICEF, 2016) explain Violence Against children (VAC) in the African context, where the area of study is complex and bound by multifaceted socio-cultural norms, values, practices, power relations, and structures, which are underpinned by robust, longstanding traditional tenets and beliefs alongside written formal laws. Boyden et al. argue that human rights-based approaches emphasize the right to be protected from harm and to have a say in decisions that affect one's life. In contrast, traditional approaches emphasize collective well-being and social acceptance, a different form of protection. According to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, "violence is understood to mean all forms of harm to children and all forms of physical or mental violence,

injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse as listed in article 19', paragraph 1, of the Convention". This definition "encompasses all types of Violence and covers the wide range of acts of commission and omission that constitute Violence and outcomes beyond deaths and injuries.

4.2.3 The role and aims of establishing the PGCD desk

Further, participants were asked about the aim of establishing the Police Gender desk and their role in understanding their knowledge about gender desk. All 123 contributors which is equal to 100% shows that they have enough the knowledge about the aim of establishing Gender and Children's desk in which majority of 51 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 41.5% explain that the desk was established to reduce Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse, also 32 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 26% explain that the desk was established to arrest and take to the court of law the criminals of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse, 19 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 15.4% explain that the desk was established to increase public awareness on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse, 13 respondents out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 10.6% explain that the desk was established to collect data and information on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse also minority of respondent 8 out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 6.5% explain that the desk was established to collect data and information on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse also according TPF (2022), Gender desks are established with the aim of dealing with the eradication all forms of Gender violence in the community as well as acting as a

focal points where gender based violence cases are reported also the police gender desks were expected to prevent and respond to GBV as well as creating awareness on VAC to members of public through different measure. Another aim was to conduct patrols and apply other security measures and arrangements, such as community policing, to combat the occurrence of VAC. In responding to VAC, gender desks were expected to conduct investigations and charge the perpetrators, provide shelters and safe houses for survivors, and refer the survivors for health, psychosocial, and legal representation. The PGCD was also expected to reintegrate the survivors of sexual Violence, Physical Violence, and Psychological Violence to rehabilitate the offenders and give evidence in court.

Table 4.7: The role and aims of establishing the PGCD desk

Response	Frequency	Response (%)
To reduce Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse	51	41.5
To encourage survivors of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse to speak out or express their problems	8	6.5
To increase public awareness on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse	19	15.4
To collect data and information on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse.	13	10.6
To arrest and take to the court of law the criminals of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse	32	26
Total	123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.2.4 Police Gender Desk has well and trained officers who are able to address the problem of VAC effectively

The participants were also asked about the Police Gender Desk and whether it has trained officers to address the problem of VAC. The responses are shown in Table 4.8, where 48 %, 59 respondents out of 123 respondents, said the Police Gender Desk has trained officers. In comparison, 52% of respondents, which equals 64 respondents out of 123 respondents, said the Police Gender Desk didn't have well-trained officers. Hence, the number of respondents who said the Police Gender Desk didn't have trained officers exceeded the number of the ones who agreed by 2%. The reasons for the answers to that question were elaborated in Figure 4.8, in which a large number of respondents said no 25.2% of them which equals to 31 respondents out of 123 respondents, said there is no special training given to the workforce and the workforce use experience in its work. In comparison, the respondents who said Yes 23.6% of them which equals to 29 respondents out of 123 respondents said there are no complaints from those who get services because they were attended well, and 8.9% of respondents which equals to 11 of them said because Some of the members from the Gender Desk get training and know their responsibilities.

Hence, it can be concluded that members of the Police Gender Desk need training on Gender-Based Violence and Child Abuse to deal with all cases of Gender Violence and Child Abuse effectively, as 31 respondents said the Police Gender Desk workforce didn't get any training on Gender-Based Violence and Child Abuse. They just work by using experiences acquired during attending to the victims of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse. Those experiences include decision-making skills, teamwork spirit and cooperation, and communication skills like listening skills. For

example, while listening to the victim of rape, you need to be attentive because the way the victim repeats the exact words hurts her, and she even starts to cry, which is very bad, and letter writing skills are also needed. After all, official letters must be written and sent to other organizations and social welfare to receive the victims who have nowhere to go, like orphans, and letters to the village councilors to call for the complainant and witnesses. This was emphasized by the Multi Sector National Plan of Action to prevent and Respond to Violence against Children (2013). Currently, few Police are trained in child abuse and domestic violence and do not have the facilities and materials needed to take care of the children. A small number of Police coordinate with health services to make sure that children receive the required medical care and social services to ensure they are protected. They also often lack the means to deal with perpetrators.

Table 4.8: Police Gender Desk has well and trained officers who are able to address the problem of VAC effectively

	Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Yes	Some of the members from the Gender Desk get training and know their responsibilities	11	8.9
	Complaints reduced from those who get the service because they were well attended.	29	23.6
	The desk members provide Education public in general about gender based violence and child abuse.	13	10.6
	The reducing cases related to Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse.	6	4.9
No	The workforce was busy with other Police duties rather than dealing with only one kind of	16	13

	responsibility which is Gender Desk issues		
	No special training on gender issues given to the workforce They are working through experience.	31	25.2
	Members from the desk were just selected from any department without any criteria.	10	8.1
	They lack investigation skill to ha decision making authority and capacity to deal with cases of violence.	7	5.7
Total		123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.2.5 Number of Police Officers Dealing with Gender Desk Reasonable

The researcher asked participants these kinds of questions to understand the size of the Gender Desk workforces and the skills involved. Appendix 1, which involves 123 respondents, asked about the number of Police Gender Desk workforce if it was reasonable. Responses were revealed in figure 4.7, in which 61.8% of them, which equals 47 respondents out of 123 respondents, said the number of Police Gender Desk workforce is unreasonable. In comparison, 38.2% of them, which equals 47 out of 123 respondents, said the number of Police Gender Desk employees is reasonable.

According to those results, hence it means a high number of respondents which is 61.8% of respondents, said the number of Police Gender Desk workforce is not reasonable to deal with all the cases and claims of Gender Violence and Child Abuse due to the high number of cases reported to the desk. Multi-Sector National Plan of Action to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Children (2022) elaborated that'

currently, few Police are trained in child abuse and domestic violence and do not have the facilities and materials needed to take care of the children cases reported.

Table 4.9: The Number of Police Officers Dealing With Gender Desk Reasonable

Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Reasonable	47	38.2
Not reasonable	76	61.8
Total	123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.2.6 Police Gender Desk is well Known to the Majority of People in Bunda District

The researcher asked participants if the Police Gender Desk is well known to the majority to see the number of people who understand its existence and its activities. Among those 123 respondents, 47 respondents, which is equal to 38.2% of them, said Yes, while 76 respondents, which is equal to 61.8% of them, said No. Also, respondents gave different reasons to defend their answers, as shown in table 4.10, in which most respondents said yes, 25.2 % of them, which equals 31 respondents out of 123 respondents, said many victims ask for the desk while arriving at the police post. Many cases were filed while most respondents who said No, which are 41.5% of them, which equals 51 respondents, said it was due to crimes based on GenGenderder-based violence and child abuse still existing. If the Police gender desk was not well known to the majority of people, then it is difficult to address the problem of gender violence. Moreover, the victims of Violence against Children do not get the required services from the gender desk due to their unawareness of the existence of the gender desk. Therefore, this is supported by the arguments done by

UNFPA (1999), which specify that poor awareness of the existing Police gender desk and general public resistance to improving Gender-based violence are some of the obstacles to addressing the problem in Tanzania.

