THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKER INTERVENTIONS IN REDUCING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN TANZANIA: A CASE OF KIGOMA MUNICIPALITY

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that he has read and hereby recommends for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania a dissertation entitled: *"The Role of Social Work Interventions in Reducing the Psychological Impact of Violence against Children in Tanzania: A Case of Kigoma Municipality",* in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Social Work of the Open University of Tanzania.

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Date

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DECLARATION

I, **Petro Samwel Mbwanji,** do hereby declare that, this dissertation is my own original work and that it has not been submitted and will not be presented to any other university for similar or any degree award. All citations made in this paper have been acknowledged. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Social Work of the Open University of Tanzania.

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Signature

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Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my Mother Maria Siwaje Mwasote and my late Father Samwel Jelemia Mbwanji, who laid and consolidate a strong educational fundamental that enabled me to attain this academic level.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the role of social workers in reducing the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality, Tanzania. The research was guided by Attachment Theory and Ecological Systems Theory, which provided insights into how children are affected by violence and how social work interventions can promote psychological recovery. A qualitative research approach was adopted, employing a case study design to gain in-depth understanding of the issue. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and documentary reviews from a purposively selected sample of social workers, child protection officers, parents, teachers, children, and community members. The study used thematic analysis, facilitated by NVivo software, to identify recurring patterns and themes. Findings revealed that violence against children in Kigoma leads to significant psychological effects, including anxiety, depression, trauma, low self-esteem, and behavioral problems. Social workers employ various interventions such as psychosocial counseling, community sensitization, family involvement, and referrals to support services. However, their efforts are constrained by challenges such as limited resources, cultural barriers, lack of inter-agency coordination, and high caseloads. The study recommends strengthening trauma-informed care, enhancing inter-sectoral collaboration, increasing investment in child protection services, and continuous capacity building for social workers. The findings underscore the critical role of social workers in addressing the mental health needs of child survivors and call for systemic improvements to enhance their effectiveness.

Keywords: *Social workers, psychological impact, violence against children, child protection, qualitative, ecological theory.*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBT	Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
IDI	In depth Interview
LHRC	Legal and Human Right Center
MoHCDGEC	Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NISWO	National Institute of Social Work
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
TASWA	Tanzania Association of Social Work
TF-CBT	Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
VACS	Violence against Children Survey
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Violence against children is a pressing social issue with profound psychological Impact that can extend into adulthood. Children who experience violence whether physical, emotional, or sexual often suffer from long-term mental health challenges such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and difficulties in social adjustment. Given the severe impact of such experiences, social workers play a crucial role in providing interventions that aim to mitigate these effects and promote the well-being of affected children.

This study seeks to examine the role of social workers in addressing the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality. It will explore the various intervention strategies employed by social workers, including counseling, family support, advocacy, and community engagement, to help children cope with trauma and rebuild their emotional resilience. Additionally, the study will assess the effectiveness of these interventions and identify challenges that social workers face in delivering support services.

By focusing on Kigoma Municipality, this research aims to provide localized insights into the effectiveness of social work interventions in reducing the psychological harm caused by violence. The findings will be valuable for policymakers, social work practitioners, and child protection organizations in improving strategies for supporting vulnerable children. Ultimately, the study will contribute to a broader

understanding of how social workers can enhance psychological healing and resilience among children affected by violence.

1.2 Background to the Problem

Violence against children is a pervasive global issue that poses a significant threat to children's psychological, emotional, and social development. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020), over one billion children globally approximately half of all children aged 2-17 experience some form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence each year. The Impact of such violence are profound and long-lasting, often leading to mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and behavioral problems. Beyond individual trauma, violence against children undermines global efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.2, which calls for ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children.

In the African region, violence against children is both widespread and under reported. Studies by UNICEF (2020) and the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) highlight that many African children experience violence at home, in schools, and in communities. A combination of factors including poverty, weak child protection systems, cultural acceptance of corporal punishment, and conflict contributes to the persistence of violence. The Violence against Children Survey (VACS) conducted in multiple African countries, including Kenya, Nigeria, and Malawi, reveals that a significant percentage of children are exposed to multiple forms of abuse before the age of 18. Despite the existence of legal frameworks, enforcement remains a

challenge across many African nations, and access to psychosocial support services is limited, particularly in rural areas.

In Tanzania, violence against children remains a critical concern despite various national efforts to curb it. The Law of the Child Act (2009) and the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children (2017-2022) provide a legal foundation for child protection. However, findings from the 2019 Tanzania Violence against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) reveal that nearly three out of every ten girls and one out of every seven boys experience sexual violence before the age of 18. Many also face physical violence from caregivers and teachers, and emotional abuse is common. These experiences significantly affect children's emotional development, educational outcomes, and social integration. Children who survive violence often exhibit signs of trauma, such as social withdrawal, low self-esteem, depression, and aggressive behavior.

In Kigoma Municipality, a region in western Tanzania, reports of violence against children continue to emerge from both urban and rural areas. Factors such as poverty, traditional norms that tolerate harsh discipline, and limited access to mental health services exacerbate the situation. Although various child protection initiatives have been introduced, including community sensitization and school-based programs, there is a lack of localized data and empirical evidence on how social workers specifically intervene to address the psychological Impact of violence. Social workers are often the first line of defense in responding to child abuse, yet their roles, effectiveness, and challenges remain under explored in Kigoma. This gap

necessitates a focused investigation into how social work interventions can support children's psychological healing and resilience in the aftermath of violence.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Despite the existence of child protection laws and frameworks in Tanzania, violence against children remains alarmingly prevalent, with serious psychological Impact. The 2019 Violence against Children and Youth Survey (VACS) reported that nearly 40% of children in Tanzania experience physical violence, and 27% of girls experience sexual violence before the age of 18. Children exposed to such violence often suffer from anxiety, depression, trauma, suicidal ideation, and behavioral issues. While national statistics underscore the severity of the issue, they do not provide adequate insight into how frontline professionals particularly social workers respond to the psychological needs of affected children at the local level.

Existing studies in Tanzania and elsewhere have extensively documented the prevalence and types of violence against children, as well as the psychological effects of trauma. However, most of these studies have focused on either national-level policy analysis or broad intervention strategies, with limited attention to the actual roles, strategies, and challenges faced by social workers in specific municipalities like Kigoma.

For example, while Murray et al. (2015) and Richter et al. (2018) emphasize trauma-informed care in post-violence intervention, there is insufficient evidence on how such approaches are implemented in resource-constrained and culturally unique

settings such as Kigoma Municipality. Furthermore, there is little empirical research that connects social work practice to measurable psychological outcomes for children affected by violence in the Tanzanian context.

Additionally, localized interventions are often implemented without rigorous evaluation of their effectiveness or sustainability. In Kigoma Municipality, anecdotal evidence suggests that social workers play a vital role in child protection, yet their experiences, methods, and obstacles remain under-researched. There is a need to understand not just what services are offered, but how social workers navigate cultural norms, limited resources, and interagency coordination in their day-to-day efforts to support child survivors of violence.

This study, therefore, seeks to fill these knowledge gaps by examining the specific interventions used by social workers, assessing how these interventions address the psychological Impact of violence, and identifying the challenges social workers encounter in the local context of Kigoma Municipality. By doing so, the research contributes to evidence-based social work practice and policy development in child protection and mental health support.

1.4 Objectives of the Study
1.4.1 Main Objective
To explore the role of social workers in reducing the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality

1.4.2   Specific Objectives

i. To examine the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality.

ii. To explore the intervention strategies used by social workers to address the psychological effects of violence against children.

iii. To identify the challenges faced by social workers in reducing the psychological impact of violence against children.

1.4.3 Research Questions

i. What are the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality?

ii. What intervention strategies do social workers use to address the psychological effects of violence against children?

iii. What challenges do social workers face in reducing the psychological impact of violence against children?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study provides valuable insights into the role of social workers in reducing the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality. Understanding the psychological effects of violence on children is crucial, as research indicates that exposure to violence can lead to long term emotional and cognitive impairments, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (Felitti et al., 1998; UNICEF, 2019). By exploring these Impact, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of how violence affects children's

psychological wellbeing. The study also holds significance for social work practice by shedding light on the intervention strategies that social workers use to support children affected by violence. Studies suggest that trauma-informed interventions, including counseling, family support, and community engagement, play a crucial role in reducing the psychological impact of violence (Murray et al., 2015; Richter et al., 2018). By documenting and analyzing these interventions in the specific context of Kigoma Municipality, this study provides useful knowledge that can guide social workers in improving their approaches to child protection.

Additionally, this study informs policymakers and child protection agencies about the challenges social workers face in addressing the psychological Impact of violence against children. Despite the existence of legal frameworks such as the Law of the Child Act (URT, 2009) and the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (MoHCDGEC, 2017), the effective implementation of these policies remains a challenge. Identifying the gaps in service provision helps policymakers refine policies, allocate resources more effectively, and strengthen institutional support for social work interventions.

Furthermore, this study benefits the broader society by emphasizing the need for comprehensive interventions that prioritize children's mental health and well-being. Effective strategies for reducing the psychological impact of violence contribute to the development of resilient children who can thrive despite past trauma (Mikton & Butchart, 2009; WHO, 2020). By highlighting best practices and areas for improvement, this study supports the goal of creating a safer and more supportive

environment for children in Tanzania. In summary, this study contributes to academic knowledge, informs social work practice, influences policy development, and promotes societal awareness of the importance of addressing the psychological Impact of violence against children.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview

This chapter reviews existing literature on the psychological Impact of violence against children and the role of social workers in reducing these effects. The review explores various dimensions of the problem, including the types and prevalence of violence against children, its impact on psychological development, and the effectiveness of social work interventions. The chapter also highlights key findings from both global and local research on child protection and mental health, focusing on interventions that have been implemented to address the psychological needs of children who have experienced violence.

2.2 Conceptualization of Terms

2.2.1 Violence against Children

Violence against children refers to the physical, emotional, and sexual harm inflicted on children, which can occur in various settings such as homes, schools, and communities. It includes abuse, neglect, exploitation, and any form of mistreatment that affects the child's wellbeing (UNICEF, 2017). In this study, violence against children is conceptualized as the experience of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, that children in Kigoma Municipality endure. The study specifically focuses on the psychological Impact that arise from these forms of violence, which can have long-lasting effects on a child's mental and emotional development.

2.2.2 Psychological Impact

Psychological Impact refers to the mental and emotional effects that result from trauma or harmful experiences. These include disorders such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other emotional or behavioral disturbances (Felitti et al., 1998). In the context of this study, psychological Impact are defined as the mental health issues that children in Kigoma Municipality face after experiencing violence. These Impact are explored in terms of their impact on children's emotional regulation, cognitive functioning, and social behavior, with a particular emphasis on trauma-related conditions such as PTSD.

2.2.3 Social Workers

Social workers are professionals trained to assist individuals, families, and communities in addressing social, emotional, and psychological issues. They provide interventions, counseling, and support services to vulnerable populations, including children exposed to violence (Richter et al., 2018). Social workers in this study are conceptualized as professionals in Kigoma Municipality who are responsible for intervening in cases of violence against children. Their role involves providing trauma-informed care, advocating for the rights of children, and facilitating support services to mitigate the psychological impact of violence.

2.2.4 Social Work Interventions

Social work interventions refer to the strategies and services provided by social workers to help individuals cope with or overcome life challenges. These interventions can include counseling, therapy, advocacy, case management, and

support groups (Murray et al., 2015). In this study, social work interventions are conceptualized as the specific strategies employed by social workers in Kigoma Municipality to address the psychological Impact of violence against children. These interventions may include trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), family support programs, and community engagement to help affected children heal and regain psychological stability.

