THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: A CASE OF TANGA CITY COUNCIL, TANZANIA

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that they have read and hereby recommend for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) a Research Report: **"The Role of Community Involvement in Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse in Tanga City Council, Tanzania",** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Social Work of the Open University of Tanzania.

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DECLARATION

I, **Upendo Clement Kisebengo**, declared that the work presented in this dissertation is original. It has never been presented to any other University or Institution. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided. It is in this regard that I declare this work as originally mine. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Social Work (MSW).

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Signature

19/10/2025

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Date

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved family for their unwavering support throughout this journey.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT

This study examined the role of community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) in Tanga City Council, Tanzania. It aimed to explore community participation in CSA prevention, assess the effectiveness of current initiatives, and identify challenges faced by community members. Guided by system theory and pragmatic philosophy, the study employed a descriptive design and a mixed-method approach. Data were collected from 104 respondents using interviews, focus group discussions, and questionnaires, analyzed through descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. Findings revealed that 45% of respondents were aware of community campaigns, 24% collaborated with law enforcement, and 31% participated in Child Protection Committees. About 62% agreed that community reporting mechanisms were accessible and practical. However, cultural and social norms (40%) and limited resources (25%) were identified as key barriers to effective prevention. Additional challenges included fear of punishment, inadequate training, and weak coordination with law enforcement. The study concludes that community involvement plays a crucial role in preventing child sexual abuse but remains hindered by limited capacity and poor coordination among stakeholders. It emphasizes the need for continuous community empowerment, awareness creation, and collaboration between community members, government institutions, and non-governmental organizations. The study recommends strengthening community-based programs, increasing government and stakeholder support, and fostering partnerships to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of CSA prevention initiatives in Tanga City.

Keywords: *Child, Community Involvement, Child Sexual Abuse, Children.*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CCAB	Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
DHIS2	District Health Information System
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
JC	Junior Councils
NPA-VAWC	National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
URT	United Republic of Tanzania
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Chapter Overview

This study aims to explore community involvement in CSA prevention, evaluate the effectiveness of the existing community involvement intervention in preventing child sexual abuse, and identify the challenges faced by community members in their preventive efforts. Therefore, this chapter consists the background of the study, the statement of the research problem, the research objectives, the research questions, and the significance of the study.

1.2 Background of the Study

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a hidden issue, often denied across many societies due to stigma, cultural taboos, and the absence of legal frameworks protecting children's rights (Bolen, 2021). Before the 20th century, CSA was rarely acknowledged in public discourse, with most legal systems lacking explicit provisions to criminalize such acts (Conte, 2020). It was not until the 1960s and 1970s that CSA began receiving global attention, mainly due to rising feminist movements, psychological research on child trauma, and increased media exposure of abuse cases.

In the 1980s and 1990s, international bodies such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization began framing CSA as a human rights violation and a public health emergency, leading to global child protection policies and awareness campaigns (UNICEF, 2023; WHO, 2020). Today, CSA is widely recognized as a significant global issue requiring multi-sectoral responses. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a public health problem requiring urgent attention. According to the World Health

Organization, CSA is preventable and constitutes a substantial public health concern affecting numerous children worldwide (WHO, 2020).

The United Nations World Report on Violence against Children highlighted that child sexual abuse often occurs within domestic settings and institutions entrusted with child welfare. Exposing the magnitude of child abuse and violence (WHO, 2022), reports that globally, about 1 billion children from the age of 2 to 17 years have experienced physical and sexual in their past years. It also emphasizes the critical role of community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse, such as building awareness and education, including educational programs targeting parents, caregivers, and children, to help increase knowledge about what constitutes child sexual abuse encouraging reporting and responses, promoting child participation collaboration and partnerships.

UNICEF (2021) noted that abuse and maltreatment against children are committed mainly by close relatives and those who are in positions of authority and trusted by children. It further indicated that incidents of violence and abuse commonly happen at home, schools, or in the community surroundings. Also, Save the Children (2021) pointed out that about 75% of children in Europe have experienced violence and abuse. In contrast, physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and exploitation are identified as the common forms of abuse and violence committed. Conferring its impacts, Hamby (2023) asserts that community participation plays a crucial role in combating CSA by raising awareness, providing support to survivors and their families, advocating for policy changes, and implementing preventive measures.

In the European region, child sexual abuse (CSA) poses a significant and pervasive threat to the well-being of children, with an estimated 18 million children experiencing such abuse before the age of 18 (WHO, 2022). The consequences of CSA extend beyond immediate harm, impacting children's physical, mental, and social health and even contributing to societal issues. Recognizing the severity of this problem, community involvement plays a crucial role in preventing child sexual abuse. Through education, awareness campaigns, and community support systems, the aim is to create an environment that actively works to prevent child sexual abuse and its long-term consequences, promoting the overall well-being of children.

Likely in the United States, child sexual abuse is a significant societal concern affecting a considerable portion of the population, with prevalence rates ranging from 15% to 25% for girls and 5% to 10% for boys (Finkelhor et al., 2022; Finkelhor et al., 2023). The profound and lasting effects of CSA on survivors' physical, psychological, and emotional well-being underscore the urgent need for comprehensive prevention strategies (Shattuck & Hamby, 2022). Recognizing the societal repercussions, the United States has implemented preventive measures, including legislative changes to strengthen legal frameworks and penalties for perpetrators (Turner & Hamby, 2023). While these interventions are crucial, community role is essential for a holistic approach to prevention.

Conversely, in the context of Asia, addressing child sexual abuse (CSA) requires urgent attention and concerted efforts from communities, as highlighted by alarming statistics presented by Selengia, Thuy, and Mushi (2022), which report a prevalence ranging from 3.3% to 42.7% for girls and boys under the age of 14. Mbomia (2021)

underscores the severity of CSA, emphasizing its immediate and long-term consequences, such as psychological trauma, physical injuries, and challenges in forming healthy relationships. The implications of CSA extend beyond individual victims, affecting societal, economic, and public health domains. Also, Rosyadi (2023) asserts that the community's role is crucial in raising awareness, supporting survivors, and implementing preventive measures to address this pervasive issue in Asia.