Table 4.10: Police Gender Desk is well known to the majority of people in Bunda District

	Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Yes	Many victims ask for the desk while arriving to the Police post and many cases were filed.	31	25.2
	Many people in the society spoke of the gender desk due to education given to them.	9	7.3
	Crimes of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse were minimized.	7	5.7
No	Crimes based on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse still existed.	51	41.5
	Many victims, especially from rural areas are not aware of the desk due to the distance and absence of publication around the surrounding societies	19	15.4
	Officers were few to train the whole region with poor communication network.	6	4.9
Total		123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

Findings reveal that the theory about the challenges of PGCD is relevant to this theory as it emphasizes a society's equilibrium and maintenance of order. Still, if something happens in the community to disrupt the order and the system's flow, it leads to challenges for the desk; moreover, society must adjust itself to achieve a

good society. He explained society as an organism; like within an organism, each component plays a necessary part. Still, none can function alone, so the challenges of PGCD result from one organ not performing its responsibilities well to each other; the efficiency of the Gender Desk depends on cooperation between the Government, society, and the Police Gender Desk in performing the given role.

4.3 Alternative measure to address the problem of VAC in the Bunda District

The study aimed to assess alternative measures to combat Violence against Children in the Bunda District. In this part, the researcher identified specific questions that were asked of the participants about their perceptions of these measures. Interviews were used to collect data from the participants to address this objective. The obtained results are described and presented below.

From the interview responses, the respondents showed their views on the alternative measures to address the problem of Violence Against Children as follows;

Service providers that when they were asked about measures to be taken to address the problem of VAC, various measures were suggested, which include;

"The government should provide mass education via televisions, radio, and newspapers about the impact of Child Violence; furthermore the government should educate the families on their rights and the right of their Child and where to report when they face VAC."

This implies that community members still need more awareness education and VAC training to increase their awareness of what to do when facing VAC problems. The

emergence of fear among VAC victims and family members is harmful for PGCD to be efficient.

Moreover, during an interview with a Police officer in charge and the Gender desk office, said that;

The other measure is that the Police force should give the gender desk its importance by preparing enough budgets to have a good office, training officers on gender issues, and having transport facilities when they need to contact their clients. The other measure recommended by most respondents was severe legal action to be taken against those attempting it.

This implies that the Gender Desk must be given enough budgets to operate efficiently. Currently, they are not efficient in protecting Violence against Children, as their performance depends on those factors.

Further, one of the VAC victims during an interview told the researcher that,

"There are not enough services dedicated to fulfilling the needs of the community, especially for the VAC victims, especially legal services, timely police assistance, timely social services, and shelter."

This shows that the Government has to ensure that PGD is well equipped and facilitated to meet all their needs so that the VAC service is available promptly. This will allow the community to increase crime reporting to PGCD.

One Lawyer victim added that,

"Still, there are very few lawyers available in rural areas to serve VAC victims, even if when they are available their services are more

expensive which most of the VAC victims are not afford to pay, hence continuing the problem".

This shows that the available lawyers to serve the community when members fight for their rights are expensive. This limits the community's benefits and causes it to lose its rights. The members still demand an alternative solution; hence, they will be able to get service. Furthermore, one PGCD victim said that,

"The police stations are not widely distributed to village areas as a large population depends on using a single police station in reporting Violence Against Children cases as well a lack of enough Social welfare officers in all Ward who are key stakeholders working with Gender Desk parallel against perpetrators. This factor is too dangerous to the VAC victims; hence, they opt to remain with their problems".

The findings imply that an increase in the distance between police stations and the employment of Social Welfare Officers Needs to be implemented to ensure that the community can get timely service when needed. This will encourage community members to increase their awareness of reporting VAC cases.

One service provider to VAC victims told the researcher that;

"There is no court of law in the village areas, a factor forcing most cases associated with VAC to be withdrawn by survivors/victims fearing much time and high costs to follow up their cases in the nearby village where the primary court is located."

This reveals that even the court of law in the village areas must be built to ensure the service concerning VAC is near the community members. Still, the Government

needs to increase special budget allocation for village areas. Despite delayed case reporting, one VAC victim reported that,

"Health care and treatment are more effective in responding to VAC violence, particularly for physical assault and sexual violence incidents. Ward Health Center and District Hospital offer the service".

The study shows that when health sectors and other government offices are responsible for serving the victims of VAC, the community is responsive to the people and well notes their good performance. This is because, at that time, the VAC victims need to be satisfied with the provided service.

So, the theory is relevant to the findings as it emphasizes that society as an organism should cooperate with PGCD to fight and remove VAC in society, and just like within an organism, the Government has to ensure PGCD is well equipped with the necessary facilities. Hence, each component is emphasized as essential, as no organ can function alone. Thus, the findings show the efficiency of the Gender Desk depends on cooperation between society, the Police Gender Desk, and the support of the Government.

4.4 Challenges facing the Police Gender Desk in protecting the victims of VAC in Bunda District

The study's objective was to investigate the challenges facing Police Gender Desks in preventing Violence against Children in Bunda District Council. In this part, the researcher identified specific questions that were asked of the participants about their perceptions of these challenges. Questionnaires were used to collect participant data to address this objective, and the findings are described and presented below.

4.4.1 Succession of Police Gender Desk in Its Operation

The researcher asked participants if the Police Gender Desk succeeded in its operation to determine its efficiency. The findings revealed that 45.5% of respondents, 85 respondents, said no, while 30.9% of respondents, 38 respondents, said yes. This means the Police Gender Desk in Bunda District did not succeed during its operation.

In addition the researcher asked participants the reasons for their answers as shown in 4.11 in which most respondents who said no which are 26.8% which equals to 33 respondents said Police Gender Desk not succeed in its operation due to there is still occurrence of VAC in the society, 23.6%, which equals to 29 respondents said the Police Gender Desk did not succeed in its operation due to the victims don't want to appear to the court to provide witness and 18.7%, which equals to 23 respondents said the Police Gender Desk did not succeed in its operation due to the victims from rural areas are not have enough awareness about PGCD, Also, most respondents who said Yes defend their answer by giving their reasons, 15.4% of respondents which equals to 19 respondents said the Police Gender Desk succeed in its operation due to victims use PGCD to report their cases and satisfy with the services, 8.9 % of respondents which equals to 11 respondents said the Police Gender Desk succeed in its operation due to provision of education to community and victims of VAC survivors and 6.5% of respondents which equals to 8 respondents said the Police Gender Desk succeed in its operation due to many cases of VAC sent to the court.

Moreover, findings supported by TAWLA (2014) research on the success of the Police Gender Desk in eradicating Gender-based violence show that the Police

Gender Desk failed in its operation despite many efforts made by the Government in collaboration with civil society to create public awareness, sensitize the Police, the media on the ramifications of Gender Based Violence its consequences to women, children, their families and society as a whole through campaigns such as the 16 days of Activism the legal framework remains inadequate to support eradication of VAC.

Table 4.11: Police Gender Desk succeeds in Its Operation

	Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Yes	Victim use Police Desk to report their cases and satisfy with the service	19	15.4
	Providing education to community and the victim of VAC survivors.	11	8.9
	Many VAC cases sent to the court	8	6.5
No	Victims not appear to the court to provide witnesses	29	23.6
	There is still occurrence of VAC in the society.	33	26.8
	Victim from rural areas are not have enough awareness about PGCD	23	18.7
	Total	123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.4.2 Challenges facing the Police Gender desk in protecting the victims of VAC

The researcher asked 123 participants about the challenges facing the Police Gender Desk in Bunda District, as shown in table 4.12, in which 41 respondents which is equal to 33.3% said lack of budget to facilitate PGCD operation, 26 respondent which is equal to 21.1% said lack of enough cooperation from society with bad

culture to hide the offender of VAC, 20 respondents which is equal to 16.3% said lack of well trained Police Officer at PGCD, 19 respondents which is equal to 15.4 respondents said lack of transport and fuel to run the operation of PGCD and 17 respondent which is equal to 13.8% said that there is few number of Police officer at the Police Gender and Children Desk. Other literature also shows the challenges faced by the Police Gender Desk in its operation as USAID (2018) "Survivors may not want their spouses to go to jail, as survivors are often dependent on their husbands for their children's livelihoods."