2.2.5 Trauma Informed Care

Trauma informed care is an approach to providing services that acknowledges the widespread impact of trauma on individuals. It emphasizes safety, trust, choice, and empowerment in the healing process (Mikton & Butchart, 2009). In this study, trauma-informed care is conceptualized as the core approach that social workers in Kigoma Municipality use when working with children who have experienced violence. The study focuses on understanding how trauma-informed practices are incorporated into social work interventions to support the psychological recovery of affected children, ensuring that the services provided are sensitive to their traumatic experiences.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

For this study, two key theories that provide a comprehensive understanding of the psychological Impact of violence against children and the role of social workers in reducing these impacts are Attachment Theory and Ecological Systems Theory. Both theories offer valuable insights into how violence affects children's development and how social work interventions can help address these issues.

Attachment Theory, first developed by British psychologist John Bowlby in the 1950s, focuses on the emotional bonds that form between children and their caregivers. According to Bowlby (1969), these attachments are crucial for a child's emotional and psychological development. Secure attachments, formed when caregivers provide consistent and responsive care, promote emotional stability, resilience, and a sense of security in children. Conversely, insecure or disrupted attachments, often resulting from abusive or neglectful caregiving, can lead to long-lasting psychological issues such as anxiety, depression, and difficulties in forming healthy relationships. Bowlby's theory suggests that the quality of the child-caregiver bond is foundational to their psychological well-being, and disruptions in this bond due to violence can severely impact a child's emotional and behavioral development.

The key tenets of Attachment Theory emphasize the significance of secure attachments in promoting healthy psychological development. Children who experience consistent and loving care giving are more likely to develop secure attachment styles, which lead to emotional stability and resilience. In contrast, children who experience neglect or abuse may develop insecure attachments, which can manifest in various psychological challenges, including difficulties in emotional regulation, trust, and social interactions. The theory highlights the importance of early attachment experiences and their long term influence on mental health, providing a useful lens for understanding how violence disrupts children's ability to form healthy attachments and how interventions can help rebuild these bonds. Attachment Theory has been widely applied in research on child development, particularly in studies examining the impact of early trauma and abuse. Ainsworth et

al. (1978) conducted landmark research on attachment patterns and found that the quality of the attachment relationship influenced children's emotional and social outcomes. Children who experienced secure attachments were better able to regulate their emotions and develop healthy relationships, whereas those with insecure attachments often exhibited behavioral problems and emotional instability.

Murray et al. (2015) also used Attachment Theory to explore how trauma-focused interventions help children who have experienced violence, specifically looking at attachment-related symptoms in trauma-affected children. Stovall-McClough and Dozier (2004) showed that children with insecure attachments were more likely to experience behavioral problems and emotional difficulties, further supporting the link between attachment quality and psychological outcomes. Additionally, Bick et al. (2014) and Cohen et al. (2016) used Attachment Theory to explore how early-life trauma influences attachment security and the role of interventions in supporting children's attachment recovery.

In the context of this study, Attachment Theory aligns with the exploration of how social workers can help mitigate the psychological Impact of violence by focusing on rebuilding secure attachments between children and their caregivers. Social workers play a critical role in fostering these attachments through trauma-informed care and providing interventions that promote emotional recovery. The theory's emphasis on the importance of early care giving experiences in shaping psychological outcomes makes it highly relevant for understanding how violence disrupts children's attachment relationships and how social workers can intervene to support their

emotional and psychological healing. The second theoretical framework for this study is Ecological Systems Theory, developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner in 1979. This theory focuses on the multiple, interconnected systems that influence human development.

Bronfenbrenner's (1979) model posits that children's development is shaped by their interactions with various environmental systems, including the immediate family, school, and peers (microsystem), as well as broader societal influences, such as policies and cultural norms (macrosystem). According to this theory, children's development cannot be fully understood without considering the complex and dynamic interactions between these systems. In the case of violence against children, Ecological Systems Theory provides a framework for understanding how various environmental factors such as the family, community, and societal structures contribute to or mitigate the psychological Impact of violence.

Ecological Systems Theory is particularly useful for understanding the broader context in which children experience violence and how multiple layers of support or adversity affect their psychological well-being. Bronfenbrenner's model suggests that a child's development is influenced not only by direct interactions within their immediate environment (such as family and school) but also by the larger societal systems in which they are embedded. These include cultural values, social policies, and institutional support systems, all of which can either exacerbate or alleviate the psychological effects of violence. Social workers, within the framework of Ecological Systems Theory, are seen as key actors who navigate and coordinate

interventions across these different systems to support children who have experienced violence.

Ecological Systems Theory has been widely applied in research examining the influence of environmental factors on child development. Cicchetti and Lynch (1993) applied the theory to explore how family and community environments interact to influence children's responses to abuse and trauma. Sameroff (2009) demonstrated how environmental stressors, such as family violence, interact with broader societal factors to affect a child's psychological development. Perry (2017) used Ecological Systems Theory to analyze the role of societal and family systems in child protection and recovery, while Thompson et al. (2015) applied the theory to explore how school environments interact with family systems to support children's emotional recovery from trauma.

For this study, Ecological Systems Theory provides a framework for understanding how children's psychological development is shaped not only by their direct experiences of violence but also by the broader systems that influence their lives. Social workers' interventions in this study are viewed through the lens of this theory as they work within multiple systems (family, school, community) to mitigate the psychological effects of violence and promote a holistic recovery for children.

In conclusion, both Attachment Theory and Ecological Systems Theory offer valuable perspectives for understanding the psychological Impact of violence against children and the role of social workers in reducing these effects. Attachment Theory

emphasizes the importance of secure emotional bonds and how disruptions to these bonds due to violence can impact children's development. Ecological Systems Theory, on the other hand, highlights the complex interplay of various environmental systems that influence children's experiences and psychological outcomes. These theories provide the foundation for the study, guiding the investigation of social work interventions aimed at supporting children who have experienced violence and promoting their psychological recovery.

2.4 Empirical Literature Review

This section critically examines previous studies related to the psychological Impact of violence against children, the interventions used by social workers, and the challenges faced in delivering such interventions. The aim is to engage with existing literature, identify gaps, and justify the relevance of this study, particularly in the context of Kigoma Municipality.

2.4.1 Psychological Impact of Violence against Children

Several global and regional studies confirm that exposure to violence during childhood has profound and long-term psychological impacts. For example, Felitti et al. (1998), through the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, established a strong link between childhood trauma and adult psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Similarly, UNICEF (2017) noted that violence not only leads to immediate emotional distress but also increases the risk of social withdrawal, suicidal ideation, and cognitive delays.

In the African context, Mikton and Butchart (2009) reviewed multiple studies across Sub-Saharan Africa and found a consistent pattern of emotional disorders among children exposed to violence. However, most of these studies were quantitative in nature and focused on prevalence, offering limited insight into children's lived experiences and contextual emotional reactions to violence.

In Tanzania, the Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (2019) revealed high rates of emotional and psychological harm among victims of violence, but the survey did not delve into the complex psychosocial outcomes experienced at the local level. While these studies highlight the gravity of the problem, none explicitly explore how children in rural or semi-urban municipalities like Kigoma internalize and cope with psychological trauma.

Furthermore, although Murray et al. (2015) demonstrated that cognitive-behavioral therapy can reduce trauma symptoms among children in post-conflict zones, it remains unclear how these interventions are adapted and accessed in settings with limited mental health infrastructure, such as Kigoma. These gaps underscore the need for context-specific, qualitative exploration of how violence affects children psychologically in Kigoma Municipality, especially from the perspectives of both children and frontline social workers.

2.4.2 Intervention Strategies used by Social Workers

Existing literature recognizes social workers as vital actors in reducing the psychological Impact of child violence. Richter et al. (2018) emphasize that social

work interventions such as psychosocial counseling, home visits, and family therapy are essential in promoting recovery and resilience among traumatized children. Likewise, Cohen et al. (2016) found trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) to be effective in clinical settings. However, most of these studies were conducted in urban centers or Western contexts where infrastructure, funding, and professional training are more developed. In Tanzania, UNICEF (2019) noted that social workers often operate under serious constraints, such as high caseloads and lack of resources, which limit their capacity to deliver consistent trauma-informed care. Yet, this report did not explore how social workers strategize and prioritize interventions in such constrained environments.

Moreover, Kyegombe et al. (2014) evaluated the SASA! intervention (a community mobilization strategy to reduce violence) in Uganda and parts of Tanzania but focused more on community-level change than on professional social work responses. Thus, while these studies affirm the relevance of interventions, there is limited empirical evidence on how social workers themselves perceive and implement strategies to support children's psychological well-being, especially in semi-urban areas like Kigoma. This study aims to fill that void by exploring the real-life practices and coping strategies used by social workers as they respond to cases of child violence under challenging conditions.

2.4.3 Challenge Faced by Social Workers

Research across different contexts confirms that social workers face numerous challenges when addressing violence against children. Cicchetti and Lynch (1993)

highlighted systemic barriers such as institutional fragmentation and lack of inter-sectoral coordination. In low-resource settings, Mikton and Butchart (2009) identified logistical issues, such as inadequate funding and workforce shortages, as significant barriers to delivering effective psychosocial support.

In Tanzania, MoHCDGEC (2017) acknowledged that while policies exist to protect children, implementation remains inconsistent due to low social worker-to-population ratios and cultural resistance to child protection interventions. However, most of these findings are either derived from policy-level reviews or broad assessments and lack localized, ground-level insights from the social workers themselves.

Moreover, few studies have examined the emotional burden and burnout experienced by social workers who routinely deal with traumatized children. For instance, Thompson et al. (2015) found that professionals working in trauma response roles often face secondary trauma, but this issue has not been adequately explored in Tanzanian settings. There is thus a clear need for studies that not only identify the challenges faced by social workers but also analyze how those challenges affect the quality and consistency of intervention delivery, particularly in underserved areas such as Kigoma Municipality. The reviewed literature provides substantial insights into the psychological Impact of violence against children, the importance of social work interventions, and the challenges involved. However, there are notable gaps:

- Few studies adopt a localized, qualitative lens to examine how children in Kigoma experience and cope with the psychological Impact of violence.

- Intervention strategies are often discussed in theory, with little documentation of how social workers in resource-constrained settings like Kigoma implement these strategies in practice.

- The challenges faced by social workers, particularly those related to resource limitations, emotional burnout, and cultural resistance, are under-researched in the Tanzanian context.

This study addresses these gaps by investigating the psychological effects of violence on children, the specific social work interventions employed, and the challenges faced by social workers in Kigoma Municipality. The findings are expected to contribute to both academic literature and practical policy reforms in child protection and mental health support.

2.5 Research Gap

While substantial research has been conducted on the psychological Impact of violence against children and the interventions provided by social workers, there remains a significant gap in the literature regarding the specific context of Kigoma Municipality, Tanzania. Many studies focus on broader national or global trends, but limited research has examined how social workers address the psychological Impact of violence at the local level, particularly in resource-constrained environments such as Kigoma.

Furthermore, existing studies tend to focus on either the psychological effects of violence or the intervention strategies separately, with limited integration of both

aspects in a local context. Research on the psychological Impact of violence against children in Tanzania, particularly in rural and underserved areas like Kigoma Municipality, is sparse. While studies have documented the psychological effects of violence on children in various African countries, such as Uganda, Kenya, and South Africa (Mikton & Butchart, 2009; Makoka, 2015), there is insufficient localized data focusing on the specific impact of violence on children in Kigoma. Most existing studies are generalized and fail to capture the unique socio-cultural, economic, and environmental factors influencing children's experiences in the Kigoma region. For example, a significant gap exists in understanding how cultural norms and community perceptions of violence contribute to children's psychological outcomes in the region. This gap is highlighted in studies by UNICEF (2019) and MoHCDGEC (2017), which emphasize the lack of detailed, context-specific data on the psychological impacts of violence in local municipalities.