In Africa, child sexual abuse (CSA) remains a deeply rooted and under-reported issue, driven by a combination of structural and cultural factors such as poverty, harmful traditional practices, weak child protection frameworks, and limited access to education. According to a UNICEF report (2019), over 40% of girls and 20% of boys in sub-Saharan Africa experience some form of sexual violence before the age of 18. Many incidents occur within family environments or trusted community institutions, where children are presumed safe. A study conducted by the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF, 2020) revealed that between 10% and 35% of African children have been victims of sexual abuse. However, the majority of cases go unreported due to stigma, fear, and societal normalization of abuse.

Likewise, East Africa reflects similar alarming trends. In Kenya, 46% of girls reported having experienced some form of sexual abuse within their communities, underlining the scale of the issue (World Bank, 2022). Despite this, there are promising signs of progress through community-led initiatives. As Mbunda (2023) notes, community involvement is vital in preventing and responding to CSA across the region. In Kenya, for instance, community members have engaged in organizing

awareness campaigns to educate people about CSA, its effects on children, and how to report and prevent such incidents.

In Tanzania, the prevalence of child sexual abuse (CSA) is alarmingly high, with nearly 1 in 3 females and approximately 1 in 7 males have experienced sexual violence, and almost three-quarters of both females and males have experienced physical violence before the age of 18 (URT, 2021). Similarly, the child sexual abuse survey revealed that 72 percent of girls and 71 percent of boys experienced sexual abuse (National Survey Report, 2021). Likewise, the LHRC (2021) Survey Report shows that the incidents of sexual abuse against children in Tanzania increased from 4,728 by mid-2023 to 6,376 by mid-2022, in which 91% of the reported abuse incidents were of sexual abuse, while 9% were physical and psychological violence. Moreover, almost 6.9% of girls and 2.9% of boys were physically forced into sexual intercourse before the age of 18 (URT, 2021).

The government of Tanzania, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations and international bodies, has undertaken serious efforts to address child sexual abuse, like the establishment of the legal framework, ratification of (UNCRC), (ACRWC), and establishment of the National Child Development Policy of 2008. Awareness campaigns, and support services. Despite these efforts by the government and stakeholders, the problem of CSA in Tanga City Council has risen since 2022. The prevalence of CSA was reported in 132 cases; by 2023, there were 218, and in 2024, were 137 cases reported. The standard CSA reported are rape and sodomy (DHIS2,2024).

Although previous interventions have emphasized law enforcement and awareness creation, the role and effectiveness of community involvement in CSA prevention remain inadequately explored. Existing studies have focused more on prevalence and legal responses, paying little attention to how communities themselves participate in preventing CSA, the challenges they face, and the sustainability of these initiatives. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by examining the role of community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council, Tanzania.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Child sexual abuse (CSA) should be minimal in societies where community members, local authorities, and organizations actively engage in child protection through awareness campaigns, education, and the creation of safe environments for children. International conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990) emphasize the responsibility of communities and governments to ensure children's safety and well-being. Similarly, Tanzania has demonstrated commitment through legal frameworks such as the Law of the Child Act (CAP 13 R.E 2019), the Child Protection Laws Act (2024), and the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC, 2017/18–2021/22).

Despite these national and international commitments, child sexual abuse remains a serious and escalating problem in Tanzania. Statistics show that approximately one in three girls and one in seven boys experience sexual violence before the age of 18 (URT, 2021). In Tanga City Council, reported CSA cases increased from 132 in 2022 to 218 in 2023, before slightly declining to 137 in 2024 (DHIS2, 2024). These

figures remain higher than in neighboring districts such as Pangani and Mkinga, revealing the persistent vulnerability of children in this area. The reported cases include rape and sodomy, highlighting the urgency of effective prevention strategies.

Over the years, the government and civil society have introduced several initiatives, including gender desks in police stations, child protection committees, and child helplines. However, these measures have not yielded the desired outcomes. Community involvement an essential component in preventing CSA remains weak and fragmented. Many community members lack adequate awareness, training, and resources to detect, report, and respond to abuse cases effectively (UNICEF, 2020; Mathews, 2020; Wessells, 2021). Furthermore, cultural stigma, economic hardship, and limited collaboration between communities and law enforcement hinder prevention efforts. Therefore, there is a clear gap in understanding the extent, effectiveness, and challenges of community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council. Addressing this gap is critical for developing sustainable, community-driven strategies that strengthen child protection systems and promote the safety and well-being of all children

1.4 Objectives of the Study

This study was guided by two categories of objectives, such as the main objective and specific research objectives.

1.4.1 General Objectives of the Study

To assess the role of community involvement in preventing of child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council, Tanzania.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

i. To determine community involvement in prevention of child sexual abuse in Tanga city council.

ii. To examine the effectiveness of current community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council.

iii. To investigate challenges faced by the community members in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council.

1.5 Research Questions

i. What are the community involvement intervention regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council?

ii. How effective are the current community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council?

iii. What challenges are faced by the community members in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is anticipated to provide valuable insights into the role of community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) in Tanga City Council, Tanzania. The findings are expected to contribute to policy development, research advancement, and community practice related to child protection. From a policy perspective, the study is expected to generate evidence that can guide policymakers in refining existing child protection frameworks and strengthening community-based prevention strategies. The insights could support the implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) and

similar initiatives, ensuring that local communities play an active role in child protection efforts.