Table 4.12: Challenges Face Police Gender Desk in Bunda District

Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Lack of well trained Police officer at PGCD	20	16.3
Lack of budget to facilitate PGCD operation	41	33.3
Lack of transport and fuel	19	15.4
Few number of Police Officer at PGCD	17	13.8
Lack of enough cooperation from the society with the bad culture of the hiding the offender	26	21.1
Total	123	100

Source: Field data, 2024

So, the theories is relevance to the findings that each structure must perform well their responsibilities as it emphasis on the society equilibrium and maintain order for structure to perform their duties well as the society to be stable need to perform order from police Gender Desk and Police gender Desk to take action on the what reported from society. Due to that the Government and other stakeholders has to ensure the Desk is fully equipped and provide awareness to community to provide enough cooperation to the Desk to remove challenges hence the PGCD to be efficiency

Therefore, it can be concluded that, due to the above findings obtained from 123 respondents it is obvious that many people within Bunda District, especially those from rural areas are not aware of the existence of the Police gender desk. This cause the acts of gender based violence and child abuse to continue to happen. Hence, women, girls and children have a serious threat to their health and well being. They will continue to be denied their civic engagement and role in development due to unawareness of the rights of Children, Women and girls and of the existence of the Police gender desk.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the main findings, implication of the findings, conclusion, recommendation, limitation of the study and suggested areas for further studies.

5.1 Summary of the main Findings

The study aimed to examining the efficiency of Police Gender Desk towards protection Violence Against Children through their services to victims of gender-based violence in Bunda District at Mara region. The study detected inefficiency of PGCD towards eliminating the problem of VAC in the community that lead to still have the problem to prevalence the problem and awareness in the community on gender-based violence issues. The finding shows that, the number of the workforce dealing with a gender desk in Bunda District is not enough to perform their role, while there were a lot of cases of Gender based violence reported especial Child Violence to the desk which needs the high number of the workforce to deal with. Finding reveals that there is a need of many members from the gender desk so as to give education within the societies so that the community should aware of child rights and other bad acts of gender based violence. Gender desk must establish a good content to train the community.

Therefore on the alternative measure Research findings show that when respondents were asked on measures to be taken to address the problem of Violence Against Children, various measures were suggested which includes conducting mass

education should be provided by the government to the community whether via televisions, radio, and newspapers about the impact of the Children Violence, further the government should educate the families on their rights and right of children and instruct where to report when they face violence moreover the other measure is that Police force should give the gender desk its importance by preparing enough budget for it also the other measure suggested by most of the respondents was serious legal actions should be taken to those attempting it.

In addition the study also exposed various challenges that affect PGCD to protect and eliminate VAC in the study area. These challenges require effective measures of the Government and other stakeholders to address the problem of VAC in order to help PGCD and the community towards eradication VAC Problem. The challenges include lack of enough budgets to facilitate PGCD to operate their activities, lack of enough training to PGCD officer to perform their duty well, safety to victims/survivors, fear of victims to report the incidents, stigma from community when reporting case to PGCD and harmful traditional practices. These issues need to be addressed in all levels of the community. Collaboration amongst key stakeholders such as health, legal, social workers and community services and law enforcement is much needed to end problem as these services require quality, compassionate care and support to victims.

5.2 Conclusions

From the data findings and responses of respondents in this study, the researcher comes up with the following conclusion on the research questions tested. There are different modes or drives for establishing a Gender Desk as the respondents answer

the question of the aims or reasons for establishing a Police Gender Desk was to reduce GBV as well as encourage

Survivors of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse to speakout or express their problems moreover to arrest and take to the court of law the criminals of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse, to increase public awareness on Gender Based Violence especial VAC ensure the children know their rights and all the victims of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse get the lawful help, health services and psychosocial support services, to collect data and information on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse .

Few number of Police officers with limited skills on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse lead to inefficiency of the workforce during its duties. 123 respondents were asked about the number of Police Gender Desk workforce if it was reasonable or not reasonable. Most of the respondents which are 61.8% said the number of the workforce is not reasonable to deal with all the cases and claims of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse due to the high number of cases reported to the desk. Respondents also were asked if Police Gender Desk has well and trained officers and the majority of respondents which is 52% of respondents said the Police Gender Desk in Bunda District didn't have well and trained officers and this hinder their efficiency.

Findings also shows that Police Gender Desk in Bunda District was not well known to the majority community of Bunda as many respondents not agreeing with the fact of knowing the gender desk, after being asked if Gender Based Violence is well known to the majority, 61.8% of respondents said no. The reasons behind their

answer was due to many victims especially from rural areas are not aware of the desk due to the distance and absence of publication around the surrounding societies. Other reasons were officers are few to train the whole District with poor Communication network, crimes based on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse still existed.

Finding revealed that there are number of challenges hindering the efficiency of police gender desk, among these includes, the Police Gender Desk lack enough trained Police officer at the Desk, Lack of enough budget to facilitate Gender Desk operation, Lack of transport and fuel, few number of Police officer at the Desk as well as lack of enough cooperation from the society and bad culture of hiding the offender.

Moreover some of respondents reported that, police gender desks facing a lot of challenges such as majority of people were not aware on the existing police gender desks, Most of Children and their Parents did not report an incidents to police gender desks and some of incidents which reported to police gender desks the clients were not ready their offenders to be sent to the court of law, this it implies a little cooperation to the desk officers, culture of people to fear police cause many Children and their Parents to hid information concerned to VAC. Also lack of enough budget prepared for the gender desks as well as lack of facilities like buildings which are separate to police stations. Therefore, Tanzania government should empower Community economically, socially, politically, and mentally. Also the government should empower police gender desks financially and moral support.

5.3 Recommendation

The following recommendations were therefore directed to some of institutions, government institution, social organization and an individual person which is one way or another can contribute to protect the VAC and to combat the problem of VAC.

5.3.1 The Government and its Institution

The most responsibility of government of Tanzania to their citizens is to provide them protection against crime behavior and to promote peace and security also to maintain the rule of law. The government should make an effort to make aware their people to understand well the law and rights of everybody and to know well the side effect of VAC from family level to the National level. This awareness should be provided via televisions, radio, websites and newspapers. Furthermore, the government should inform the Children to know well their rights where to report when they face gender based violence.

The government of Tanzania should economically empower the community by providing them loans so as to avoid VAC which results from poverty among Child Families. Also it is recommended to the government to give priority to police gender desks by preparing enough budgets so as to build gender desk offices which will be separate from police station to avoid culture of fear to police, training gender desk officer on gender issues. Also the government should enact serious laws which can punish the offenders of VAC.

5.3.2 Police Gender Desks Institution

Police gender desk office should build the culture of confidentiality and defending their informer and their clients who give them information and reporting the incidences to police gender desks office. Police department should promote the gender desks to the people in order to know and understanding the existing of desks in the police, also police gender officers should act and work efficiently in providing services to their clients. Another recommendation to police force is, should make serious effort to train their officers on professionalism to deal with gender issue matters, to support police gender desks by providing them some incentives like transport on outreaching to their clients and provide police gender officers necessary allowances. Another recommendation to police gender desks should to avoid corruption activities by the time dealing with gender issues, police gender officers should to use a soft language and good customer care to internal and external clients and to build culture of referring cases which are serious to other institutions which concerning to such case.

5.3.3 Family Institutions

Families should be sensitive, be clear, be transparency and openness to state information concerning to VAC and to report an incidents on time in order give a room to police gender officers to take an action immediately. Children and their Parents must open the door to report an incidents and to be ready to provide evidence to be sent on the court of law for further actions and not take the issue of VAC to be solved as a family matters, also it recommended that Children and their parents

should to report an incident immediately to police gender desks so the evidence can be clear to be investigated.

5.3.4 NGO's and social welfare institution

This is an agency of promoting, protecting, solving problem make community aware of their rights and welfare of the communities. NGO's and Social welfare should cooperate with the government effort to promote communities' welfare and financing community to know and understanding their rights.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Introductory

Dear respondents;

Greetings!