In terms of social work interventions, while several studies have highlighted the role of social workers in trauma recovery and emotional support for children in conflict zones or urban settings (Cohen et al., 2016; Murray et al., 2015), limited research exists on how social workers operate in rural and marginalized regions like Kigoma. Most interventions examined in the literature are centered around larger cities or international contexts, where resources and institutional frameworks differ from those in smaller municipalities. As Richter et al. (2018) note, while interventions like trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) are well-documented, their applicability and success in resource-limited settings such as Kigoma remain underexplored. Research has not sufficiently addressed the capacity of social workers

to implement these interventions effectively in such settings, where there may be significant challenges such as limited access to trained personnel, inadequate resources, and socio-cultural barriers.

Additionally, the challenges faced by social workers in reducing the psychological effects of violence against children in Kigoma have not been adequately documented. Although studies like those by Felitti et al. (1998) and Perry (2017) have explored challenges in other regions, these findings are not readily transferable to Kigoma due to regional differences in infrastructure, cultural practices, and socio-economic conditions. The impact of challenges such as high caseloads, lack of professional training, and insufficient community support for social workers in rural settings remains under-researched (Thompson et al., 2015). This gap is particularly concerning because understanding these challenges is crucial for improving the effectiveness of social work interventions and enhancing the support systems for children affected by violence.

Finally, a comprehensive study integrating the psychological Impact of violence, intervention strategies, and challenges faced by social workers in Kigoma Municipality is notably absent from the literature. This study aims to fill this gap by providing a localized analysis of the psychological impact of violence against children, examining the role of social work interventions, and identifying the specific challenges social workers face in the context of Kigoma. By doing so, it contributes new insights to the body of knowledge on child protection and social work in Tanzania and other similar low-resource settings.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

This chapter outlines the research methodology used to investigate the role of social workers in reducing the psychological Impact of violence against children, focusing on Kigoma Municipality. The methodology section is divided into several subsections: research design, research approach, study population, sampling techniques, data collection methods, data analysis techniques, and ethical considerations. These elements provide a comprehensive framework for conducting the study and ensure that it is both scientifically rigorous and ethically sound.

3.2 Research Philosophy: Contructivist Paradigm

The philosophical foundation of this study is rooted in the constructivist paradigm, which aligns with the qualitative nature of the research. Constructivism posits that reality is not a fixed, objective entity but is socially constructed through human interactions and experiences (Guba & Lincoln, 1994). This paradigm is particularly relevant to this study as it seeks to explore how social workers and children affected by violence perceive and interpret their experiences, as well as how social work interventions shape psychological development in Kigoma Municipality. Given that this study focuses on understanding subjective experiences rather than establishing universal truths, constructivism provides an appropriate epistemological lens.

Constructivism is based on the assumption that knowledge is not discovered but co-constructed through social interactions and interpretations of reality (Crotty, 1998).

In the context of this study, the psychological Impact of violence against children and the role of social workers in reducing these effects are subjective experiences that vary depending on personal, cultural, and institutional factors. Since the study is concerned with how social workers perceive and address child violence, a constructivist approach allows for a deeper exploration of the unique and context-specific interventions employed in Kigoma Municipality.

One of the core tenets of constructivism is the recognition that meaning is shaped by social context and interactions (Vygotsky, 1978). Social workers in Kigoma Municipality operate within specific socio-cultural and economic conditions that influence their perceptions and approaches to child protection. Unlike positivist paradigms that seek to establish universal laws, constructivism acknowledges that knowledge is constructed through lived experiences and shaped by the environment in which individuals operate. This study, therefore, prioritizes understanding social workers' perspectives and strategies rather than imposing predetermined frameworks or generalizable theories.

The constructivist paradigm also aligns with interpretivist methodologies, which emphasize the subjective meanings and personal narratives of participants (Schwandt, 2000). Since this study employs qualitative methods such as semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis, it is well-suited to capturing the lived realities of social workers and children affected by violence. By adopting a constructivist approach, the study ensures that the voices of the participants remain

central to the research process, rather than being overshadowed by pre-existing theories or assumptions.

The application of constructivism in this study is evident in several ways. First, the research prioritizes lived experiences as primary data sources, meaning that the firsthand experiences of social workers and affected children form the foundation of the study. Through in-depth interviews and document analysis, the research captures diverse perspectives on the psychological Impact of violence and intervention strategies. Second, the study focuses on contextual understanding rather than generalization, recognizing that findings will be specific to Kigoma Municipality rather than applicable to all social work contexts. Constructivism acknowledges that reality is fluid and context-dependent, allowing for an in-depth exploration of the unique dynamics in Kigoma.

Furthermore, the study adopts an interactive and reflexive research process. The researcher plays an active role in co-constructing knowledge with participants rather than remaining a neutral observer. Reflexivity is integral to the study, meaning that the researcher continuously reflects on their positionality and influence on the research process (Charmaz, 2006). By recognizing their role in shaping data interpretation, the researcher ensures that findings are not only grounded in participant experiences but also critically examined for potential biases.

Additionally, constructivism allows for an appreciation of multiple realities and subjectivities. Since individuals interpret experiences differently based on their

personal and cultural backgrounds, this study does not assume that all social workers or children experience violence and intervention in the same way. Instead, it acknowledges multiple subjective realities, which are explored through qualitative data collection and analysis. This approach ensures that the study remains sensitive to the complexities of social work practice and the diverse challenges faced by children experiencing violence.

By grounding the study in a constructivist paradigm, this research ensures that the voices and experiences of social workers and children are central to understanding the psychological Impact of violence and the effectiveness of social work interventions. The constructivist approach enhances the depth and authenticity of the study's findings, making it an appropriate philosophical foundation for investigating the role of social workers in Kigoma Municipality.

3.2.1 Research Design: Case Study Approach

This study employed a case study research design, which is particularly suited for exploring complex social phenomena within their real-life contexts. A case study is defined as an in-depth, empirical investigation of a contemporary issue within its real-world setting, using multiple sources of evidence (Yin, 2018). Given that this study seeks to understand the role of social workers in reducing the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality, the case study approach provides a robust framework for capturing rich, detailed insights into the issue. The justification for using a case study design is based on its ability to explore social phenomena holistically and contextually (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Unlike

experimental or survey-based research, which isolates variables for measurement, a case study allows the researcher to examine the complex interactions between social workers, children, and systemic interventions in their natural settings. This is particularly important given the sensitive nature of violence against children and the varied social work interventions available in different contexts.

One of the key strengths of the case study approach is its flexibility in using multiple sources of data (Stake, 1995). This study will utilize qualitative data collection methods such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the issue. By triangulating these sources, the research ensures credibility and reliability, reducing biases that may arise from a single data source.

Additionally, case study research is particularly valuable in studies that aim to provide in-depth, context-specific knowledge rather than broad generalizations (Merriam, 2009). Since social work interventions and the psychological impact of violence against children are shaped by socio-cultural, economic, and institutional factors, a case study approach allows the researcher to capture the nuances of these experiences. This design ensures that the voices of social workers and affected children in Kigoma Municipality are central to the analysis, aligning with the study's constructivist paradigm.

Furthermore, the case study design is appropriate when the research questions are exploratory (Yin, 2018). This study seeks to examine how violence affects children's

psychological development, what social work interventions are employed, and what challenges social workers face. These "how" and "what" questions align with the strengths of case study research, which emphasizes understanding processes and experiences rather than merely measuring outcomes.

Another important justification for using a case study design is that it allows for detailed contextual analysis of a specific social problem. Social work practice is inherently context-dependent, and the interventions used in one setting may differ significantly from those in another. By focusing on Kigoma Municipality, this study generates practical insights that can inform policymakers, social work practitioners, and child protection agencies in similar contexts.

Despite its advantages, case study research has been criticized for limited generalizability due to its focus on a specific case (Gomm, Hammersley, & Foster, 2000). However, this study does not aim for statistical generalization but rather for analytic generalization, where findings contribute to theoretical insights about social work interventions in reducing the psychological effects of violence against children. By providing a rich, in-depth analysis, this study can offer valuable lessons that may be applicable in similar contexts.

In conclusion, the case study design is well suited for this research because it enables an in-depth, contextually rich exploration of the social work interventions used to address the psychological effects of violence against children. It aligns with the qualitative nature of the study, allowing for a holistic understanding of the challenges

and strategies employed by social workers. By adopting a case study approach, this research ensures that the lived experiences of social workers and affected children are accurately captured and analyzed, contributing meaningful insights to the field of social work practice.

3.2.2 Research Approach: Qualitative Research

This study adopted a qualitative research approach, which is appropriate for exploring the complex and subjective experiences of social workers and children affected by violence. Qualitative research is a systematic approach that seeks to understand human experiences, behaviors, and interactions by focusing on meaning making rather than numerical measurement (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Given that the study aimed to examine the psychological Impact of violence against children, the intervention strategies used by social workers, and the challenges they face, a qualitative approach allows for a deep and nuanced exploration of these aspects within their real-life context.

One of the key reasons for selecting a qualitative approach is its focus on social constructs and lived experiences. Since violence against children is a complex social issue that affects individuals differently based on cultural, economic, and institutional factors, qualitative research provides a platform for participants to share their subjective perspectives in their own words (Denzin & Lincoln, 2018). This approach aligns with the constructivist paradigm underpinning this study, as it acknowledges multiple realities and emphasizes how people interpret their experiences. A qualitative approach is particularly well suited for studies that seek to

understand processes, behaviors, and meanings rather than test hypotheses or establish causal relationships (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). In this research, the focus is not on quantifying the number of children affected by violence or the frequency of social work interventions, but rather on understanding how social workers address psychological trauma and what challenges they encounter. This necessitates a flexible and exploratory methodology; which qualitative research provides.

Furthermore, qualitative research allows for rich, detailed data collection methods, such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis. These methods enable the researcher to capture the emotions, perceptions, and interpretations of participants, which would be difficult to achieve through quantitative approaches (Tracy, 2020). Through open-ended questioning and interactive discussions, qualitative research ensures that participants' voices and experiences are central to the study, providing insights that may not emerge in structured survey-based research. Another justification for using a qualitative approach was its ability to capture the context in which social work interventions take place. Social work practice is highly contextual, with interventions influenced by policy frameworks, community attitudes, and resource availability (Patton, 2015). A qualitative study allows the researcher to explore these contextual factors in depth, ensuring that findings are not only descriptive but also interpretive and explanatory.

Additionally, qualitative research enables a holistic examination of social problems, rather than isolating variables as in quantitative studies. Since the psychological impact of violence on children is influenced by multiple intersecting social factors, a

qualitative approach allows for a comprehensive exploration of how these factors interact. The study thus moves beyond surface-level descriptions to generate in-depth insights that can inform social work policies and practices.

Despite its strengths, qualitative research has been critiqued for its subjectivity and lack of generalizability (Silverman, 2020). However, this study does not aim for statistical generalization but rather for theoretical and analytical insights that can be applied to similar contexts. By using rigorous data collection and thematic analysis, the study ensures credibility and trustworthiness, addressing concerns about researcher bias and subjectivity.

In conclusion, a qualitative approach is well-suited for this study because it facilitates an in-depth, contextually rich exploration of how social workers mitigate the psychological effects of violence against children. By prioritizing lived experiences, social contexts, and meaning-making, this approach enables the study to generate valuable insights that can inform both social work practice and policy development in Kigoma Municipality and beyond

3.2.3 Study Area

Kigoma Municipality, located in the western region of Tanzania, presents a compelling case for examining the role of social workers in reducing the psychological effects of violence against children. Several factors, including demographic trends, prevalence of child violence, and the status of social welfare services, underscore the relevance of this locale for the study.