For community practitioners and stakeholders, the study is expected to offer guidance on effective strategies for mobilizing communities to prevent CSA. By identifying challenges and opportunities within community engagement, the study could inform the design of culturally appropriate interventions that promote awareness, reporting, and collective responsibility for child safety. From an academic and research standpoint, the study will enrich the body of empirical knowledge on CSA prevention in Tanzania and the broader African context. It will contribute to theoretical understanding by highlighting how community systems interact with child protection mechanisms, thereby informing future studies and comparative analyses.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study was conducted within Tanga City Council, Tanzania, and both geographical and thematic boundaries define it. Geographically, the study focused on five selected wards within the Tanga city council. Thematically, the study focused on three key aspects: first, exploring community involvement in interventions aimed at preventing child sexual abuse (CSA); second, examining the Effectiveness of current community-based efforts in CSA prevention; and third, identifying the challenges faced by community members

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is composed of the background

of the study, a statement of the research problem, the study's objectives, research questions, and the study's significance and scope. The second chapter includes an overview, defining key terms, a theoretical literature review, an empirical literature review research gap, and a conceptual framework. The third chapter constitutes the research methodology, which covers the research philosophy, design, approach, study population, sampling procedures, and sample size. The other components of Chapter Three are data collection methods, data analysis, validity and reliability of the research instruments, and ethical considerations. The fourth chapter involves data analysis, interpretation, presentation, and discussion of the findings. The fifth chapter presents the study's summary, conclusion, and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter presents the theoretical and empirical findings of various studies related to the topic under study. It consists of defining key terms, a theoretical literature review, an empirical literature review, and a research gap.

2.2 Conceptualization of Key Terms

Below are the definitions of key terms and concepts used in the current study

2.2.1 Child

A child is defined as an individual in the early stages of life, generally from birth through adolescence, marked by continuous physical, emotional, cognitive, and social growth and development (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2022). According to the Law of the Child Act (2009) of Tanzania, a child is legally recognized as any person below the age of eighteen years. This legal definition forms the basis for the country's child protection policies and legal interventions. In this study, a child refers to any individual under 18 entitled to special care, protection, and developmental support. However, this study specifically focused on children aged 12 to 17 years, as they are considered developmentally capable of expressing their thoughts and experiences regarding issues related to child sexual abuse prevention.

2.2.2 Community Involvement

Community involvement is the active participation of community individuals or organizations in improving and enhancing their local community. This can

encompass various activities, including volunteer work, participation in local events, collaboration with community organizations, and efforts to address regional issues. (Putnam, 2000). In this study, community involvement is when people participate in activities that benefit their community.

2.2.3 Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse is defined as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give permission, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society (WHO, 2020). In this study, child sexual abuse refers to the involvement of a child in sexual activity that they do not fully comprehend and are unable to give informed consent to.

2.3 Theoretical Review

A theory is an organized set of concepts and propositions to help scientists account for, predate, and explain phenomena (Smith, 2010). The current study used system theory to analyze the interoperability between different substructures/systems to reach the intended goal(s).

2.3.1 System Theory

Systems Theory is a multidisciplinary framework that studies various systems' complex interactions and relationships. Originating from the work of biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy in the 1940s, he was born in 1901 in Australia and died on June 16, 1972. Systems theory posits that an entity or phenomenon can best be understood by examining the relationships and interactions among its components

rather than in isolation.

The system theory argues that Systema comprises interconnected components that affect each other. The components include individuals, families, key informants, and government agencies. This assumption can help to understand how community involvement dynamics might work to prevent child sexual abuse. The second argument is that system theory views feedback loops as mechanisms within a community (reporting abuse, community awareness programs) that can strengthen preventive measures, demonstrating how communities can adapt to emerging threats through collaborative mechanisms. Thirdly, system theory states that communities are open Systems interacting with a larger social environment; they exchange information, resources, and influences, meaning laws and societal norms.

2.3.2 Relevance of System Theory to this Study

System theory is relevant in exploring community involvement in child sexual abuse prevention in analyzing the various interconnected components of the community system (Bertalanffy, 1940). These include individuals, families, schools, local organizations, and governmental agencies. By understanding how these elements interact, researchers will gain insights into collective education programs, awareness, community support systems, and knowledge that shape community involvement. Systems theory will help identify key influencers and opinion leaders within the community who can drive awareness and preventive efforts (Ahmed et al., 2022).

When examining the Effectiveness of community involvement interventions, systems theory will offer a framework to assess how different community

involvement interventions, such as education programs, healthcare services, law enforcement, and social services, interact and work together. Systems theory will allow for the analysis of how well this community involvement intervention aligns with community needs and how effectively they collaborate to prevent child sexual abuse (Mbali et al. 2022).

Using systems theory to identify challenges faced by the community in preventing child sexual abuse involves examining the barriers and obstacles within the community system that hinder practical prevention efforts. These challenges might include socio-cultural factors, economic constraints, legal and policy limitations, and gaps in service provision (Mwape, 2023). Systems theory helped us understand how these diverse factors interact and create systemic issues that must be addressed.

2.4 Empirical Literature Review

The empirical literature review covers the following: community, Effectiveness of community involvement intervention, and challenges faced by the community members in preventing child sexual abuse.

2.4.1 Community Involvement in the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

Smith et al. (2023) conducted a study on understanding Community involvement in child sexual abuse prevention in the United States. This qualitative study utilized a phenomenological research design, whereby participants were selected using purposive sampling, comprising community members, educators, and child protection professionals. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. The study revealed a wide range of perceptions regarding

child sexual abuse prevention, including the importance of education, awareness-raising campaigns, and community involvement.

Brown et al. (2022) studied Community Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Australia. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches to investigate community perspectives on child sexual abuse prevention. The qualitative phase utilized semi-structured interviews, while the quantitative phase involved surveying a representative population sample. Random sampling was used for the survey, and purposive sampling was used for the interviews. Data collection methods included interviews, surveys, and document analysis, with thematic and statistical analysis used for data interpretation.

Furthermore, Mwenda et al. (2022) studied Community Perspectives on child sexual abuse prevention in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The study employed both qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys to explore community perspectives on child sexual abuse prevention in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Participants were selected using random and purposive sampling, targeting community members and child protection professionals. The study revealed diverse community perceptions and attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention, including cultural beliefs, social norms, and challenges in reporting and seeking help.

Garcia et al. (2020) studied Community Engagement in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention. This qualitative study utilized a comparative case study approach to explore community engagement in child sexual abuse prevention initiatives across different countries. Case studies were selected based on their innovative approaches

and successful outcomes in preventing child sexual abuse. Data collection methods included interviews, focus groups, and document analysis, with purposive sampling employed to select key informants and stakeholders. The study identified common themes and best practices in community engagement, including the importance of collaboration, empowerment, and grassroots initiatives. Successful prevention programs emphasize community ownership and participation, tailoring interventions to local needs and priorities.