My name is **Colman A. Moshy**, A Master Degree student of Open University of Tanzania; I am undertaking the *study on assessing the efficiency of police gender-desks in preventing Violence Against Children. a study of Bunda District, Mara, Tanzania*. I kindly request to take part of your time to voluntarily respond to this questionnaire based on your understanding and experience.

This is an academic exercise and all information collected from respondents will be treated with strict confidentiality. This questionnaire is divided into sections that may take few minutes of your time to complete. Please respond by following the instructions provided under each section.

.....

Colman A. Moshy,

Thank you.

APPENDICES APPENDIX I1: Questionnaire to the VAC Stakeholders parents and
other community members

Please put a tick where it is appropriate

Part A

Personal Particulars

.1. Age

18-24..... ()

25-30..... ()

31-35..... ()

36-40.....()

41-45..... ()

46-50..... ()

Above 50..... ()

2. Sex Male () Female ()

3. Education level?

4. Marital Status.....

Part B

Answer the following questions by putting the correct answer in the appropriate box according to your choice or space provided.

1. What is a Police Gender desk?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

2. What is Violence Against Children

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3. List types VAC which you know?

.....
.....
.....
.....

4. What are the aims of establishing VAC desk?

- i.
.....
- ii.
.....
- iii.
.....

iv.
.....

v.
.....

5. What are the roles of Police Gender desk?

i.
.....

ii.
.....

iii.
.....

iv.
.....

v.
.....

6. What are the contributions for the establishment of the Police Gender desk to the
elimination of VAC?

.....
...
.....
.....
.....
.....

7. Do you think that PGD has well and trained officers who are able to address the
problem of VAC effectively in Bunda District?

a. Yes b. No ()

8. What are the reasons for your answer in question 4?

.....

.....

.....

.....

9. Did the number of Police officers dealing with Gender desk reasonable?

a. Yes b. No ()

10. Do you think that PGD in Bunda District is well known to the majority of people?

a. Yes b. No ()

11. What are the reasons for your answer in question?

.....

.....

.....

.....

12. Did the victims of VAC satisfy with the services they get?

a. Yes b. No ()

13. What are the challenges facing the Police Gender desk in protecting the victims of VAC?

- i.
-
- ii.
-
- iii.
-

iv.

v.

14. Do you think that PGD succeeds in its operation?

a. Yes b. No ()

15. What are the reasons for your answer in question 11?

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

16. What alternative measure to address the problem of VAC in the Bunda District?

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.
.....

V.

Thank you for your cooperation

APPENDICES Appendix III: Interview question for the Police Officer in charge, Police Gender and Children Desks, Magistrate and lawyers, Social and Welfare Staff

All answers to these questions will be kept confidential, and will never be used for different purposes other than academic purposes. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

2. Section One: Personal Particulars

1. Age

(i) 18-24 ()

(ii) 25-35 ()

(iii) 36-45 ()

(iv) 46-60 ()

2. Sex.....

3. Education level.....

4. Marital Status.....

5. Occupation.....

6. Working experience (duration).....

Section Two: General Responses

In which category does your institution belong? Tick appropriately.

a. Police officer in charge ()

b. Police Gender Desk ()

c. Social Welfare Office ()

d. Lawyers ()

13. Magistrate ()

14. What kind of services does your institution offer to the Victims of Violence against Children?

.....

.....

.....

15. Do you think are the existing strategies in fighting violence against children help in the elimination of the incidences Bunda District?

Yes ()

No ()

If no, what is the gap?

.....

.....

.....

.....

16. Give suggestions to improve fight against Violence Against Children in the Bunda District.

.....

.....

.....

.....

17. What is your suggestion on the alternative measure to address the problem of
Violence Against Children?

- a).....
.....
- b).....
.....
- c).....
.....
- d).....
.....
- e).....
.....

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendix IV: Study Duration Plan

Duration of study means a period/duration for a student to fulfill all the requirements in his/her study for the degree concerned (Tromps. The study expects to cover the duration of several months as shown below.

MONTH	WEEKS	ACTIVITY
September, 2024	20 th to 23 th	Preparation of proposal and questionnaires
September, 2024	24 th to 28 th	Distribution of questionnaires
September-October 2024.	29 th to 12 nd	Data collection
October, 2024.	13 st to 20 th	Data analysis
October, 2024.	21 st to 22 th	Submission of the first draft report
October, 2024.	23 rd to 25 th	Editing and submission of the final report

Source: Researcher, (2024).

Appendix V: Research Budget

Research budget is a detailed financial statement of estimated project costs to cover the researching process. The researcher expects to have the budget as plotted below to cover all its costs in accomplishment of this study.

S/N	ACTIVITIES	ITEMS	COST (TSH)
1	Proposal Preparation	Internet services	30,000
		Typing and Printing	80,000
		Photocopies	20,000
		Binding	10,000
		Sub total	140,000
2	Data Collection	Printing and Photocopies	50,000
		Transport	100,000
		Subtotal	1500,000
3	Processing and Report Writing	Printing and Photocopies	100,000
		Transport	50,000
		Binding	20,000
		Subtotal	220,000
	Grand Total		510,000

Source: Researcher (2024)

APPENDIX VI CLEARANCE LETTER

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA



Ref. No OUT/PG202187142

10th October, 2024

Town Director,
Bunda Town Council,
P.O.Box 219,

MARA.

Dear: Director,

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR MR. COLMAN AUGUSTINO MOSHY,

REG NO: PG202187142

1. The Open University of Tanzania was established by an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1st March 1993 by public notice No.55 in the official Gazette. The Act was however replaced by the Open University of Tanzania Charter of 2005, which became operational on 1st January 2007. In line with the Charter, the Open University of Tanzania mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.

2. To facilitate and to simplify research process therefore, the act empowers the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania to issue research clearance, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, to both its staff and students who are doing research in Tanzania. With this brief background, the purpose of this letter

is to introduce to you **Mr. Colman Augustino Moshy, Reg.No: PG202187142)**, pursuing **Master of Arts in Gender Studies (MAGS)**. We here by grant this clearance to conduct a research titled **“Assessing the Efficiency of Police Gender Desks in Bunda Police Gender Desk Preventing Violence against Children: The Case of Bunda”**. He will collect his data at your area from 11th October to 30th November 2024.

3. In case you need any further information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the Open University of Tanzania, P.O.Box 23409, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 022-2-2668820. We lastly thank you in advance for your assumed cooperation and facilitation of this research academic activity.

Yours sincerely,

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA



Prof. Gwahula Raphael Kimamala

For: VICE CHANCELLOR

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

OFISI YA RAIS
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA

HALMASHAURI YA MJI WA BUNDA

*Unapojibutafadhali taja:*

Kumb.Na.HMB/T:30/2/VOL II/77

01 Novemba, 2024

Vice Chancellor,
The open University of Tanzania,
P.O.BOX 23409,
DAR ES SALAAM**YAH: RESEARCH ATACHMENT FOR COLMAN AUGUSTINO MOSHY WITH REG****NO: PG202187142.**

Husikeni na mada tajwa hapo juu

1. Reference is made on the letter dated 10 October, 2024 with ref. No **OUT/PG202187142** yof the above captioned subject.
2. I would like to introduce to you Mr. Colman Augustino Moshy who expect to conduct research titled " **Assessing the Efficiency of Police Gender Desks in Preventing Violence Against Children**". A case study of Bunda Town Council for a period of **11 October,2024** hadi tarehe **30 November, 2024**.

Your Sincerely.