The population of Kigoma Municipality has experienced substantial growth over recent decades. According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, the municipality's population reached 232,388, up from 215,458 in 2012 (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2022). This increase reflects broader national trends and suggests a rising number of children and adolescents who may be vulnerable to various forms of violence.

Nationally, the issue of violence against children is alarming. A significant proportion of children aged 13 to 17 have reported experiencing physical violence, often in the form of being punched, whipped, or kicked. This high rate is indicative of the widespread use of corporal punishment both at home and in schools (World Bank, 2023). While specific data for Kigoma Municipality is limited, the national prevalence suggests that similar patterns may exist locally, warranting focused research in this area. The capacity of the social welfare workforce is a critical factor in addressing child violence. An assessment revealed that the majority of social welfare workers are employed by local government authorities, highlighting the importance of municipal level interventions (UNICEF, 2023).

In Kigoma, initiatives such as the Cash plus Ujana Salama program have provided vital protection services to survivors of violence against children, demonstrating active efforts to address these issues (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2023). Kigoma is notable for hosting the National Institute of Social Work (NISW), established in 1999 as a branch of Artevelde Hoge school of Belgium. The presence of such an institution indicates a regional emphasis on developing social

work professionals, which is essential for implementing effective interventions against child violence (African Social Work Network, 2023). The combination of a growing population, significant concerns regarding child violence, active social welfare interventions, and the presence of social work training institutions makes Kigoma Municipality a pertinent choice for this study. Investigating this area can yield insights that are both contextually relevant and potentially applicable to other regions facing similar challenges.

3.2.4 Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises social workers, children who have experienced violence, and key stakeholders involved in child protection services in Kigoma Municipality. A study population refers to the entire group of individuals or entities that a researcher seeks to understand and from which participants are selected for data collection (Creswell & Poth, 2018). In this study, the target population is drawn from institutions such as social welfare offices, child protection agencies, and rehabilitation centers, as well as families and communities affected by violence against children.

Kigoma Municipality was selected due to its growing population, increasing reports of child violence, and active social work interventions (UNICEF, 2023). Social workers play a crucial role in reducing the psychological Impact of violence, making them key informants for this research. Additionally, children who have been exposed to violence provide first-hand accounts of its psychological effects, while other stakeholders, such as community leaders and law enforcement personnel, contribute

broader insights into intervention effectiveness. The study employs specific inclusion and exclusion criteria to ensure that only relevant participants contribute to the findings. Inclusion Criteria to be participants include: Social workers who have at least one year of experience in handling cases of child violence within Kigoma Municipality. Experience is essential to ensure participants have sufficient exposure to intervention strategies (Patton, 2015). Children aged 13-17 years who have experienced violence and received social work interventions. This age range is selected based on research indicating that children in this category are most vulnerable to various forms of violence (World Bank, 2023).

Representatives of child protection agencies, including government officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and law enforcement officers, who actively work in child welfare programs. Community leaders and caregivers who have knowledge or experience regarding child violence cases and the psychological support mechanisms available. For exclusion criteria, the criteria include the following: Social workers with less than one year of experience or those who are not directly involved in child protection services, as they may not provide in-depth information about intervention challenges (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016).

Children below 13 years who may struggle to articulate their psychological experiences effectively due to cognitive and emotional development limitations (Denzin & Lincoln, 2018). Individuals with severe psychological trauma who are unable to participate without causing further emotional distress, as ethical considerations prioritize their well-being (Tracy, 2020). Stakeholders without direct

involvement in child protection programs, as they may not provide relevant insights for the study. By defining clear inclusion and exclusion criteria, this study ensures that participants can contribute meaningful, reliable, and ethical insights into the role of social workers in reducing the psychological Impact of violence against children.

3.3 Sampling Design and Procedures

3.3.1 Sampling Design

The study employs a purposive sampling design, which is commonly used in qualitative research to select participants who can provide rich, relevant, and insightful information (Patton, 2015). Purposive sampling allows the researcher to focus on individuals who have direct experience with the research problem, ensuring the collection of in-depth qualitative data (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Given that this study seeks to explore the psychological effects of violence on children and the role of social workers, it is essential to select participants based on their knowledge, expertise, and lived experiences. Additionally, a snowball sampling technique is used to identify children who have experienced violence and received social work interventions. Snowball sampling is useful in research involving sensitive topics, as it helps in gaining trust and identifying participants through referrals from social workers and community members (Naderifar, Goli, & Ghaljaie, 2017). This approach ensures that the study reaches affected children while maintaining ethical considerations and confidentiality.

3.3.2 Sampling Procedures

The sampling procedure follows a systematic process to ensure that participants are

selected in an ethical and methodologically sound manner. First, key informants, such as social workers and child protection officers, are identified through official institutions and NGOs working in Kigoma Municipality. These professionals are then contacted to provide consent and participate in the study. For children who have experienced violence, initial contact is made through social work agencies. With parental or guardian consent, interviews or focus group discussions are conducted with children who meet the inclusion criteria. Due to the sensitive nature of the study, ethical considerations such as obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, and providing psychological support where necessary are strictly adhered to (Tracy, 2020).

Community leaders and caregivers are selected based on their involvement in child protection activities. They are identified through recommendations from local authorities and NGOs, ensuring that only those with direct knowledge of child violence issues are included.]By employing purposive and snowball sampling techniques, the study ensures that participants are selected based on their ability to provide meaningful insights, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the research problem.

3.4 Data Collection Methods and Instruments

3.4.1 In Depth Interviews

In-depth interviews are one of the primary data collection methods used in this study. This method is well suited for qualitative research as it allows the researcher to gather rich, detailed narratives from participants regarding their experiences and

perceptions (Rubin & Rubin, 2012). Semi structured interviews with social workers, child protection officers, and affected children provide in-depth insights into the psychological impact of violence and the effectiveness of intervention strategies. This method also allows for flexibility, enabling the researcher to probe further based on participants' responses, thus enhancing the depth of data collected (Brinkmann & Kvale, 2018).

3.4.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Documentary Review

Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) complement in-depth interviews by providing a platform for participants to share their experiences in a group setting, fostering interaction and deeper exploration of themes. FGDs are particularly useful for gaining a broader understanding of community perceptions and intervention challenges (Morgan, 2019). This study conducts FGDs with social workers, community leaders, and caregivers to capture collective perspectives on child protection interventions and their effectiveness. Additionally, a documentary review was conducted to analyze existing records, policies, and reports on child violence cases and social work interventions. Reviewing official documents, NGO reports, and legal frameworks enables triangulation of data and validation of findings (Bowen, 2009). This method enhanced the study's credibility by incorporating historical and policy perspectives on child violence and intervention strategies.

3.5 Qualitative Rigor

Ensuring qualitative rigor is essential in this study to guarantee the credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability of the research findings. Qualitative

rigor refers to the methodological strategies employed to enhance the trustworthiness of a qualitative study (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). Since this research investigates the psychological Impact of violence against children and the role of social workers in reducing these effects, maintaining high rigor ensures that the findings are both reliable and valid. Credibility, which parallels internal validity in quantitative research, is achieved by employing multiple data collection methods such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and documentary reviews. The use of triangulation, where information is cross-checked from different sources, enhances the credibility of the findings (Patton, 2015).

Furthermore, prolonged engagement with participants, including social workers, children, and key stakeholders, allows the researcher to develop trust and obtain deeper insights into the psychological effects of violence and intervention strategies. Member checking, where participants review and validate the researcher's interpretations, further ensures that the data accurately represents their experiences (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016). Transferability, which refers to the extent to which the study's findings can be applied to other similar settings, is enhanced through rich, thick descriptions of the research context and participants' experiences.

By providing detailed accounts of the psychological effects of violence against children and social workers' intervention strategies in Kigoma Municipality, the study allows future researchers and practitioners to assess the applicability of the findings in other contexts (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Purposive sampling also contributes to transferability by selecting participants with rich knowledge and

experience, ensuring that the data reflects a broad range of perspectives. Dependability, which is comparable to reliability in quantitative research, is ensured by maintaining a clear and systematic research process. An audit trail is kept throughout the study, documenting decisions made during data collection, analysis, and interpretation (Tracy, 2020). This transparency allows future researchers to replicate the study or understand the logic behind the methodological choices. Peer debriefing, where fellow researchers or experts review the research process, further strengthens dependability by providing external validation of the study's procedures and findings (Denzin & Lincoln, 2018).

Confirmability, which ensures that the findings are shaped by participants' experiences rather than researcher bias, is maintained through reflexivity. Reflexivity involves the researcher critically examining their role in the study and acknowledging potential biases that may influence data collection and interpretation (Berger, 2015). The researcher keeps reflective journals and analytic memos to document thoughts and assumptions throughout the research process.

Additionally, triangulation of data sources and methods minimizes the risk of subjective bias, reinforcing the objectivity of the findings. By adhering to these principles of qualitative rigor, the study ensures that its findings are credible, applicable, reliable, and objective. This rigorous approach strengthens the study's contribution to understanding the psychological impact of violence against children and the role of social workers in addressing these challenges in Kigoma Municipality.

3.6 Data Analysis

The data analysis in this study follows a qualitative approach, utilizing thematic analysis as the primary method for identifying, analyzing, and interpreting patterns within the data. Thematic analysis is a widely used qualitative analytic method that provides a systematic approach to coding and categorizing data into meaningful themes (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Given the study's focus on understanding the psychological Impact of violence against children and the role of social workers in reducing these effects, thematic analysis enables an in-depth exploration of participant narratives and experiences.

The data collected from in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and documentary reviews undergoes a rigorous process of transcription, familiarization, coding, theme generation, and interpretation. First, all audio-recorded interviews and discussions are transcribed verbatim to ensure accuracy in capturing participants' perspectives. The researcher then familiarizes themselves with the data by reading through transcripts multiple times, identifying patterns and recurrent ideas (Nowell et al., 2017).

Following familiarization, the next step involves coding, where relevant segments of data are systematically labeled based on their significance to the research questions. Open coding is used initially, allowing themes to emerge inductively from the data (Braun & Clarke, 2019). Once the initial codes are generated, they are grouped into broader themes that represent key aspects of the study, such as the psychological effects of violence on children, intervention strategies employed by social workers,

and the challenges faced in mitigation efforts. These themes are then refined to ensure coherence and distinctiveness, following Braun and Clarke's (2006) six-phase framework for thematic analysis.

To enhance the rigor and efficiency of the analysis, NVivo software is employed. NVivo is a qualitative data analysis tool that facilitates systematic coding, organization, and retrieval of data, allowing researchers to manage large volumes of text effectively (Zamawe, 2015). By using NVivo, the study ensures that emerging themes are systematically categorized, reducing the risk of researcher bias and improving the transparency of the analysis process. The software aids in coding textual data, visualizing connections between themes, and ensuring that findings remain data-driven rather than being influenced by preconceived assumptions (Maher et al., 2018).

The final stage of the analysis involves interpreting the identified themes in relation to existing literature and theoretical frameworks. The findings are discussed within the context of social work interventions, child psychology, and previous studies on violence against children. By employing thematic analysis alongside NVivo software, the study ensures a rigorous, systematic, and transparent approach to qualitative data analysis, ultimately leading to credible and meaningful findings.

3.7 Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations were fundamental in research involving human participants, particularly when dealing with vulnerable populations such as children who had

experienced violence. Ethical principles ensured that the study was conducted with integrity, respect, and sensitivity to participants' rights and well-being. This study adhered to established ethical guidelines, including informed consent, confidentiality, voluntary participation, and minimizing harm (Creswell & Poth, 2018). A critical ethical aspect of this study was obtaining informed consent from all participants.