Ndlovu et al. (2022) conducted a study on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in South Africa. The study utilized both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. The study employed random sampling for the surveys and purposive sampling for the interviews, targeting community members, service providers, and policymakers. Data collection methods included surveys, interviews, and focus groups, with thematic and statistical analysis used for data interpretation. The study identified a range of community perceptions on child sexual abuse prevention, including knowledge gaps, attitudes toward reporting, and barriers to accessing support services. Participants highlighted the importance of education, advocacy, and community mobilization in preventing abuse.

Maganga et al. (2021) explored Community Perceptions of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Tanzania. The study utilized focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Participants were purposively selected from diverse communities, including urban and rural areas, and included community members, educators, parents, and child protection professionals. Data collection methods included semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis to identify key themes and patterns in

participants' perceptions and experiences. The study identified various community perceptions and attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention, including cultural beliefs, social norms, and challenges in reporting and seeking help.

Abdi et al. (2021) studied Community Perceptions of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Kenya. The study employed focus group discussions and key informant interviews to explore community perceptions of child sexual abuse prevention in Kenya. Participants were selected from diverse communities, including community leaders, educators, parents, and children. Data collection methods included semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns in participants' perspectives. Findings: The study revealed a range of community perceptions and attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention, including cultural beliefs, social norms, and barriers to seeking help. Participants emphasized the importance of education, awareness-raising, and community mobilization in preventing abuse.

Musa et al. (2023) examined Community Perspectives on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Nigeria. The study utilized focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews. Participants were purposively selected from diverse communities, including community leaders, parents, educators, and child protection professionals. Data collection methods included interviews, focus groups, and thematic analysis to identify key themes and patterns in participants' perceptions and experiences. The study revealed a range of community perceptions and attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention, including cultural beliefs, social norms, and challenges in reporting and seeking help. Participants emphasized the importance of

education, awareness-raising, and community mobilization in preventing abuse. Zhang et al. (2018) examined the community's perceptions of child sexual abuse prevention. The study conducted a global survey to examine community perceptions and attitudes toward child sexual abuse prevention.

The survey was distributed online to participants from various countries and regions, utilizing convenience sampling. Data collection methods included self-administered questionnaires and online surveys, with quantitative analysis used to analyze survey responses. Findings: The survey revealed diverse perspectives on child sexual abuse prevention, with differences observed across countries and cultural contexts. While there was widespread recognition of the importance of prevention efforts, there were disparities in access to resources and support services. The study underscored the need for global collaboration and coordination in addressing child sexual abuse, as well as the importance of culturally appropriate prevention strategies tailored to local contexts.

Mbali et al. (2022) conducted a study on Exploring Community Attitudes towards Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: A Case Study from South Africa." Using qualitative research design, focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews were conducted with community members from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Thematic analysis revealed cultural norms and gender dynamics that perpetuate silence and victim-blaming in cases of child sexual abuse, as well as mistrust towards law enforcement and child protection agencies. The findings highlighted the urgent need for community-based interventions that challenge harmful attitudes, empower survivors, and foster collective responsibility for preventing child sexual

abuse.

2.4.2 Effectiveness of Community Involvement in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

Research by Johnson et al. (2023) performed a meta-analysis titled "Effectiveness of Online Prevention Programs for Child Sexual Abuse in Australia. A systematic literature review identified relevant studies, and a snowball sampling technique was utilized, resulting in 10,000 participants across various age groups. Both quantitative and qualitative synthesis methods were employed. The meta-analysis indicated that online prevention programs significantly increased knowledge, awareness, and protective behaviors related to child sexual abuse among participants.

Continuing in a similar vein, Kamau et al. (2022) explored the Effectiveness of traditional healing practices in addressing child sexual abuse in Kenya. The study employed a sequential explanatory approach. Participants were recruited using convenience sampling. Structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were conducted. Data analysis involved both descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. The study revealed that traditional healing practices played a significant role in providing emotional support, restoring social harmony, and promoting healing among survivors of child sexual abuse in Kenyan communities.

In addition, Njoki et al. (2023) conducted a qualitative study titled "Effectiveness of Survivor Support Services in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Tanzania." This study examined the Effectiveness of survivor support services. A purposive sampling method was used. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and focus group

discussions. Thematic analysis was employed. The study revealed that survivor support services played a critical role in providing counseling, medical care, and legal assistance to survivors of child sexual abuse, contributing to their recovery, resilience, and empowerment.

Abiodun et al. (2020) conducted a quasi-experimental study titled "Effectiveness of Parent Education Programs in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Nigeria." This study assessed the Effectiveness of parent education programs in preventing child sexual abuse. A pre-test/post-test design was utilized, with participants recruited from schools and community centers using convenience sampling—the sample size comprised 200 parents of school-aged children. Data was collected through self-administered questionnaires before and after the intervention. Statistical analysis involved paired t-tests and chi-square tests to compare pre-and post-intervention knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to child sexual abuse prevention. The study found that parent education programs significantly improved parents' knowledge of child sexual abuse risk factors, prevention strategies, and communication skills with their children, highlighting the Effectiveness of such interventions in empowering caregivers to protect their children from abuse.

Smith et al. (2023) conducted a study titled "Community-based Support Systems for Preventing Child Sexual Abuse. This study utilized a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. A stratified random sampling technique was employed to select participants from diverse communities worldwide, resulting in a sample size of 500 respondents from various cultural backgrounds. Data was collected through online surveys and semi-structured

interviews conducted via video conferencing. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis. The study revealed that community-based support systems, such as education programs, support groups, and hotline services, played a crucial role in preventing child sexual abuse globally. Participants reported increased awareness, improved reporting mechanisms, and enhanced support for survivors within their communities.

Similarly, Garcia (2020) conducted a systematic review of Community-based Interventions for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Brazil. A purposive sampling method was used to select relevant literature from databases such as PubMed and Scopus. The review included studies published between 2000 and 2018, with 30 articles analyzed. Data were synthesized using thematic analysis to identify common intervention strategies, outcomes, and challenges. The review identified various community-based interventions, including school-based education programs, community awareness campaigns, and caregiver training initiatives. These interventions demonstrated positive effects on knowledge acquisition, attitude change, and behavior modification regarding child sexual abuse prevention.