Peter Z. Kafuku

FOR: TOWN DIRECTOR,
BUNDA TOWN COUNCIL,Copy: Town Director,
Bunda Town Council,
288 Road of Council,
P.O.BOX 219,
31582, BUNDA, MARA

- For Information

" Colman Augustino Moshy
Researcher

HalmashauriyaMji, MtaawaldarayaMaji, 288 Barabara ya Halmashauri, S.L.P 219, 31582 Bunda – Mara

Simu: + 255 (028) 2621773 Nukushi: +225(028)2621773

Barua pepe: td@bundatc.go.tz, Tovuti: www.bundatc.go.tz

**An Investigational Study of the challenges Facing Police Gender Desks in the
Prevention of Violence against Children in Bunda District Council**

Colman A. Moshy, Johnas Amon Buhori (PhD), & Straton B. Ruhinda

The Open University of Tanzania,

Department of Sociology and Social Work

ABSTRACT

Due to increasing dehumanizing and malpractices treatment against children, this study aimed at investigating on the challenges facing Police Gender Desks in the prevention of violence against Children in Bunda District Council. Using structural functionalism theory, the study identified the challenges and paved a way to deal with each of them. Further, pragmatic research philosophy and explorative research design were employed, with a sample size of 137 purposively and randomly selected participants. Both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods were used and analyzed using thematic for qualitative data and descriptive for quantitative data through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study findings reveal that the efficiency of the gender desk depends on different factors like the well-equipped facilities, including transport and fuel, to facilitate Gender Desk operation/activities to prevent foul-up of VAC cases, and officers need to be trained. Moreover, community cooperation is strongly needed for the desk to be efficient. Most respondents from the interview suggested that the government should provide Mass education about the impact of VAC. Furthermore, the government should educate the families on their rights and the rights of their Children and where to

report when they face VAC—more over during an interview with a Police officer in charge. The Gender Desk office said that another measure is that the Police force should give the gender desk its importance by preparing enough budgets. The other measure recommended by most respondents was severe legal actions that should be taken against those attempting Violation to violate Children.

Introduction

Historically, The Tanzania Police Gender and Children Desk was established in 2009 with the purpose, among others, of fighting against gender violence among different communities in Tanzania. During its inception, the TPGCD had a total of 320 desks countrywide. However, to date (2024), there are over 400 desks in Tanzania, including seven in Zanzibar. Likewise, in the Mara Region, there are 20 gender desks. Moreover, the Bunda District Council has five (4) gender desks: Kibara, Kisorya, Mugeta, and Bunda Mjini(Nyasigwa & Mbunda, 2023).

The Gender and Children's Desk are among the programs established under Community policing. Community Policing was in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania Article 146(2)(b), which provides for community involvement in Policing to prevent and reduce crime and respect for human rights but came into practice during the period of IGP Said Mwema in 2006 after establishing Tanzania Police Force - Police Reform Program (TPF – RP). The basis of this reform was after political elections in 2005, where levels of crime and fear of crime rose throughout the country (Nyasigwa & Mbunda, 2023). The vision of TPFR is to have a professional, modernized. Community centered force that supports the maintenance of public safety and security in the country, and its mission is to establish a more

dispersed visible, accessible, and service-oriented Police force that interacts freely and gently with its community in the protection of both life and property of all people all the time. Community policing is practiced at the national, regional, and district levels, and within it, different programs were established to simplify its operation. Among those programs was a community policing program that involved the section of the Police Gender and Children's Desk. Police Gender and Children's Desk became full practice in 2008 after establishing the Tanzania Police Female Network (TPF Net). TPF Net is the network of Women Police in Tanzania aimed at responding to cases of gender-based Violence (Nyasigwa & Mbunda, 2023).

Violence against children (VAC) is a global concern; despite having little data on the prevalence of Violence against children worldwide, the few available data point to the fact that Violence against children is on the increase. UNICEF (2020) observed that globally, up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 years have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional Violence or neglect in the past year. In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18 had experienced sexual Violence involving physical contact (Cookson, 2020). Violence Against Children is a complex issue that has its roots in the structural inequalities between men and women that result in the persistence of power differentials between the sexes; hence, Girls and boys both experience violence, with girls at higher risk for sexual Violence, early or forced marriage, for example, Boys are more likely to be victims of physical fights, assaults or homicide. However, they are at risk for sexual Violence as well, where several risk factors for Violence against children have been identified, which include social and Gender

norms, gender identity and sexual orientation, poverty, functional impairments, stigmatized illnesses, such as HIV and AIDS (Lokot, 2020).

The United States regards Violence against children as a public health and human rights concern. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include specific targets to end various forms of Violence against children, including violent discipline, sexual Violence, and intimate partner violence. Though widespread, Violence against children is preventable. In 2012, the United States Congress called for a "Multiyear strategy to prevent and respond to Violence against children, who led to the development of the first *US strategy to prevent and respond to Gender Violence Globally*. These elevated the human rights of women and girls globally as a priority for US national security, diplomatic, and foreign assistance (US Congress, 2012). Violence against children occurs in multiple forms by different perpetrators, which include parents and caregivers, teachers, other authority figures, community and religious leaders, neighbors, peers, and adolescents' intimate partners. Violence against children occurs across settings, including in the home, community, schools, and other institutions, as well as online. It occurs worldwide, affecting children of all ages, genders, and socio-economic strata. A 2018 meta-analysis and systematic review of 643 studies from 171 countries found that household members most commonly perpetrate emotional and physical Violence against children, while children aged 9–18 years are at high risk of Violence from teachers and family members (Bhatia, 2020). Latin America and the Caribbean (VAC) are recognized as among the most violent geographic areas globally, particularly for young people. An estimated 58% of children 0 – 17 years of age in more than 99 million experience

physical, sexual, or emotional abuse each year. Health consequences include physical injury, mental health problems, and increased risk of substance use among children. Violence drains the health, social, and judicial sector budgets, with expenditures for treating survivors and prosecuting perpetrators. Furthermore, early exposure to Violence has been linked to multiple forms of violence perpetration and victimization in adulthood; Brazil and Guatemala combined intervention to develop a sub-national interdisciplinary network that forces the involved in response to VAC and to implement the new VAC protocol 77. In Brazil, the interdisciplinary network of providers for response to sexual Violence for children aged <18 years was associated with increased reporting and service seeking by survivors, increased numbers of referrals, and increased speed in the identification of perpetrators for Police to take appropriate action (Abaya, 2021).

Globally, according to Gill (2021), one of the challenges faced by the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) in the United States of America investigators in dealing with Violence against Women and their Children (VAWC) cases is the reluctance of victims to reveal the facts. As a result, police officers may be unable to immediately capture the offender and turn over the case for due process, as they need to have full details and the identity of the batterer before proceeding (Gill, 2021).

Kimani (2007) and Lilian (2022) show that achievements made throughout the continent to address VAC continued to be hampered by the absence of adequate reporting mechanisms. The author noted the limited capacities of law enforcement agencies and social-cultural issues that obstructed reporting. The failure to pay the amount demanded by the Police resulted in the Police not pursuing and apprehending

the perpetrators. There was inadequate transport to and from police stations and courts. This made the investigations last longer than the 24-hour limit stipulated by law to detain a suspect before being arraigned in court (Lilian, 2022).

Findings from Bieler & Boren (2021) show that the persistent challenges, including the widespread perceptions that women who report violence risk criticism, harassment, and humiliation from members of their community and that domestic Violence is a private matter to be settled within families rather than a criminal matter calling for the involvement of law enforcement. Both of these perceptions are likely to discourage Children from reporting crimes against them, allowing VAC to continue to threaten their safety and well-being (Bieler & Boren, 2021).

The 24-hour period did not allow for the conclusion of the medical report findings, given that an official medical examination report had to be completed by a certified doctor. Moribund police gender desks where police stations were themselves understaffed. This situation affected the effectiveness of the Police and fundamentally limited service delivery to the people. A report from the Policy Brief forum against the VAC (2012) showed that a frequent problem which showed up was that of officers attached to the women's and children's desks being given other police duties and were not available for the gender desk services (Bieler & Boren, 2021).