Social workers, caregivers, and key informants provided written consent before participation, while children who had experienced violence required parental or guardian consent in addition to their own assent. Informed consent involved explaining the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks, and benefits in a language that participants understood, ensuring they voluntarily agreed to take part (Tracy, 2020). Given the sensitive nature of the topic, participants were assured that they could withdraw at any stage without any Impact.

Confidentiality and anonymity were strictly maintained throughout the research process. Participants' identities were protected by assigning pseudonyms and removing identifiable details from transcripts and reports. Data was stored securely, with access limited to the researcher and authorized personnel to prevent unauthorized disclosure (Wiles, 2013). NVivo software, used for data analysis, also ensured that sensitive data remained systematically organized while safeguarding confidentiality. Considering the potential psychological distress that discussing violence could cause, the study incorporated measures to minimize harm. Interviews and focus group discussions were conducted in a safe and private environment, allowing participants to share their experiences without fear of judgment or re-

traumatization. A referral system was established to connect participants in distress with professional psychological support services (Liamputtong, 2020).

In addition, the researcher adopted trauma-sensitive interviewing techniques to ensure that questions were framed in a non-intrusive and empathetic manner. This study also upheld the principle of researcher reflexivity, ensuring that personal biases and preconceptions did not influence data collection and analysis. Reflexivity was particularly crucial in qualitative research, where interactions between researchers and participants shaped the knowledge produced (Patton, 2015). Regular self-reflection and consultation with peer researchers helped maintain ethical objectivity.

Lastly, ethical approval was sought from relevant institutions such as the university or ethics committees before data collection began. This ensured that the study met ethical standards and followed national and international guidelines on research involving human subjects (World Health Organization, 2021). Adherence to these ethical principles guaranteed that the study was conducted responsibly, respecting the rights, dignity, and well-being of all participants.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS

4.1 Overview

Chapter Four presents the key findings of the study on The Role of Social Workers'
Interventions in reducing the Psychological Impact of Violence against Children: A
Case of Kigoma Municipality. This chapter systematically analyzes and interprets the
collected data to address the study's research objectives, providing a comprehensive
understanding of the impact of social work interventions on children who have
experienced violence. Following this, the findings are presented based on the core
research objectives. The first area of focus is the types and extent of psychological
Impact that children experience due to violence.

This section highlights the different emotional and psychological impacts of
violence, including anxiety, depression, trauma, and behavioral changes. By
analyzing the severity and nature of these impact, the study provides a clearer picture
of how violence affects children's mental well-being. Another significant aspect of
the findings is the role of social workers in providing interventions for children
affected by violence. This section explores the specific strategies and support
mechanisms employed by social workers, such as counseling, community outreach
programs, and advocacy for children's rights.

The effectiveness of these interventions is then assessed, examining how they
contribute to alleviating the psychological distress experienced by children.
Additionally, this part of the chapter discusses the extent to which these interventions

are accessible and beneficial to the children in need. The chapter also identifies the challenges and gaps in service delivery, focusing on obstacles that hinder social workers from providing adequate support to affected children. Some of these challenges may include a lack of resources, institutional constraints, or societal perceptions that influence the effectiveness of interventions. By highlighting these limitations, the study provides a foundation for discussions on improving policies and practices related to child protection and mental health support.

Throughout the chapter, data is presented using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, incorporating narratives, tables, figures, and thematic analysis where applicable. The chapter aims to provide a clear and coherent picture of the role that social workers play in addressing the psychological Impact of violence against children in Kigoma Municipality. Ultimately, this section lays the groundwork for Chapter Five, which will focus on discussions, conclusions, and recommendations based on the findings presented.

4.2 Psychological Impact of Violence against Children in Kigoma Municipality

Violence against children has severe psychological Impact, affecting their emotional well-being, behavior, and overall development. Through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, various psychological effects emerged, including anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and trauma. The findings reveal that children who experience violence often struggle with persistent fear, emotional withdrawal, and difficulties in social interactions. Many respondents described how children subjected to violence develop deep emotional distress, leading to long-term

psychological challenges. One social worker explained how children who experience

violence at home or school often exhibit anxiety and depression:

> *"Most of the children who come to us for counseling show signs of extreme fear and sadness. They find it hard to trust people, and some even refuse to speak about their experiences. This trauma affects their ability to concentrate in school and interact with their peers." (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)*

Similarly, participants in the focus group discussions highlighted how violence

affects children's self-esteem. One teacher noted that children who experience regular

beatings or verbal abuse tend to withdraw from social activities and become less

confident in expressing themselves:

> *"We have noticed that children who are constantly shouted at or beaten lose confidence. They stop participating in class discussions and prefer to stay alone because they feel unwanted or incapable." (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)*

Another psychological impact observed among children exposed to violence is

heightened aggression and behavioral problems. A social worker shared that some

children develop aggressive tendencies as a defense mechanism:

> *"Some children react to violence by becoming violent themselves. They hit their classmates or act out in frustration because they have learned that violence is a way to express emotions."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A participant in the focus group discussion, a community leader, further emphasized

how exposure to violence leads to increased aggression among children:

> *"We see cases where children who are beaten at home come to school and fight with others. They believe that physical force is the only way to solve problems." (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)*

Additionally, many respondents pointed out that children subjected to violence suffer from sleep disturbances, nightmares, and constant fear. A psychologist working with affected children noted:

> *"Some children experience nightmares and refuse to sleep alone. They are always on high alert, fearing that someone might hurt them again." (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)*

A parent participating in the focus group discussion also expressed concerns about sleep-related anxiety in their child:

> *"My child wakes up in the middle of the night crying. He says he sees someone coming to beat him in his dreams. This has been happening since he was punished severely at school." (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)*

Depression was also identified as a major consequence of violence against children. Some social workers reported cases of children losing interest in activities they once enjoyed and withdrawing from their friends and family. One counselor described a case she handled:

> *"There was a girl who loved playing with her friends, but after experiencing violence at home, she became very quiet and preferred staying alone. She even stopped playing with her toys, which was very concerning."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Another participant in the focus group discussion, a teacher, noted similar patterns among students:

> *"We have students who were once very active in class but, after experiencing violence, they became silent and disengaged. They don't talk much, and sometimes they don't even complete their assignments."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

In extreme cases, some children develop suicidal thoughts or tendencies due to prolonged exposure to violence. A social worker shared a heart-wrenching story of a child who expressed feelings of hopelessness:

> *"One boy told me that he no longer wanted to live because he felt like he was a burden to his family. He had been beaten so many times that he believed he was useless."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Another participant in the focus group discussion, a community member, shared a similar concern about the emotional impact of violence:

> *"We have heard cases where children talk about running away from home or harming themselves because they cannot bear the pain anymore."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

The findings clearly indicate that violence has profound psychological Impact on children, leading to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, aggression, sleep disturbances, and, in severe cases, suicidal ideation. The insights gathered from social workers, teachers, parents, and community members highlight the urgent need for intervention programs that provide psychological support and protection for affected children.

4.3 Intervention Strategies Used by Social Workers to address the Psychological Effects of Violence against Children

Addressing the psychological Impact of violence against children requires targeted intervention strategies by social workers. This study found that social workers in Kigoma Municipality employ various approaches to help affected children cope with trauma and rebuild their emotional well-being. The key intervention strategies identified include psychosocial counseling, community awareness programs, family engagement, school-based interventions, and referral services. These strategies aim to provide emotional support, equip children with coping mechanisms, and ensure long-term recovery from the psychological harm caused by violence. One of the most widely used intervention strategies is individual and group counseling, where social workers provide a safe space for children to express their feelings and process traumatic experiences. A social worker from a child protection organization described how counseling sessions help children regain confidence and emotional stability:

> *"When children come to us, they are often afraid and withdrawn. Through counseling, we help them talk about their experiences, understand their emotions, and build self-esteem. Many of them show significant improvement after several sessions."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Similarly, a participant in the focus group discussion, a teacher, emphasized the importance of counseling services in schools:

> *"Some students who experience violence at home come to school visibly distressed. When we refer them to social workers for*

counseling, we notice a change in their behavior. They become more relaxed and start participating in class again." (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Another critical intervention is community sensitization and awareness campaigns to educate parents, teachers, and caregivers on the impact of violence on children's mental health. A social worker leading community programs highlighted the importance of these initiatives:

"We conduct community meetings to educate parents on positive parenting and alternative discipline methods. Many parents believe physical punishment is necessary, but when we explain the psychological damage it causes, some start changing their approach." (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A parent who participated in the focus group discussion also shared how awareness sessions changed their perspective on disciplining children:

"Before attending the social workers' workshop, I thought beating a child was the only way to instill discipline. But I learned that talking to them calmly and guiding them works much better." (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Family engagement and parental counseling emerged as another key intervention strategy. Social workers not only work with children but also provide guidance to parents on how to create a safe and supportive home environment. A social worker shared how they approach families:

"We don't just counsel the child; we also talk to the parents. Many times, violence comes from home, so unless we change the

family environment, the child will continue to suffer."
(IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A focus group participant, a local leader, confirmed the effectiveness of parental counseling:

> *"When social workers counsel parents, we see improvements in how they treat their children. Some even come back to thank us for helping them understand their children better."*
> (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

School-based interventions have also been adopted to support children experiencing violence. Some social workers conduct school visits to monitor children's well-being and provide emotional support. One school social worker explained:

> *"We work closely with teachers to identify children who show signs of distress. If a child is always sad, quiet, or fearful, we step in to assess the situation and offer support."*
> (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A teacher in the focus group discussion described the role of social workers in preventing further harm:

> *"Whenever we identify a case of violence, we immediately involve social workers. They counsel the child and sometimes even intervene with the parents or guardians."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

For cases where children require specialized care, social workers use referral services to connect them with psychologists, child protection agencies, or legal assistance. A social worker working in a government office explained how referrals are handled:

> *"Some cases require professional psychological therapy or legal intervention. We refer these children to appropriate services to ensure they receive the care they need."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma).

A participant in the focus group discussion, a child rights activist, also emphasized the importance of referrals:

> *"Social workers don't work in isolation. They collaborate with other institutions to ensure children receive medical care, legal protection, and psychological support."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Another crucial strategy identified in the study is peer support programs, where children who have experienced similar challenges are encouraged to share their experiences and support each other. A social worker explained the effectiveness of this approach:

> *"We have group sessions where children can talk to others who have faced similar situations. This helps them feel less alone and gives them hope that they can overcome their struggles."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A child protection volunteer in the focus group discussion highlighted the impact of peer support:

> *"Children often listen to their peers more than adults. When they hear another child talk about overcoming trauma, they believe they can heal too."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Overall, the findings demonstrate that social workers use a combination of counseling, awareness campaigns, parental engagement, school interventions,

referral services, and peer support programs to address the psychological effects of violence against children. While these strategies have proven effective, challenges such as limited resources and resistance from some community members still hinder their full implementation. These findings underscore the need for strengthened policies and increased investment in social work interventions to ensure sustainable support for children affected by violence.