Moreover, Lee et al. (2021) conducted a cross-country comparative study on the Effectiveness of Policy Interventions for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in South Korea. A purposive sampling method was employed to select countries with diverse policy approaches to child protection. Data was collected through document analysis of relevant policy documents, legislation, and program reports. Quantitative indicators such as prevalence and reporting rates were compared across countries, supplemented by qualitative insights from key informant interviews. The study

revealed variations in policy effectiveness across countries, with factors such as funding allocation, inter-agency collaboration, and community engagement influencing outcomes. Strong legislative frameworks and multi-sectorial partnerships were associated with more robust prevention efforts.

Similarly, Soweto et al. (2021) conducted a qualitative study titled "Community Engagement Strategies for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Uganda." This study examined community engagement strategies for child sexual abuse prevention. A purposive sampling method was used to select participants from rural and urban communities, including community leaders, educators, healthcare providers, and caregivers. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions facilitated by trained local researchers. Thematic analysis was employed to identify key themes and patterns related to community engagement strategies and their impact on child sexual abuse prevention efforts. The study identified community mobilization, advocacy campaigns, and partnership-building as effective strategies for raising awareness, fostering community ownership, and mobilizing resources to prevent child sexual abuse in Ugandan communities.

Furthermore, Mwamba (2022) conducted a longitudinal study titled "Impact of School-based Prevention Programs on Child Sexual Abuse in Tanzania." This study evaluated the impact of school-based prevention programs on child sexual abuse using a quasi-experimental design. Intervention and control groups were selected from primary schools in urban and rural areas, with a sample size of 500 students in each group. Data was collected through pre-test/post-test surveys administered before and after the intervention. Statistical analysis involved t-tests and ANOVA to

compare changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to child sexual abuse prevention between the two groups. The study found that school-based prevention programs led to significant improvements in students' knowledge of child sexual abuse, assertiveness skills, and help-seeking behaviors, highlighting the Effectiveness of such interventions in empowering children to protect themselves from abuse.

Tembo et al. (2022) explored the Effectiveness of community policing initiatives in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanzania. This mixed-methods study used a sequential explanatory design with quantitative and qualitative interviews. Participants were recruited using stratified random sampling from police stations and community centers across urban and rural areas. Data collection methods included structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews conducted by trained researchers. Data analysis involved both descriptive statistics and thematic analysis. The study found that community policing initiatives increased awareness, improved reporting rates, and facilitated early intervention in cases of child sexual abuse, highlighting the importance of community-based approaches in enhancing child protection efforts in Tanzania.

In addition, Njoki et al. (2023) conducted a qualitative study titled "Effectiveness of Survivor Support Services in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Tanzania." This study examined the Effectiveness of survivor support services. A purposive sampling method was used to select survivors of child sexual abuse, caregivers, and service providers from survivor support organizations and healthcare facilities. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions facilitated by

trained researchers. Thematic analysis was employed to identify common themes and patterns related to survivor experiences, service accessibility, and support needs. The study revealed that survivor support services played a critical role in providing counseling, medical care, and legal assistance to survivors of child sexual abuse, contributing to their recovery, resilience, and empowerment.

2.4.3 Challenges Faced by the Community Members in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

Given the European context, children enjoy a high level of application of their rights relating to their matching part elsewhere in the world (Daly, 2022). This is due to the community members implementing the available and well-designed laws that favor and prioritize child protection. Nevertheless, various challenges to the pleasure of their rights persevere. Therefore, children undergo discrimination as a group, and their exceptional requirements are frequently not known in the family and by schools, the local community, and service breadwinners predominantly underprivileged groups of children.

According to Lachman et al. (2021), the challenges facing child protection are enormous and need to be faced to achieve the goal of child protection for all is to be achieved. The functioning context of EU countries is laid down in the (UNCRC), which states that the child's rights are human rights and must be respected, protected, and fulfilled (CCAB, 2019). From this context, a strong result is to be understood as a supportable outcome that safeguards the unaccompanied child so that to be able to grow into maturity in a setting that comes upon the requirements and achievements of human rights as well defined by the CRC that do not place the child at danger of

maltreatment or severe hurt.

Moreover, Child Forum (2021) has identified insufficient funds to promote Tanzania's children's protection debate. For example, the government aimed to establish Junior Councils (JC) in all districts in Tanzania. However, due to the exact reason for inadequate funds, only 85 districts have managed to establish such a council. The preliminary idea was to establish these councils at the ward level, but the budget is insufficient to cover such establishment and running costs. In the district where these councils have been established, the target is to meet and discuss issues concerning children's care three times a year. However, this action has never been implemented due to the local government's financial support, which inhibits the implementation plan.

Mushi and Ally (2021) conducted a qualitative study titled Barriers to Reporting Child Sexual Abuse in Rural Tanzania. The study involved 50 participants, including parents, village leaders, and teachers selected through purposive sampling. Data was collected using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. Thematic analysis revealed that fear of stigma, cultural taboos, and lack of confidentiality discouraged community members from reporting child sexual abuse, thus impeding prevention efforts. Similarly, Abebe et al. (2020) explored Challenges in Child Sexual Abuse Prevention in Ethiopian Communities.

This mixed-methods study included 300 participants selected via stratified random sampling. Data collection included household surveys and interviews with key stakeholders. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS, while qualitative data

were thematically analyzed. The findings highlighted poverty, lack of awareness, weak enforcement of laws, and cultural silence as significant barriers to CSA prevention at the community level.

In Kenya, Wanjiku and Nyambura (2022) conducted a study titled Community Response to Child Sexual Abuse: Challenges and Opportunities. The qualitative study involved 60 participants from Nairobi and Kiambu counties, selected through snowball sampling. Data was collected via FGDs and key informant interviews. Findings showed that lack of training, insufficient coordination between community actors and police, and fear of retaliation hindered effective community involvement in CSA prevention.