According to research by Clara (2016) in the Katavi Region, the researcher asked 13 respondents about the challenges facing the Police Gender Desk in the Katavi Region. The result of eight respondents, which are equal to 61.5%, said there was a lack of materials, which includes confidential rooms and their associates and transport, 1 Respondent, which is equal to 7.7%, said many people feel 52 shameful

to report crimes concerning Gender Violence and Child Abuse. Others did not know where to report or were afraid to report. Two respondents, which is equal 15.4%, said the lack of enough cooperation from the society with the destructive culture of the surrounding societies causes many witnesses to fail to go the court of law due to distance and fear to break their families, two respondents which is equal to 15.4 respondents said there is no special fund allocated to the Desk with few well and trained personnel (Mussa, 2019).

Results from the study (Mussa, 2019) indicated that many gender desks at various police stations have insufficient police officers working there. Most of the desks have deployed only two to three police officers to work at the desks, a pattern which is awkward to instruction that demands each Desk to have eight police officers to work at gender desks. Quantitative data revealed that 77 percent of respondents agreed that the number of police officers at gender desks does not meet requirements. In comparison, 23 percent accepted that there are few gender desk police officers (Mussa, 2019).

In addition, there is poor deployment of officers to work as Police Gender and Children Desk Officers. Those selected to work at gender desks were unhealthy, stressed, officers with family problems, and pregnant women Police. Quantitative data further revealed that 29.5 percent of respondents accepted poor selection of police officers at Gender and children's desks, while 70.5 percent believed that selection was done correctly. The notion of poor selection was supported by qualitative data whereby one police officer clearly explained during FGDs that "Most of Gender and children desk officers are selected poorly such that some of them

suffer from permanent illnesses (unhealthy) and some are pregnant as well as elderly. Sometimes, those trained on gender issues are not posted to work at Gender and children's desks. Instead, they are working for other police duties, and nobody seems to care much (Mussa, 2019).

Lack of Transport, Police gender and violence need to move here and there to rescue survivors, make arrests of perpetrators, visit crime scenes, and send victims to hospitals as well as other areas for assistance. Qualitative data revealed that Police at Gender and children's desks face transport problems. During in-depth interviews and FGDs, many participants claimed they could not assist victims because of a shortage of transport. In open-ended questions, one respondent explained, "We police officers at gender desks are facing a huge challenge once we get violence victims. We must take them to hospitals, social welfare offices, or crime scenes. We do not have means of transport, and sometimes we are forced to spend our money to fulfill such demands." Findings indicated further that the shortage of transport brings additional difficulties to awareness programs. Gender desk police officers could not even reach many people at the grassroots level to educate them on preventing and reporting gender violence issues (Mussa, 2019).

In Africa, 50 percent of the child population is estimated to have experienced or witnessed some form of Violence, such as physical, sexual, or emotional and the situation is even worse in conflict situations, where children experience several forms of human rights violations, especially sexual and gender-based Violence such as rape, sexual slavery, and sexual mutilation. Currently, the report shows that Africa has the highest rates of Violence against children. Where every second a child

reaches out to child helpline services to report abuse and Violence, Over 60 % of children experience physical punishment from family members and caregivers. In many countries in Africa, 1 in 4 children experience sexual Violence, each year 3 million girls are at risk of genital cutting in Africa, 15 million girls are married every year, with 40% of girls in sub-Saharan Africa married before their 18th birthday, 4 out of 10 boys in residential care institutions suffer physical Violence, while 2 in 10 experience sexual violence of one or another form (Doris 2022).

In Tanzania, VAC continued to be subjected to various forms of Violence, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic Violence. LHRC documented 464 incidents of VAC, increasing from 350 documented in 2022 through media surveys and human rights monitoring. Sexual Violence continued to account for most reported incidents, at 79%. Analysis of Police data on VAC in recent years has shown that over 30 incidents of VAC occur in Tanzania each day and that over two-thirds of the victims, 8 out of 10 children, are girls. Sexual Violence, especially rape and Sodom is the biggest concern for children, and the perpetrators include fathers, stepfathers, teachers, and uncles whose motivations for committing such acts of Violence include getting rich, as directed by witch doctors. Girls account for over 80% of rape victims, while boys account for 87% of child sodomy victims; therefore, the Government has established Gender and children's desks in police stations where gender violence survivors are being encouraged to report with assurance of professional treatment by trained police officers" (WHO, 2020). There are several Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Law Institutes that also deal with Anti Gender Base violence, including Children Violence within Tanzania

societies, and work hand in hand with the Tanzania Police Force Gender and Children's Desk to combat Violence against Children by giving education about gender violence in the societies, give legal assistance to the victims of Gender based Violence and material support like buildings to the Police post to provide confidential spaces in Police stations where victims of gender violence can tell their complaints to the Police officers deal with the Gender and children's Desk (Diana, 2023). Those NGOs and Associations were The Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), Tanzania Women Judges Association (TAWJA). It thus proposed to research this critical issue with a view on things to be considered by the Police Force towards its workforce on the Gender and Children's Desk to help it perform its duties efficiently (Diana, 2023). Even though efforts have been made by the Government of Tanzania and its agencies to combat Violence against Children (VAC), little progress has been observed in the problem where children in society still experience some forms of Violence, including physical, sexual, and neglect and this is shown from a survey conducted by UNICEF which found nearly 3 out of every ten females aged 13 to 24 reported experiencing at least one incidence of sexual Violence before turning 18. Among men in the same age group, 13.4% reported experiencing at least one incident of sexual Violence before the age of 18 (UNICEF et al., 2021). The literature also provides that child rape incidents increased in the first six months from 759 incidents to 2365 due to poor parenting, lack of parenthood and childcare, knowledge among parents, and household poverty, leaving children, especially girls,

vulnerable to men who give them money for food, and conflict among parents (Reuben, 2021).

The Government and its institutions established several measures to solve the problem of child violence, like the enactment of The Child Protection Committees (CPCs). Also, The Government has adopted and accepted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), the Optional Protocols to the CRC, and relevant provisions in other international, regional and sub-regional human rights instruments. In addition, guidelines and directives, such as General Comment¹³ and General Comment 8 of the Uncommitted on the Rights of the Child, the Joint General Comment of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on Ending Child Marriage, articulate the obligations of states concerning specific forms of VAC (Reuben, 2021). Despite the efforts, there is still a gap in Tanzania in understanding the efficiency of the Police Gender Desk in protecting VAC. The current report from LHRC reports Mara as the first region with a high rate of VAC, at 66%, Bunda District as the first district with a high rate of VAC, and Butiama as the last. Therefore, this study assesses the efficiency of police gender desks in preventing Violence Against Children.

The literature and studies done on the efficiency of the Police Gender and Children's Desk show a few reasons for the Efficiency of the Police Gender and Children's Desk, like the shortage of shelter for survivors of Gender Violence (GBV) and limited formal support services for survivors in rural areas. This made the workforce

fail to do its work efficiently and effectively because many victims of Gender- Based Violence need help from a place to live while there is nowhere to go. However, no specific research or studies go directly into deep analysis of the effectiveness of the Police Gender and Children's Desk (Diana, 2023).