4.4 Challenge faced by Social Workers in Reducing the Psychological Impact of Violence against Children

While social workers play a crucial role in addressing the psychological Impact of violence against children, they face numerous challenges that hinder their effectiveness. The findings from in-depth interviews (IDI) and focus group discussions (FGD) reveal several key obstacles, including limited resources, lack of community cooperation, inadequate legal support, cultural beliefs, high caseloads, and emotional burnout. These challenges make it difficult for social workers to provide consistent and effective intervention, thereby prolonging the suffering of affected children. One of the most significant challenges reported by social workers is limited financial and material resources, which restrict their ability to offer comprehensive services. A social worker from a child protection agency highlighted the difficulty of providing consistent support due to inadequate funding:

> *"We want to help these children, but the resources are not enough. Sometimes we lack even basic materials like stationery for case documentation, and transporting children to safe spaces is a challenge."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A community leader in the focus group discussion echoed similar concerns about financial constraints:

> *"The government and organizations are trying, but the support is still not enough. We have many cases of child abuse, but few resources to handle them effectively."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Another major challenge is lack of cooperation from families and communities, which often prevents social workers from intervening effectively. A social worker shared their frustration with some parents who resist counseling and intervention efforts:

> *"Some parents believe we are interfering with their way of raising children. They refuse to cooperate, making it hard to protect the child from further harm."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A teacher in the focus group discussion supported this observation, stating that some parents fail to recognize the psychological damage they inflict on their children:

> *"We have seen cases where parents defend their abusive actions, saying its discipline. They don't understand the harm they are causing."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Inadequate legal support and enforcement of child protection laws also pose a challenge. Many social workers feel that the legal system does not provide enough support to ensure justice for children affected by violence. One social worker described the frustrations they face when trying to hold perpetrators accountable:

> *"Even when we report cases of abuse, the legal process is slow, and sometimes offenders go unpunished. This discourages us and the victims from seeking justice."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A participant in the focus group discussion, a child rights activist, also pointed out the weaknesses in the justice system:

> *"Many cases of child abuse don't reach court, and even when they do, they take too long to resolve. This delays justice for the affected children."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Cultural beliefs and traditional practices further complicate efforts to mitigate the psychological effects of violence. In some communities, corporal punishment and harsh disciplinary measures are normalized, making it difficult to change attitudes. A social worker expressed concern about cultural resistance:

> *"Many people still believe that beating a child is the best way to discipline them. Convincing them otherwise is a big challenge."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A local elder in the focus group discussion acknowledged the deep-rooted nature of these cultural beliefs:

> *"In our culture, we were raised to believe that a child must be punished physically to learn. Changing these beliefs is not easy, even when we see the harm they cause."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Another major challenge is the high number of cases social workers handle, which overwhelms them and limits their ability to provide individualized attention to

affected children. A social worker described the difficulty of managing a heavy caseload:

> *"There are too many cases and not enough social workers. We struggle to give each child the time and care they need."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A community member in the focus group discussion observed how this workload affects service delivery:

> *"Sometimes social workers take too long to respond to cases because they have too many to handle. These delays help for children in urgent need."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Emotional burnout and psychological stress among social workers is another serious challenge. Dealing with traumatized children and cases of extreme abuse takes a toll on their mental health. A social worker shared how the emotional burden affects them:

> *"Listening to children's painful stories every day is not easy. Sometimes we feel helpless because we cannot solve all their problems."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A fellow participant in the focus group discussion, a teacher, emphasized the need for psychological support for social workers:

> *"Social workers also need counseling and emotional support. They are dealing with so much pain, and without help, they can break down."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Additionally, limited training and professional development opportunities hinder the effectiveness of social workers in addressing the psychological effects of violence against children. A social worker lamented the lack of training opportunities:

> *"We need continuous training on trauma counseling and child psychology, but these opportunities are rare. Without proper training, it's hard to provide the best support for these children."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A participant in the focus group discussion, a social work student, also pointed out the need for improved capacity-building:

> *"If social workers had more training, they could handle cases more effectively and help children recover faster."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

Finally, the stigma surrounding child abuse cases prevents some victims from seeking help, making it harder for social workers to intervene. A social worker explained how stigma affects reporting:

> *"Some children are afraid to speak out because they fear being blamed or shamed. This makes it hard for us to identify cases early and provide support."* (IDI/December, 2024/Kigoma)

A religious leader in the focus group discussion also noted how stigma silences victims:

> *"In some families, when a child reports abuse, they are told to keep quiet to avoid shame. This only worsens their suffering."* (FGD/December, 2024/Kigoma)

The findings clearly indicate that social workers face multiple challenges in reducing the psychological impact of violence against children. Limited resources, lack of community cooperation, weak legal enforcement, cultural beliefs, high caseloads, emotional burnout, insufficient training, and stigma all make it difficult for social workers to provide effective support. Addressing these challenges requires increased government funding, stronger legal frameworks, community sensitization, better training opportunities, and emotional support for social workers. Without these improvements, efforts to protect children from the psychological effects of violence will remain limited.

4.5 Documentary Review Findings on the Psychological Impact of Violence against Children, Intervention Strategies, and Challenges Faced by Social Workers

The documentary review was a crucial tool in this study, allowing for an in-depth examination of existing reports, policies, laws, and previous studies related to violence against children. The reviewed documents provided significant insights into the psychological Impact of violence, the intervention strategies used by social workers, and the challenges they encounter in reducing these effects.

4.5.1 Psychological Impact of Violence against Children

Several reports and policy documents highlight the severe and long-lasting psychological effects of violence against children. The National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) 2017/18 – 2021/22 states that children exposed to violence are at high risk of experiencing emotional

distress, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and low self-esteem. The UNICEF Tanzania report (2020) further indicates that children who experience violence, particularly sexual and physical abuse, often struggle with trust issues, fear, and social withdrawal, leading to difficulties in forming healthy relationships later in life. Additionally, a study by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children (2019) documented that children exposed to violence exhibit poor academic performance, aggressive behavior, and a higher likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors such as drug abuse and early sexual activity.

These findings align with global research, which suggests that childhood trauma significantly affects brain development, emotional regulation, and future social interactions. Moreover, a 2021 Human Rights Watch (HRW) report reviewed in this study highlights that violence against children in Kigoma and other parts of Tanzania has intergenerational effects, where children who experience abuse are more likely to become perpetrators of violence or victims in adulthood. The reviewed literature consistently emphasizes the need for urgent interventions to mitigate these psychological Impact.

4.5.2 Intervention Strategies Used by Social Workers

The documentary review also provided valuable insights into the different strategies employed by social workers to address the psychological impact of violence against children. According to the Social Welfare Policy of Tanzania (2003) and the Child Act of 2009, social workers use multiple approaches to support child victims of

violence, including psychosocial counseling, family mediation, legal support, community awareness programs, and referrals to health services.

Reports from the Tanzania Social Workers Association (TASWA) emphasize the importance of trauma-focused therapy in helping child victims recover from emotional distress. The 2020 UNICEF Tanzania Violence against Children Survey (VACS) also highlights that social workers collaborate with schools to offer school-based mental health programs, which provide counseling services to affected children.

Furthermore, the Kigoma Municipality Social Welfare Office annual report (2022) outlines several successful intervention strategies, such as: case management and individualized care plans for child victims, rehabilitation services for severely traumatized children in collaboration with NGOs and community outreach programs aimed at educating parents and caregivers about non-violent disciplinary methods. However, the review of reports from local NGOs such as Save the Children and Plan International highlights the need for more training in trauma-informed care for social workers, as many lack specialized skills in handling complex psychological trauma.

4.5.3 Challenges Faced by Social Workers in Addressing Psychological Effects of Violence

The documentary review revealed multiple structural and operational challenges that hinder social workers from effectively reducing the psychological effects of violence against children. According to the 2021 Tanzania National Child Protection Review,

social workers face chronic understaffing and insufficient resources, making it difficult to provide timely and consistent support.

A report by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) (2020) identified weak enforcement of child protection laws as a major issue, with many cases of violence going unpunished due to corruption, delays in the judicial process, and lack of evidence. Similarly, the 2022 Kigoma Regional Social Welfare Report emphasized that social workers often struggle with community resistance due to deep-rooted cultural beliefs that normalize corporal punishment and other forms of violence against children.

Additionally, the UNICEF Tanzania 2021 report noted that social workers experience high levels of emotional burnout, leading to low job satisfaction and frequent turnover. The Social Welfare Workforce Assessment Report (2019) suggested that the lack of professional supervision and mental health support for social workers further exacerbates this problem. Another significant challenge found in Save the Children's 2020 report is the limited integration between child protection services and mental health services, making it difficult for social workers to provide holistic support to children suffering from trauma.

The findings from the documentary review reinforce the primary data collected from interviews and focus group discussions. The reviewed documents confirm that violence against children has severe psychological Impact, ranging from anxiety and depression to behavioral problems. Social workers use various intervention

strategies, including counseling, legal aid, and community education, but face significant challenges such as resource constraints, weak law enforcement, cultural resistance, and emotional burnout. Addressing these challenges requires stronger legal frameworks, increased funding, community engagement, and better training for social workers to enhance their effectiveness in protecting children.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINS, DISCUSSION RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Overview

Chapter five serves as the final chapter of the study, providing a comprehensive synthesis of the key findings, their interpretation, and actionable recommendations based on the research objectives. This chapter is structured into three main sections: Summary of the Findings, Discussion, and Recommendations. The Summary of the Findings presents a concise recap of the major insights derived from the research, aligning with the study's three specific objectives. It highlights the psychological Impact of violence against children, the intervention strategies employed by social workers, and the challenges they face in reducing these effects. The summary aims to provide a clear and straightforward understanding of the study's main outcomes.

The Discussion section critically examines the findings in relation to existing literature and theoretical perspectives. This section explores how the study's results compare with previous research, highlighting similarities, contradictions, and new insights. It also incorporates relevant theoretical frameworks to explain the implications of the findings. The discussion provides a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding violence against children and the role of social workers in addressing its psychological Impact.

The Recommendations section outlines practical suggestions for various stakeholders, including policymakers, social work practitioners, child protection agencies, and community members. These recommendations focus on strengthening

intervention mechanisms, improving support for social workers, enhancing legal and institutional frameworks, and fostering community engagement to prevent and mitigate violence against children. This section also suggests areas for future research to further expand knowledge in this critical field. Overall, Chapter Five brings the research to a meaningful conclusion by summarizing key insights, offering critical interpretations, and providing well-informed recommendations to improve the protection and psychological well-being of children in Kigoma Municipality.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This study examined the psychological Impact of violence against children, the intervention strategies employed by social workers to address these effects, and the challenges that hinder their effectiveness. The findings provide a comprehensive understanding of how exposure to violence affects children's psychological well-being, the role of social work interventions in reducing these effects, and the systemic and structural barriers that limit the success of these interventions.

5.2.1 Psychological Impact of Violence against Children

The study reveals that violence against children has profound and long-lasting psychological effects. Exposure to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse often leads to a range of mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Many children who experience violence develop a sense of fear, helplessness, and low self-esteem, which affects their overall emotional and psychological development. These psychological scars may persist into adulthood, increasing the likelihood of developing long-term mental health disorders.

One of the most notable findings is that children who experience violence often struggle with emotional regulation. They may exhibit heightened aggression, withdrawal, or difficulty forming healthy social relationships. Many also develop behavioral problems such as defiance, truancy, and self-harm. In severe cases, exposure to violence leads to suicidal ideation, especially among adolescents who feel trapped in an environment of abuse. The findings also highlight that prolonged exposure to violence may alter brain development, impairing cognitive functions such as memory, concentration, and decision-making.

The study further identifies that violence within the home environment, including domestic violence between parents or guardians, has an indirect but equally damaging psychological impact on children. Witnessing violence leads to emotional distress, anxiety, and a heightened risk of developing violent tendencies later in life. The normalization of violence within family settings perpetuates cycles of abuse, as children who grow up in violent households are more likely to exhibit violent behaviors in their adult relationships.

Another key finding is that psychological distress among children is often exacerbated by a lack of supportive networks. Many children experiencing violence are unable to confide in family members or caregivers due to fear, shame, or threats from perpetrators. The absence of psychological support services further aggravates their emotional turmoil, leading to undiagnosed and untreated mental health issues. Schools, which are meant to provide a safe space for children, are often unequipped to address these issues, leaving children without the necessary guidance and support.

5.2.2 Intervention Strategies Employed by Social Workers

Social workers play a pivotal role in reducing the psychological effects of violence against children. The study finds that one of the primary interventions used by social workers is psychological counseling, which provides children with a safe space to process their trauma. Through individual and group therapy sessions, social workers help children develop coping mechanisms and regain their sense of self-worth. Many interventions focus on cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) techniques, which help children reframe negative thoughts and behaviors caused by their traumatic experiences.