According to Banda and Chimwaza (2021), who researched Community-Based Child Protection Challenges in Malawi, structural issues such as under-resourced police units and weak child protection systems limited community capacity. The study employed a cross-sectional qualitative design with 40 participants selected through purposive sampling. Data collection included interviews and FGDs. The findings showed that limited legal knowledge, corruption, and fear of perpetrators discouraged proactive community efforts.

In South Africa, Dube and Mkhize (2022) carried out a study titled Socio-Cultural Challenges in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Zulu Communities. The study involved 70 participants, including elders, parents, and social workers, selected using purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Data was gathered through FGDs and interviews. Analysis indicated that traditional norms discouraging open discussion of

sexual matters and victim-blaming attitudes created environments where CSA remained hidden and unreported.

Likewise, Mwakyusa and Ndunguru (2023) examined the Challenges Facing Local Leaders in addressing child sexual abuse in Tanga, Tanzania. This qualitative study involved 45 participants, including ward executives, community development officers, and religious leaders. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and analyzed thematically. The study revealed that local leaders lacked training, were underfunded, and often faced resistance from families and communities, limiting their ability to act effectively.

2.5 Research Gap

From the reviewed literature on community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse in various regions, there remains a significant gap in understanding these dynamics within the Tanga City Council. Studies such as Ahmed et al. (2022) in Nigeria and Mwape and Mumba (2023) in Tanzania have highlighted the influence of cultural factors, awareness levels, and socio-economic contexts on community perceptions and prevention strategies. Similarly, research by Smith et al. (2023) in the United States emphasized the need for community-based interventions and systemic changes. However, none of these studies specifically address the unique challenges and involvement within Tanga City Council. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by exploring community involvement in the prevention of child sexual abuse within Tanga City Council.

Despite extensive research on child sexual abuse prevention, including the importance of community-based support systems (Smith et al., 2023), online

prevention programs (Johnson et al., 2023), and community-based interventions (Garcia, 2020), there remains a significant gap in understanding the specific mechanisms and extent of community involvement in child sexual abuse prevention. Therefore, the current study sought to fill the existing gap by focusing on the involvement of the community in child sexual abuse prevention.

The theoretical research gap has been identified in the above-reviewed literature. Goh & Lee (2020) define a theoretical research gap in a literature review as a gap in existing theories and models within a particular field that has not been adequately addressed (Finkelhor, 1986). Further, most of the research conducted in the review literature utilized social constructionism theory; the current study will use system theory. This theory aligned with all three specific objectives of the study. However, there is limited effort and research concerning the existing evidence around CSA in the Tanga city council; more specifically, the current study focuses on community involvement in the prevention of child sexual abuse in Tanga.

Numerous empirical studies were carried out to enrich the knowledge of child sexual abuse; however, knowledge explored by the previous studies asked to be voted by policy framework and legal reforms. The study aimed to bridge the knowledge gap of the study population by involving other key participants, including heads of households, ward executive officers, gender desk officers, and social welfare officers. Engaging these community groups helped a researcher obtain their knowledge of the topic.

2.6 Conceptual Framework

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES   **DEPENDENT VARIABLE**
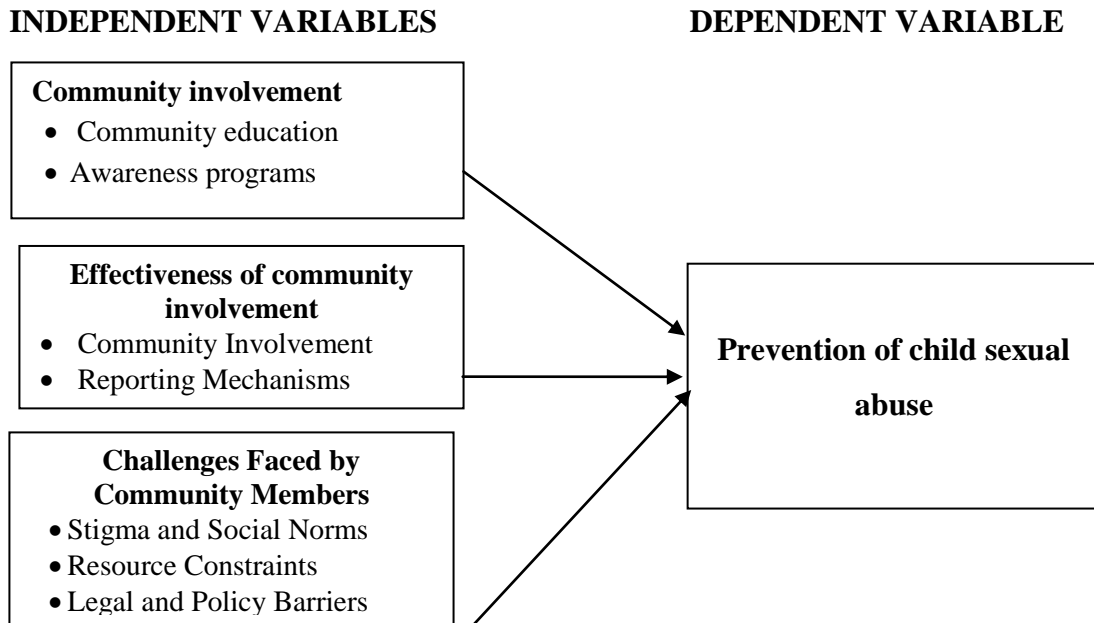
Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework
Source: Field Data, 2024.

The conceptual framework illustrates the relationship between independent variables. Community involvement, the effectiveness of community involvement interventions, Challenges Faced by Community Members, and the dependent variable, Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. The Community involvement variable includes community education, awareness programs, and perceived responsibility, directly influencing the prevention of child sexual abuse. The effectiveness of the community involvement intervention variable encompasses community involvement and reporting mechanisms in prevention efforts. Challenges faced by Community Members, such as stigma, social norms, resource constraints, and legal and policy barriers, impact the effectiveness of prevention measures. Therefore, improved community involvement and effective community involvement intervention, combined with addressing challenges faced by community members, contribute to the prevention of child sexual abuse**.**

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter presented the methodology that was used in this study. It described the study area, research design, and approach. The chapter also outlined the target population, sampling procedure, sample size, data collection methods, data analysis and presentation, validity and reliability, and ethical considerations.