Also, most of the study did not suggest the way forward on making police Gender Desk efficient in Violence against Children and what they can improve in their daily activities of protecting VAC and achieve that goal; police officers at gender desks need empowerment in terms of training, equipment, offices and the like. The assessment was done on such aspects, and forecasts have shown that police gender and children's desks are facing several challenges apart from that in line with the decrease in Gender and children's violations, which will be covered in this research. Moreover, the study indicated that the challenges of gender-based Violence must be tackled as a gender equality and human rights issue that requires increased gender equality measures. Police gender desk duty is to reduce GBV and Violence Against children incidences since it was created for that goal. Participants stated that the primary duty of the Police gender desk was to solve some problems of gender victims (Tsapalas & Bernales, 2021). Violence against Children as offenses occurs in communities, especially within a family, and such offenses include rape, early marriage, touchier, beating, family abandonment, and female genital mutilation. Most research has not suggested how the Police Gender Desk will collaborate with different stakeholders to eradicate VAC in society and remove its challenges (Mlay, 2020). Murthy and Bilimale (2020), in their paper titled "Perceptions and Possible Solutions for Violence Against Children among mothers of under-five," discovered

that Violence in school children has severe repercussions for their growth as it makes them more stubborn and less attached to their family members. This suggests that if there are no deliberate actions taken to control Violence against under-five children, we indirectly nurture a violent and isolated future generation. This is supported by Hetherington and Kelly (2002) in Afolabi (2014) indicated that even though most child victims are resilient, a significant few still suffer long-term adverse psychological and biological consequences in life (Murthy & Bilimale, 2020). Also, most studies recommend that the Government should give awareness to the citizens about gender desks, which will help the victims know where to address their problems. The victims of VAC might not get the required services from the gender desk due to their unawareness of the existence of the gender desk in their area (Mlay, 2020). However, the police gender desk, NGOs, and other agencies should continue to protect, promote, empower, and solve community problems and encourage survivors of Child Abuse to speak out or express their internal problems and maintain the secrecy and humanity of affected persons, but did not show how Gender desk will use different measure apart sending the offense to court to be more efficiency so this motivated the researcher to conduct a detailed study on efficiency of Police Gender and Children's Desk (PGCD) in protecting Children from Violence to come up with the suggestion that should be done.

Theoretical Review

The study applies Émile Durkheim's Structural Functionalism theory (1917) to assess the role of Police Gender Desks (PGD) in protecting vulnerable children (VAC). Durkheim viewed society as an organism where all components must function together to maintain stability. If one part fails, it affects the entire system. His theory

highlights the importance of social structures, norms, and cooperation in maintaining societal order.

The study uses this theory to demonstrate how PGD relies on societal cooperation to function effectively. It emphasizes that if the police force or society fails in their respective roles—such as reporting crimes or rehabilitating offenders—crime rates will increase. The theory also supports the idea that social evolution brings changes in traditions and norms, promoting awareness and sensitization to reduce VAC.

Challenges facing PGD, including inadequate funding, training, and resources, hinder their effectiveness. The study suggests that special funding should be allocated to strengthen PGD operations. Overall, Structural Functionalism underscores the interdependence between PGD and society in eliminating VAC and ensuring social stability

Methods and Materials

The study follows a **pragmatic research philosophy** (Kumar, 2011), which as noted by Kitchin & Nicholaus (2000) integrates **positivism and interpretivism** to accommodate a **mixed-method approach** (qualitative and quantitative). It employs a **descriptive research design** for efficiency and cost-effectiveness, using **triangulation** (observation, interviews, and questionnaires) to gather data.

The research is conducted in **Bunda District, Mara Region**, due to its high **Violence Against Children (VAC) rates** and lack of prior research on the efficiency of the **Police Gender and Children's Desk (PGCD)** in protecting children. The **study population** consists of **243,822 people**, with a sample size of **137 participants**,

including **stakeholders, police officials, magistrates, prosecutors, social welfare officers, and religious leaders**. The **Yamane formula (1967)** was used to determine the sample size, and **simple random and purposive sampling methods** were applied.

Findings Presentation and Discussion

The chapter covers the demographic information and is informed with specific variables on the challenges facing Policy Gender Desk in preventing VAC among children,

1.Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Social demographic characteristics present feature characteristics information on the socio-demographic information of the respondents (Diana, 2023). In the Current study, demographic characteristics were categorized with a focus on age, sex, marital status, and level of education.

1.Age of Respondents

The researcher observed the population age distribution of the area under study to determine the age groups involved in the study and their level of understanding of the subject matter, as presented in the table below.

Table 1.1: Age of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Response (%)
18-24	20	14.6
25-30	15	11
31-35	40	29.2
36-40	18	13.1
41-45	11	8
46-50	23	16.8
Above 50	10	7.3
Total	137	100

The above table interpretation the age profile of participants in frequency and percentage, the findings revealed the percentage of respondents by Age whereby 29.2% of the respondents which equals to 40 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 31-35 years, while 16.8 percentage of the total respondents which equals to 23 respondents out of the 137 respondents in sample had the Age ranging 46-50 years ,14.6% of the total respondents which equals to 20 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 18-24 years, 13.1% of the total respondents which equals to 18 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 36-40 years, 11% of the total respondents which equals to 15 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 25-30 years 8% of the total respondents which equals to 11 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 41-45 years, and the rest 7.3% of the respondents which equals to 10 respondents out of the 137 respondents in a sample had the Age ranging 50 years and above. The majority of the respondents had the Age ranging from 31-35 years and 46-50 years, which are the age group that has children who are at risk of being violated. Most of the respondents in these age groups are either in marriage or in a relationship with children, in which they tend to face violence. This helped the researcher to get a good understanding of the violence occurring to Children who are either in their families or in community marriage.

Sex of Respondents

The variable sex of respondents was categorized as male and female, presented in the table below.

Table 1.2: Sex of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Response (%)
Male	47	34.3
Female	90	65.7
Total	137	100

Table 1.2 presents the sex of the participants. The findings revealed that (65.7%) of the respondents were female while male were 34.3% were male. This implies that women are ready to explain Violence against Children issues because they are always parenting Children at home as compared with men. Also, the ratio of women is higher than that of men because women spend more time with their Children, who are the victims of violence so that they can raise their voices through this study.

5.Marital Status of Respondents

The study participants' marital statuses were categorized into four levels, namely: Married, Not married, Divorced, and widowed, as indicated in Table 4.3 below;

Table 1.3: Marital status of Respondents

Status	Frequency	Response (%)
Married	85	62.0
Not married	27	19.7
Divorced	16	11.6
Widowed	9	6.7
Total	137	100

Table 1.3 presents the marital status of participants, and the findings show the marital status of respondents from households. As shown in Table 4.3, the majority (62.0%) of the respondents was married, about 19.7% were single, 11.6% were divorced, and (6.7%) cases were widowed. This implies that both statuses are in an excellent position to explain the actual situation and the children's experience.

7. Level of Education of Respondents

The study participants were categorized into five levels of education, namely primary, secondary, Certificate, Diploma, and University, as indicated in Table 4.4 below;

Table 1.4: Level of Education of Respondents

Education Level	Frequency	Response (%)
Primary school education	53	38.7
Secondary school education	27	19.7
Certificate	19	13.9
Diploma	17	12.4
Higher education	21	15.3
Total	137	100

Table 1.4 observed the respondents' education levels to determine the respondents' level of understanding of child rights opportunities in the education system. The findings reveal that 38.7% of participants, which equals 53 respondents out of 137 respondents, had a primary level of education, followed by 19.7 % of the total respondents, which equals 27 respondents out of the 137 respondents, had a Secondary education, 13.9% of the total respondents which equals to 19 respondents out of 137 respondents had Certificate education, 15.3% of the total respondents

which equals to 21 respondents out of 137 respondents had Higher education. In comparison, only 12.4% of the respondents had a diploma education, which equals 17 out of 137. Since most of the respondents had secondary and primary levels of education, this implies that most did not get enough education as most did not get any college education. Hence, they had little understanding of Children's rights and were faced with poverty due to unemployment as the result of lack of education; thus, they were prone to gender-based Violence.

1. The role of the Police Gender Desks to protect Violence Against Children

The study aimed to examine the role of the Police Gender Desk in protecting against Violence against Children in Bunda District. In this part, the researcher identified specific questions that were asked of the participants about their perceptions of the role of the Police Gender Desk in protection against Violence against Children. Questionnaires were used to collect data from the participants to address this objective. The study findings revealed that the participants have a good knowledge of social factors contributing to child sexual abuse. The obtained results are described and presented below.