In addition to counseling, social workers actively engage in legal aid services to ensure that perpetrators of child violence are held accountable. Many cases of child abuse remain unreported due to fear, stigma, or a lack of awareness of legal rights. Social workers bridge this gap by advocating for victims and linking them with law enforcement agencies. They also facilitate access to safe shelters for children who are in immediate danger, providing them with temporary housing away from abusive environments. Community education and awareness programs are another essential intervention strategy. Social workers conduct outreach initiatives to educate communities about the harmful effects of violence against children and promote positive parenting techniques. Many of these programs aim to challenge entrenched cultural beliefs that justify violence, such as corporal punishment in schools and homes. Social workers collaborate with schools, religious institutions, and local leaders to change attitudes and foster a more protective environment for children.

Furthermore, social workers engage in case management, where they assess the needs of affected children and link them with necessary support services. This includes referring children to mental health professionals, securing educational assistance, and connecting families with economic empowerment programs to reduce financial stressors that contribute to domestic violence. A multidisciplinary approach, where social workers collaborate with healthcare providers, psychologists, and legal professionals, is often used to ensure a holistic response to child violence cases. Social workers also play a crucial role in policy advocacy. By documenting cases of violence and presenting data to policymakers, they contribute to the formulation and implementation of child protection laws. Their efforts have been instrumental in strengthening legal frameworks that safeguard children from abuse. However, despite these interventions, numerous challenges hinder their effectiveness.

5.2.3 Challenges Faced by Social Workers

The study highlights several systemic and structural barriers that limit the effectiveness of social workers in addressing the psychological effects of violence against children. One of the most significant challenges is the issue of chronic understaffing. Social workers are often overburdened with high caseloads, making it difficult to provide individualized support to every affected child. In many regions, there is a severe shortage of trained professionals specializing in child protection, leading to delays in intervention and inadequate follow-up services.

Another major challenge is the lack of resources. Many social work institutions operate with limited funding, making it difficult to provide essential services such as

therapy, legal assistance, and emergency shelter. The scarcity of safe houses for abused children means that many victims are forced to remain in abusive environments due to a lack of alternative living arrangements. Similarly, financial constraints limit the ability of social workers to conduct outreach programs, distribute educational materials, and facilitate transportation for victims in need of urgent care.

Weak enforcement of child protection laws is another critical issue. Despite the existence of legal frameworks that criminalize violence against children, the implementation of these laws remains weak. Many cases go unreported, and even when reported, perpetrators often escape justice due to corruption, inadequate evidence, or societal reluctance to prosecute offenders. Social workers frequently encounter resistance from law enforcement agencies, making it difficult to ensure justice for victims.

Community resistance to intervention efforts is another notable challenge. In many societies, cultural beliefs and traditional practices normalize violence against children. Corporal punishment, early marriages, and gender-based violence are often justified using cultural and religious arguments. Social workers face significant opposition when attempting to challenge these practices, as community members may perceive their interventions as an intrusion into family matters. Changing deep-rooted societal norms requires sustained efforts, which are often hindered by a lack of political and community support. Additionally, social workers themselves face high levels of emotional burnout. The nature of their work exposes them to traumatic

cases daily, leading to stress, compassion fatigue, and emotional exhaustion. Many social workers lack access to professional supervision or mental health support, making it difficult for them to cope with the psychological demands of their profession. The emotional toll of handling cases involving child abuse, neglect, and exploitation often leads to burnout, reducing their ability to provide effective support to victims. Another significant challenge lies in the limited integration between child protection services and mental health care. Many social work institutions lack specialized mental health professionals, making it difficult to provide comprehensive psychological support to affected children. The study finds that there is an urgent need for stronger collaboration between social workers, mental health practitioners, and child protection agencies to ensure a holistic approach to child welfare.

In conclusion, the study highlights the severe psychological Impact of violence against children, including anxiety, depression, behavioral disorders, and long-term emotional distress. Social workers employ various intervention strategies, such as psychological counseling, legal aid, community education, and policy advocacy, to address these effects. However, their efforts are hindered by challenges such as understaffing, lack of resources, weak enforcement of child protection laws, and community resistance. Addressing these challenges requires increased funding for child protection services, stronger legal enforcement mechanisms, enhanced mental health integration, and community-based initiatives to shift harmful societal norms. Strengthening the capacity of social workers and ensuring better inter-agency collaboration are essential steps in creating a safer and more supportive environment for children affected by violence.

5.3 Discussion

This section critically examines the study's findings in relation to existing literature and theoretical perspectives. It explores how the results align with or diverge from previous research on the psychological Impact of violence against children, the intervention strategies employed by social workers, and the challenges they encounter. The discussion also integrates relevant theoretical frameworks to explain the implications of these findings, providing a deeper understanding of the dynamics of child violence and social work interventions.

5.3.1 Psychological Impact of Violence against Children

The study's findings confirm that violence against children has profound psychological repercussions, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and difficulties in emotional regulation. These results are consistent with prior research, such as that of Kitzmann et al. (2003), which found that children exposed to violence are at a significantly higher risk of developing emotional and behavioral disorders. Similarly, a study by Felitti et al. (1998) on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) revealed that childhood exposure to violence leads to long-term mental health complications, substance abuse, and difficulties in forming stable relationships in adulthood. From a theoretical perspective, these findings align with Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, which posits that a child's development is influenced by multiple levels of environmental interaction. The study demonstrates that violence within the microsystem such as family abuse or bullying in schools has a direct negative impact on psychological well-being. Furthermore, the mesosystem, which includes the interaction between family, school, and community

institutions, plays a crucial role in either exacerbating or reducing the Impact of violence. If a child does not receive psychological support from their immediate environment, the long-term effects of trauma become more severe.

However, this study highlights an emerging concern that has received limited attention in previous literature: the psychological impact of witnessing violence. While prior studies have largely focused on direct victimization, this research emphasizes that children who witness domestic violence, even if they are not directly abused, suffer from significant psychological distress. This finding supports the concept of vicarious trauma, which suggests that indirect exposure to violence can have similar emotional and cognitive Impact as direct victimization.

5.3.2 Intervention Strategies Employed by Social Workers

The study's results reaffirm the crucial role of social workers in addressing the psychological effects of violence against children. Consistent with findings by Wessells (2009), the study highlights the effectiveness of psychological counseling as a primary intervention, particularly through cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) techniques. CBT has been widely recognized for helping children reconstruct negative thought patterns, manage trauma, and develop coping mechanisms.

Additionally, the study's emphasis on social workers' role in legal advocacy aligns with research by Mathews & Collin-Vézina (2019), who argue that legal interventions are essential in ensuring justice and protecting child survivors of violence. However, while existing literature has largely focused on formal

interventions such as therapy and legal advocacy, this study underscores the significance of community-based interventions. The findings indicate that social workers who engage in community education programs and parental training initiatives experience greater success in preventing child violence and supporting affected children. This perspective aligns with the Social Learning Theory proposed by Bandura (1977), which suggests that violent behaviors are learned and reinforced within social environments. By altering community attitudes towards violence and promoting non-violent parenting strategies, social workers can disrupt cycles of abuse at their roots.

Despite the positive impact of these interventions, the study identifies critical gaps in their implementation. A notable finding is that many social work interventions remain reactive rather than proactive. While social workers play a vital role in responding to cases of child abuse, there is a lack of preventive measures at institutional levels. This echo concerns raised by Ferguson (2017), who argues that social work practices often focus on crisis management rather than long-term prevention strategies. Strengthening preventive measures, such as incorporating mandatory child protection training in schools and enhancing mental health services, could significantly reduce the prevalence of child violence.

5.3.3 Challenges Faced by Social Workers

The study's findings regarding the challenges faced by social workers are consistent with previous research, particularly regarding issues of understaffing, resource constraints, and weak legal enforcement. Studies such as those by UNICEF (2020)

and Jones & Truell (2012) have similarly reported that social workers in many low-resource settings are overwhelmed by high caseloads, limiting their ability to provide comprehensive support to child survivors of violence. The lack of sufficient funding for child protection services further restricts their capacity to deliver adequate interventions, such as long-term therapy and emergency housing for affected children.

One of the most striking findings of this study is the significant impact of cultural and societal resistance to social work interventions. While previous studies have acknowledged the role of cultural beliefs in perpetuating child violence, this study provides a more nuanced understanding of how community resistance directly hinders social work interventions. In many cases, social workers face opposition from parents, local leaders, and even law enforcement agencies when attempting to intervene in cases of child abuse. This resistance is rooted in deeply entrenched cultural norms that justify corporal punishment and other forms of violence as disciplinary measures.

The study also contributes new insights regarding social worker burnout. While previous literature has acknowledged emotional exhaustion among social workers, this study highlights the specific challenge of secondary trauma condition where professionals who repeatedly work with victims of violence begin to experience symptoms of trauma themselves. Figley (1995) describes this phenomenon as compassion fatigue, where social workers develop emotional distress due to prolonged exposure to cases of abuse and suffering. The findings suggest that

without proper mental health support for social workers, their ability to provide effective care to children is compromised.

5.3.4 Implications of the Findings

The findings of this study have significant implications for both policy and practice. First, the confirmation of severe psychological Impact for children exposed to violence underscores the need for stronger mental health integration in child protection services. While social workers play a critical role in providing counseling, there is a need for increased collaboration between social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists to ensure comprehensive mental health support for affected children. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of community-based child protection models. Given that many social work interventions face resistance due to cultural beliefs, future policies should prioritize community engagement and education.

Collaborating with religious leaders, traditional authorities, and local educators could enhance acceptance of child protection initiatives and foster broader societal change. The study also calls for policy reforms to address the systemic challenges faced by social workers. Increasing government funding for child protection programs, strengthening enforcement of child protection laws, and providing mental health support for social workers could significantly improve intervention effectiveness. Furthermore, implementing preventive approaches, such as mandatory parenting programs and school-based anti-violence campaigns, could help reduce the prevalence of child violence in the long term.

In summary, this discussion critically examines the study's findings in relation to existing literature and theoretical perspectives. The study reaffirms the severe psychological Impact of violence against children, consistent with previous research on trauma and child development. The findings also highlight the effectiveness of social work interventions, particularly in counseling and legal advocacy, but emphasize the need for stronger community-based prevention strategies. Moreover, the study sheds light on the persistent challenges faced by social workers, including understaffing, resource constraints, cultural resistance, and secondary trauma. By integrating insights from the Ecological Systems Theory, Social Learning Theory, and Compassion Fatigue Theory, this discussion provides a deeper understanding of the dynamics of child violence and the urgent need for improved intervention strategies. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach that strengthens mental health support, enhances community engagement, and reinforces legal protections for vulnerable children.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, this section presents practical recommendations for various stakeholders, including policymakers, social work practitioners, child protection agencies, and community members. These recommendations focus on strengthening intervention mechanisms, improving support for social workers, enhancing legal and institutional frameworks, and fostering community engagement to prevent and mitigate violence against children. Additionally, this section suggests areas for future research to expand knowledge and inform more effective interventions.

5.4.1 Strengthening Intervention Mechanisms

Given the severe psychological Impact of violence against children, it is imperative to enhance the effectiveness of intervention strategies. Social work practitioners should adopt trauma-informed approaches that prioritize children's emotional and psychological well-being. This includes incorporating evidence-based counseling techniques such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and play therapy to help children process trauma. Furthermore, multi-disciplinary intervention teams comprising social workers, psychologists, educators, and healthcare providers should be established to ensure comprehensive support for child survivors of violence.