3.2 Research Philosophy

Research philosophy refers to the underlying beliefs about knowledge and the methods used to acquire it (Saunders, 2021). The research philosophy that underpinned this study was pragmatism. Pragmatism advocates using quantitative and qualitative research methods (Shannon, 2016). It provides a broad approach to understanding and interpreting reality while conducting research. This philosophy was important as it prioritized practical applications and real-world solutions, allowing the researcher to focus on what worked best in each situation and make decisions based on concrete results.

3.3 Research Design

Research design is the detailed blueprint to guide a research study towards its objectives (Creswell, 2014). This study employed a descriptive research design, a flexible approach that uses observation and data collection to describe a population or phenomenon. The choice of a descriptive research design allowed the researcher to capture a wide range of aspects of the phenomenon, offering a holistic understanding. It was also relatively simple to implement compared to other research

designs, making it accessible for a researcher with limited resources.

3.4 Research Approaches

A research approach refers to the overarching strategy and plan that guides a researcher in conducting a study (Hemed, 2022). The study utilized a mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data (Creswell, 2014). This approach comprehensively addresses the research objectives. To explore community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse within Tanga City Council, qualitative methods such as focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with community members were conducted to gather detailed insights and personal experiences.

Quantitative methods, including structured questionnaires, were used to examine the effectiveness of community involvement interventions by providing statistical evidence of their impact and a nuanced understanding of how the community perceived and utilized these interventions. This approach also helped identify challenges faced by the community in preventing child sexual abuse by capturing a broad spectrum of issues through qualitative data. The mixed-methods approach provided a deeper understanding of the subject matter and led to more informed and impactful decisions.

3.5 Study Location

The study was conducted at Tanga City Council, this location was chosen due to the high prevalence of child sexual abuse cases reported in four districts between 2022 and 2024.

Table 3.1: Information on CSA in four Districts

District name	2022	2023	2024	total
Tanga city	132	218	137	487
Mkinga district	21	26	15	62
Pangani distict	5	19	39	63
Muheza disrict	11	52	35	98

Source: DHIS2 2022, 2023, 2024.

3.6 Study Population

The study population is a specific group relevant to a particular study. Kothari (2014) defines a population as any group of institutions, people, or objects with common characteristics. This study's target population was 104, including 80 heads of households, 10 children, five social welfare officers, five ward executive officers, and four gender desk officers. The total population was 98,870. This selection allowed the researcher to draw relevant conclusions and generalize findings to the target group.

3.7 Sampling Procedures

Sampling procedures are techniques for selecting a sample from a given population (Kothari, 2004). This study employed both simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques.

3.7.1 Simple Random Sampling

Simple random sampling ensures that each member of a population has an equal chance of being selected (Creswell, 2014). In this study, simple random sampling was used to select respondents. A list of heads of households from five wards was created, and 16 respondents were randomly selected from each ward, totaling 80 heads of households.

3.7.1.1 Purposive Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling is a method in which elements are intentionally selected to ensure the inclusion of relevant participants (Kumar, 2011). This study used purposive sampling to select key informants and children to obtain reliable information on the research topic.

3.7.2 Sample Frame and Sample Size

The sampling frame comprises community members within Tanga City Council, including heads of households, children, social welfare officers, gender desk officers, and ward executive officers. The sample was determined using the Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula. This formula is used because of the population diversity in this study, which involves various groups (heads of households, ward executive officers, social welfare officers, gender desk officers, and children). To achieve this, each segment must be adequately represented through this formula.

$$S = \frac{X^2.N.P.(1-P)}{d^2.(N-1)+X^2.P.(1-P)}$$

Where:

S=required sample size

N=Population size

P=Population proportion (commonly set at 0.10 for maximum sample size)

D=Degree of accuracy (set at 0.10 for a 95% confidence level)

$\chi 2$ = Chi-square value for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level (3.841 for 95% confidence)

$$S = \frac{3.841 \, .98870.025}{0.96^2.(98870-1)+988.7(1-0.25)}$$

S=98870

N-1=98870-1=98869

E. (N-1) =0.009216.98869=911.4

911.4+0.9625=912.36

S= 95099.17 = 104.25

S=104.

Table 3.2: Sampling Frame and Sample Size

Categories	Population	Sample size	Sampling procedure
Head of households	98,870	80	Simple random sampling
children	100	10	Purposive sampling
Social welfare officers	15	5	Purposive sampling
Wards executive officers	27	5	Purposive sampling
Gender desk officers	8	4	Purposive sampling
Total	99,020	104	

Source: Tanga City Council Profile 2024.

For the qualitative component, the sample size was determined based on the principle of data saturation, where additional interviews and focus group discussions no longer yield new insights (Guest, Bunce, & Johnson, 2006). The qualitative sample included 24 key informants, comprising 5 social welfare officers, 4 gender desk officers, 5 ward executive officers, and 10 Children.

3.8 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The study included heads of households aged 18 and above, social workers with at least one year of experience, ward executive officers, gender desk officers with at least one year of experience, and children aged 12 to 17. It excluded participants who could not provide informed consent and key informants with less than one year

of work experience.

3.9 Secondary Data Sources

Individuals or agencies collect secondary data for other purposes but have some relevance to the current research needs (Silman, 2018). Secondary data sources were obtained from documentary reviews such as books, personal sources, journals, newspapers, and websites. Using secondary data allows researchers to access large datasets quickly and cost-effectively.

3.10 Primary Sources

Primary data is the collection of firsthand materials directly from the source (Kothari, 2014). Primary data was collected through closed-ended questionnaires for heads of households, in-depth interviews with key informants, and focus group discussions with children. This approach ensures firsthand information collection.

3.11 Data Collection Methods

Data Collection Methods refer to the researcher's techniques and tools to gather information relevant to their studies. The selection of appropriate methods is crucial, affecting the data's reliability, validity, and depth (Creswell & Poth, 2021).