The meaning of Police Gender Desk (PGD)

Respondents were asked about the meaning of the Police Gender Desk to understand their knowledge about the gender desk. All 123 contributors, which is equal to 100%, show that they have enough knowledge about a Gender and Children's desk 51 respondents out of 137 respondents, which is equal to 41.5%, define it as a desk that deals with all crimes based on women and children's Violence and others said that it

is a desk which deals with all cases based on men, women, and children's Violence. 39 out of 123 respondents, which is equal to 31.7% of respondents, definitions Desk deals with all cases based on men, women, and children's Violence. In comparison, another 21 respondents, equal to 17.1 %, defined it, and 12 respondents, equal to 9.6%, answered that they didn't know the meaning of Gender Desk. Hence, for those definitions of police Gender Desk to work, the gender desk needs to prepare a friendly environment for the victims of Gender Violence so that they can be motivated to report their cases as TAWLA (2019) in which the author elaborated that Police Gender Desk introduced to make the Police station environment less intimidating to Children victims of sexual Violence. Findings also reveal that the roles are not well performed in the District.

Challenges facing the Police Gender Desk in protecting the victims of VAC in Bunda District

In this part, the researcher identified specific questions that were asked of the participants about their perceptions of these challenges. Questionnaires were used to collect participant data to address the aim of the study as described below,

Succession of Police Gender Desk in Its Operation

The researcher asked participants if the Police Gender Desk succeeded in its operation to determine its efficiency. The findings revealed that 45.5% of respondents, 85 respondents, said no, while 30.9% of respondents, 38 respondents, said yes. This means the Police Gender Desk in Bunda District did not succeed during its operation.

In addition the researcher asked participants the reasons for their answers as shown in 4.11 in which most respondents who said no which are 26.8% which equals to 33 respondents said Police Gender Desk not succeed in its operation due to there is still occurrence of VAC in the society, 23.6%, which equals to 29 respondents said the Police Gender Desk did not succeed in its operation due to the victims don't want to appear to the court to provide witness and 18.7%, which equals to 23 respondents said the Police Gender Desk did not succeed in its operation due to the victims from rural areas are not have enough awareness about PGCD, Also, most respondents who said Yes defend their answer by giving their reasons, 15.4% of respondents which equals to 19 respondents said the Police Gender Desk succeed in its operation due to victims use PGCD to report their cases and satisfy with the services, 8.9 % of respondents which equals to 11 respondents said the Police Gender Desk succeed in its operation due to provision of education to community and victims of VAC survivors and 6.5% of respondents which equals to 8 respondents said the Police Gender Desk succeed in its operation due to many cases of VAC sent to the court.

Moreover, findings supported by TAWLA (2014) research on the success of the Police Gender Desk in eradicating Gender-based violence show that the Police Gender Desk failed in its operation despite many efforts made by the Government in collaboration with civil society to create public awareness, sensitize the Police, the media on the ramifications of Gender Based Violence its consequences to women, children, their families and society as a whole through campaigns such as the 16 days of Activism the legal framework remains inadequate to support eradication of VAC.

Table 1.5: Police Gender Desk succeeds in Its Operation

	Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Yes	Victim use Police Desk to report their cases and satisfy with the service	19	15.4
	Providing education to community and the victim of VAC survivors.	11	8.9
	Many VAC cases sent to the court	8	6.5
No	Victims not appear to the court to provide witnesses	29	23.6
	There is still occurrence of VAC in the society.	33	26.8
	Victim from rural areas are not have enough awareness about PGCD	23	18.7
	Total	123	100

Challenges facing the Police Gender desk in protecting the victims of VAC

The researcher asked 123 participants about the challenges facing the Police Gender Desk in Bunda District, as shown in table 4.12, in which 41 respondents which is equal to 33.3% said lack of budget to facilitate PGCD operation, 26 respondent which is equal to 21.1% said lack of enough cooperation from society with bad culture to hide the offender of VAC, 20 respondents which is equal to 16.3% said lack of well trained Police Officer at PGCD, 19 respondents which is equal to 15.4 respondents said lack of transport and fuel to run the operation of PGCD and 17 respondent which is equal to 13.8% said that there is few number of Police officer at the Police Gender and Children Desk. Other literature also shows the challenges faced by the Police Gender Desk in its operation as USAID (2018) "Survivors may not want their spouses to go to jail, as survivors are often dependent on their husbands for their children's livelihoods."

Table 4.6: Challenges Face Police Gender Desk in Bunda District

Response	Frequency	Response (%)
Lack of well trained Police officer at PGCD	20	16.3

Lack of budget to facilitate PGCD operation	41	33.3
Lack of transport and fuel	19	15.4
Few number of Police Officer at PGCD	17	13.8
Lack of enough cooperation from the society with the bad culture of the hiding the offender	26	21.1
Total	123	100

So, the theories is relevance to the findings that each structure must perform well their responsibilities as it emphasis on the society equilibrium and maintain order for structure to perform their duties well as the society to be stable need to perform order from police Gender Desk and Police gender Desk to take action on the what reported from society. Due to that the Government and other stakeholders has to ensure the Desk is fully equipped and provide awareness to community to provide enough cooperation to the Desk to remove challenges hence the PGCD to be efficiency

Therefore, it can be concluded that, due to the above findings obtained from 123 respondents it is obvious that many people within Bunda District, especially those from rural areas are not aware of the existence of the Police gender desk. This cause the acts of gender based violence and child abuse to continue to happen. Hence, women, girls and children have a serious threat to their health and well being. They will continue to be denied their civic engagement and role in development due to unawareness of the rights of Children, Women and girls and of the existence of the Police gender desk.

From the data findings and responses of respondents in this study, the researcher comes up with the following conclusion on the research questions tested. There are different modes or drives for establishing a Gender Desk as the respondents answer the question of the aims or reasons for establishing a Police Gender Desk was to

reduce GBV as well as encourage

Survivors of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse to speakout or express their problems moreover to arrest and take to the court of law the criminals of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse, to increase public awareness on Gender Based Violence especial VAC ensure the children know their rights and all the victims of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse get the lawful help, health services and psychosocial support services, to collect data and information on Gender Based **Violence and Child Abuse .**

Few number of Police officers with limited skills on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse lead to inefficiency of the workforce during its duties. 123 respondents were asked about the number of Police Gender Desk workforce if it was reasonable or not reasonable. Most of the respondents which are 61.8% said the number of the workforce is not reasonable to deal with all the cases and claims of Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse due to the high number of cases reported to the desk. Respondents also were asked if Police Gender Desk has well and trained officers and the majority of respondents which is 52% of respondents said the Police Gender Desk in Bunda District didn't have well and trained officers and this hinder their efficiency.

Findings also shows that Police Gender Desk in Bunda District was not well known to the majority community of Bunda as many respondents not agreeing with the fact of knowing the gender desk, after being asked if Gender Based Violence is well known to the majority, 61.8% of respondents said no. The reasons behind their answer was due to many victims especially from rural areas are not aware of the desk

due to the distance and absence of publication around the surrounding societies. Other reasons were officers are few to train the whole District with poor Communication network, crimes based on Gender Based Violence and Child Abuse still existed. Finding revealed that there are number of challenges hindering the efficiency of police gender desk, among these includes, the Police Gender Desk lack enough trained Police officer at the Desk, Lack of enough budget to facilitate Gender Desk operation, Lack of transport and fuel, few number of Police officer at the Desk as well as lack of enough cooperation from the society and bad culture of hiding the offender.

Moreover some of respondents reported that, police gender desks facing a lot of challenges such as majority of people were not aware on the existing police gender desks, Most of Children and their Parents did not report an incidents to police gender desks and some of incidents which reported to police gender desks the clients were not ready their offenders to be sent to the court of law, this it implies a little cooperation to the desk officers, culture of people to fear police cause many Children and their Parents to hid information concerned to VAC. Also lack of enough budget prepared for the gender desks as well as lack of facilities like buildings which are separate to police stations. Therefore, Tanzania government should empower Community economically, socially, politically, and mentally. Also the government should empower police gender desks financially and moral support.

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