Child protection agencies should also improve early identification and response systems by strengthening collaboration between schools, healthcare facilities, and law enforcement. Training teachers and healthcare professionals to recognize early signs of abuse and report cases promptly can significantly enhance child protection efforts. Additionally, the adoption of digital case management systems would enable social workers to track cases more efficiently and ensure timely interventions.

5.4.2 Improving Support for Social Workers

Social workers play a critical role in reducing the impact of violence against children, yet they face significant challenges, including burnout, secondary trauma, and resource constraints. To address these challenges, mental health support programs should be introduced for social workers, providing access to counseling, peer support groups, and stress management training. Regular capacity-building workshops should also be conducted to equip social workers with updated

knowledge and skills in trauma care, legal advocacy, and community-based interventions.

In addition, governments and child protection agencies should work towards reducing caseloads by recruiting more social workers and increasing budget allocations for child protection services. Ensuring that social workers have access to adequate resources such as safe shelters for abused children, transportation for field visits, and legal assistance would significantly enhance their effectiveness in providing support to vulnerable children.

5.4.3 Enhancing Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Despite existing child protection laws, weak enforcement remains a major barrier to effectively addressing violence against children. Policymakers should strengthen legal frameworks by introducing stricter penalties for perpetrators and ensuring that child abuse cases are processed swiftly within the judicial system. Special courts or fast-track mechanisms for child abuse cases should be established to prevent delays in justice delivery.

Furthermore, there is a need to increase public awareness of child protection laws to ensure that communities, educators, and caregivers understand the legal implications of violence against children. Governments should implement national child protection campaigns through media platforms, schools, and community outreach programs, emphasizing the importance of child rights and non-violent disciplinary methods. Institutional reforms are also necessary to ensure better coordination among

child protection agencies. Establishing inter-agency collaboration mechanisms, where social workers, police, healthcare professionals, and legal practitioners work together, would enhance the efficiency of child protection efforts. Additionally, government funding for shelters, legal aid services, and psychosocial support programs should be increased to strengthen institutional responses to child violence.

5.4.4 Fostering Community Engagement

Community resistance to child protection interventions remains a significant challenge. Therefore, it is essential to implement community-based education programs that challenge harmful cultural norms and promote positive parenting practices. Engaging religious and traditional leaders as child protection advocates can be particularly effective in addressing cultural resistance and changing attitudes toward corporal punishment.

Parents and caregivers should be provided with parenting education and skills training on non-violent disciplinary techniques. Schools should integrate child protection education into their curricula to teach children about their rights and encourage them to report instances of abuse. Moreover, community-led child protection committees can be established to serve as local watchdogs, ensuring that cases of child abuse are reported and addressed promptly.

5.4.5 Future Research Directions

This study has contributed to understanding the psychological effects of violence against children and social work interventions, several areas require further

exploration. Future research should focus on the long-term psychological impact of vicarious trauma among children who witness violence but are not directly abused. Additionally, there is a need for studies that examine the effectiveness of community-based child protection programs, particularly in resource-limited settings.

Further research could also explore innovative intervention models, such as digital counseling platforms and artificial intelligence-based child protection systems, to assess their feasibility in enhancing child welfare services. Lastly, comparative studies on child protection policies across different socio-cultural contexts would provide valuable insights into best practices that could be adapted and implemented globally.

5.4.6 Conclusion

The recommendations outlined above emphasize the urgent need for a complex approach to prevent and mitigate violence against children. Strengthening intervention mechanisms, improving support for social workers, enhancing legal frameworks, and fostering community engagement are critical steps in ensuring a safer environment for children. By implementing these measures and investing in further research, stakeholders can contribute to the long-term protection and well-being of vulnerable children, ultimately creating a more just and child-friendly society.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: In-Depth Interview Guide

(*For Social Workers and Child Protection Officers*)

Introduction:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview. The purpose of this discussion is to understand your experience in addressing violence against children, the intervention strategies you employ, and the challenges you encounter. Your responses will be kept confidential and used solely for academic purposes.

Section A: Background Information

1. Can you briefly describe your role in child protection and social work?

2. How long have your been working in this field?

Section B: Psychological Effects of Violence against Children

3. Based on your experience, what are the most common psychological effects observed in children who experience violence?

4. How does exposure to violence affect a child's emotional, social, and academic well-being?

5. Are there specific cases that illustrate severe psychological Impact of violence against children?

Section C: Intervention Strategies

5. What intervention strategies do you employ when handling cases of child violence?

7. How do you assess and address the psychological needs of child survivors?

8. What role do counseling and psychosocial support play in your interventions?

9. Do you collaborate with other stakeholders such as schools, police, or healthcare professionals in handling child protection cases?

Section D: Challenges Faced by Social Workers

10. What are the key challenges you face when implementing interventions for children affected by violence?

11. Are there any legal or institutional barriers that hinder your work?

12. How do you handle cases where families or communities are resistant to interventions?

Section E: Recommendations

13. What improvements would you suggest to enhance child protection services?

14. How can the government, NGOs, and communities better support social workers in addressing violence against children?

Appendix II: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide

(For Community Members, Parents, and Teachers)

Introduction:

Welcome and thank you for joining this discussion. The aim of this session is to gather community insights on the impact of violence against children, existing support systems, and potential solutions. Your contributions are valuable and will be used for academic purposes. Please feel free to share your opinions openly.

Warm-Up Questions:

1.   What does violence against children mean to you?

2.   What are some common forms of child violence in this community?

Discussion Themes:

A. Psychological Effects of Violence against Children

3. Have you observed any emotional or behavioral changes in children exposed to violence?

4. How does violence affect children's school performance and social interactions?

5. Are there traditional or community-based mechanisms for supporting children who experience violence?

B. Community and Institutional Interventions

6. What measures are currently in place to prevent and adress child violance in this community?

7. How effective are social workers, teachers, and community leaders in handling cases of child violence?

8. What role do local authorities and law enforcement agencies play in child protection?

C. Challenges and Barriers

9. What are the major challenges in preventing violence against children?

10. Are there cultural or economic factors that contribute to the persistence of child violence?

D. Recommendations and Solutions

11. How can communities be more involved in preventing child violence?

12. What should the government and organizations do to strengthen child protection efforts?

13. How can schools and parents work together to create a safer environment for children?

Appendix III: Mwongozo wa Majadiliano ya Kikundi

(*Kwa Wanajamii, Wazazi, na Walimu*)

Utangulizi:

Karibu na asante kwa kujiunga na mjadala huu. Lengo la kipindi hiki ni kukusanya maarifa ya jamii kuhusu athari za ukatili dhidi ya watoto, mifumo iliyopo ya usaidizi na suluhu zinazowezekana. Michango yako ni ya thamani na itatumika kwa madhumuni ya kitaaluma. Tafadhali jisikie huru kushiriki maoni yako kwa uwazi.

Maswali ya Awali:

1. Je, ukatili dhidi ya watoto unamaanisha nini kwako??

2. Je, unafahamu baadhi ya aina za ukatili kwa Watoto unazozifahamu katika jamii?

Kusudio la Majadiliano:

A. Madhara ya Kisaikolojia ya Ukatili Dhidi ya Watoto

3. Je, umewahi kuona mabadiliko yoyote ya kihisia au kitabia kwa watoto walioathiriwa na ukatili?

4. Je, unyanyasaji na ukatili unaathiri vipi utendaji wa watoto shuleni na mwingiliano wa kijamii?

5. Je, kuna mbinu za kimila au za kijamii za kusaidia watoto wanaopata ukatili?

B. Afua za Jumuiya na Taasisi

6. Ni hatua gani zinazochukuliwa kwa sasa kuzuia na kushughulikia unyanyasaji na ukatili kwa watoto katika jamii hii?

7. Je Maafisa Ustawi wa Jamii, walimu, na viongozi wa jamii wana ufanisi kiasi gani katika kushughulikia kesi za unyanyasaji wa watoto?

8. Je Mamlaka za Serikali za Mitaa na Vyombo vya kutekeleza sheria vina jukumu gani katika ulinzi wa watoto?

C. Changamoto na Vikwazo

9. Je, ni changamoto gani kubwa katika kuzuia ukatili dhidi ya watoto?

10. e, kuna mambo ya kitamaduni au kiuchumi yanayochangia kuendelea kwa ukatili wa watoto?

D. Mapendekezo na Ufumbuzi

11. e! ni vipi jamii zinaweza kushiriki zaidi katika kuzuia ukatili wa watoto?

12. Je, serikali na mashirika yafanye nini ili kuimarisha juhudi za ulinzi wa watoto?

13. Je, shule na wazazi wanaweza kufanya kazi pamoja ili kujenga mazingira salama kwa watoto?

Appendix IV: Documentary Review Guide

Introduction:

This guide was used to review relevant documents, reports, policies, and legal frameworks related to violence against children. The aim was to assess the extent to which these documents address child protection, intervention strategies, and challenges faced by social workers.

Key Documents Reviewed:

1. National Child Protection Policies

2. Reports from Social Welfare and Child Protection Agencies

3. Case Reports and Assessments from Social Workers

4. Legal Frameworks on Child Rights and Protection

5. Previous Research Studies on Violence Against Children

Review Focus Areas:

A. Policy and Legal Frameworks

- What legal provisions exist for the protection of children from violence?

- How effective are these policies in practice?

- Are there gaps or inconsistencies in the laws that hinder child protection?

B. Intervention Strategies

- What intervention measures are recommended in official reports?

- Are there documented best practices in handling cases of child violence?

- What role do different stakeholders (government, NGOs, community) play in child protection?

C. Challenges and Implementation Gaps

- What challenges are highlighted in policy documents and reports regarding child protection?

- Are there resource or capacity constraints affecting intervention strategies?

- What recommendations have been proposed in existing reports to address these challenges?

APPENDIX VI: RESEARCH CLEARANCE LETTER

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Ref. No OUT/PG201986200   29ᵗʰ **January, 2024**

Municipa Director,

Kigoma Municipal Council,
P.O. Box 44,

KIGOMA.

Dear Director,

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR MR. MBWANJI PETRO SAMWEL, REG NO: PG201986200

2.   The Open University of Tanzania was established by an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1ˢᵗMarch 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 1ˢᵗJanuary 2007.In line with the Charter, the Open University of Tanzania mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.
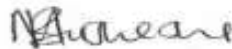
3.   To facilitate and to simplify research process therefore, the act empowers the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania to issue research clearance, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, to both its staff and students who are doing research in Tanzania. With this brief background, the purpose of this letter is to introduce to you **Mr. Mbwanji Petro Samwel, Reg. No: PG201986200), pursuing Master of Social Work (MSW).** We here by grant this clearance to conduct a research titled **"Exploring the Effects of Violence against**

Children on Psychological Development of the Child: The Case of Kigoma Municipality". He will collect his data at your area from 30th January 2024 to 29th February 2024.

4.   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. Magreth S.Bushesha

For: VICE CHANCELLOR

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

KIGOMA UJIJI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

In Reply please quate;-
Ref. No. KUMC/T. 40/15/203

Date: 9th February, 2024.

Vice Chancellor,
The Open University of Tanzania,
Kinondoni Biafra,
P.O. Box 23409,
DAR ES SALAAM.

RE: APPROVAL FOR RESEARC ATTACHMENT TO YOUR STUDENT NAMELY MR. MBWANJI PETRO SAMWEL.

Please refer to the above heading.

2. Also refer to your letter with Ref. No. OUT/PG 201986200 dated 29th January, 2024 in respect to the above heading.

3. The *approval is hereby given* as for your above named student to conduct his research studies scheduled to be undertaken from 30th January, 2024 to 29th February, 2024 at Kigoma Municipality.

4. Thank you for your cooperation.

Idrisa M. Naumanga,
For; - **MUNICIPAL DIRECTOR.**

For: MUNICIPAL DIRECTOR KIGOMA/UJIJI