3.11.1 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of questions or prompts designed to collect information from research subjects (Bwikizo, 2021). Semi-structured and closed-ended questions were designed to evaluate the effectiveness of community involvement in preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Tanga City Council. The researcher visited the sites with a smartphone equipped with the Kobo Toolbox

application to collect responses directly from 80 community members. This method helped the researcher collect a large amount of data from many heads of households and produced accurate data that could be generalized to a larger population.

3.11.2 Interview

Research by Tahir et al. (2024) described an interview as a qualitative data collection method that involves a structured conversation between two or more individuals, where one person (the interviewer) asks questions to gather information from the other person (the interviewee). Interviews were conducted with 14 key informants, with 30–45 minutes for each respondent to gain deeper insights into their involvement and experiences with child sexual abuse prevention efforts. This method was used because it provided information from knowledgeable people and allowed for exploring unanticipated ideas due to the free exchange of ideas.

3.11.3 Focus Group Discussion

A focus group discussion was a qualitative research method that involved gathering a small group of individuals with homogeneous characteristics to discuss a specific topic or set of issues under the guidance of a moderator (Morgan, 1996). In this study, FGDs were employed with 10 children within five wards. Three FGDs with 3-4 participants were organized, with 60–90 minutes for each FGD. Focus group discussions helped the researcher uncover perspectives and ideas that might not have emerged in individual interviews and allowed participants to explore sensitive topics related to child sexual abuse.

3.12 Validity and Reliability

This study applied several strategies to ensure the acceptability and trustworthiness

of the method and tools.

3.12.1 Validity

Validity was the tool's capability to quantify the necessary phenomenon (Sekaran, 2003). This study ensured content validity by developing the questions based on the research's specific objectives and peer review. Sampling techniques and multiple data collection methods, such as interviews and questionnaires, were used to triangulate findings and provide a comprehensive understanding. Applying validity ensured that the study accurately measured what it intended to measure and guaranteed that the data collected reflected the phenomenon being investigated, making the research meaningful and applicable to the real world.

3.12.2 Reliability

Reliability refers to the extent to which a tool yielded consistent results when administered by different researchers (Sekaran, 2003). In this study, reliability was assured through several measures. Firstly, instruments were pilot-tested with a small sample of 10 respondents to identify any inconsistencies. Secondly, test-retest reliability was checked by administering the same instruments to the same respondents at two different points in time to ensure reliable, accurate, and consistent data.

3.13 Qualitative Data Rigor

Qualitative data rigor was essential in ensuring that qualitative research findings were trustworthy, credible, and applicable. Kombo et al. (2006) explained that trustworthiness could also be established through honest and straightforward

reporting of findings using direct quotes from the research subjects.

3.13.1 Dependability

Dependability refers to the consistency and reliability of the research findings over time (Lincoln & Guba, 2015). The researcher used an inquiry audit and involved participants in evaluating the study's findings, interpretation, and recommendations to ensure that the findings were consistent and repeatable by verifying them with the raw data collected.

3.13.2 Confirmability

Confirmability refers to the extent to which the study's findings were shaped by the participants and not by researcher biases (Lincoln & Guba, 2015). The researcher ensured that the findings were shaped by respondents and not by researcher bias. Strategies such as audit trails, where a third party reviewed the research process and findings, were used to enhance confirmability in investigating challenges in preventing child sexual abuse.

3.13.3 Credibility

Credibility refers to confidence in the study's findings' truth (Lincoln & Guba, 2015). The researcher used triangulation methods such as interviews and focus group discussions to confirm the truth of the information given by key informants. Credibility provided confidence that the findings were not simply researcher interpretations but accurately represented the participants' perspectives.

3.13.4 Transferability

Transferability refers to the extent to which a study's findings can be applied to other

contexts or populations (Lincoln & Guba, 2015). To enhance transferability, detailed descriptions of the research context, participants, and methodology were provided so that other researchers or practitioners could judge whether the findings applied to similar settings.

3.14 Data Analysis and Presentation

In this study, data analysis was conducted based on the data types, including quantitative and qualitative data.

3.14.1 Data Analysis

Data analysis was a crucial component of social science research that involved examining, interpreting, and drawing insights from the collected data (Buhori, 2021). In this study, quantitative data were analyzed through statistical analysis using software tools such as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The data collected through questionnaires were coded and entered into a database. Using SPSS allowed the researcher to clean, transform, and organize data efficiently, streamlining the data preparation process.

Qualitative data were subjected to thematic analysis, following six steps: familiarization, coding, categorization, theme generation, definition and naming, and reporting (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This method helped the researcher develop a comprehensive picture of the phenomenon under study, capturing the nuances and complexities of participants' experiences. The thematic analysis focused on identifying patterns and insights relevant to community involvement and challenges in preventing child sexual abuse.

3.14.2 Data Presentation

Data presentation refers to the clear and understandable display of research findings, analysis results, and data (Kothari, 2004). This study presented quantitative results using visual aids such as charts, graphs, and tables. A detailed written summary accompanied the visuals, explaining the significance of the findings and highlighting key statistical results. Qualitative findings were presented through thematic summaries and key quotes from participants that exemplified the themes. This narrative style enhanced the presentation of findings, allowing readers to understand the human experiences behind the data.

3.15 Research Ethical Consideration

Kumar's study (2011) defines ethics as systematic thinking about the moral consequences of decisions. Ethics is important in research because it promotes the rights and human dignity of participants.

3.15.1 University Clearance

Refers to the process by which researchers obtain ethical approval at the institution before commencing the studies (Buhori, 2021). The researcher obtained a clearance letter from the Directorate of Research and Postgraduate Studies at the open university of Tanzania. This letter was officially authorized for data collection. Subsequently, the Tanga City Council Authority obtained permission to research the targeted area. The permission allowed researchers to proceed lawfully, aligning with institutional and governmental protocols and ensuring that all activities were ethically approved.

3.15.2 Informed Consent

Informed consent is providing research participants with clear and comprehensive information about the study's purpose, procedure, risks, and benefits, allowing them to make voluntary decisions about their participation (Creswell &Poth, 2018). In this study, informed consent was obtained from all participants. The researcher clearly outlined the purpose of the study and their rights to withdraw from the study at any time. Each participant signed a consent form to acknowledge their understanding and voluntary involvement.

3.15.3 Confidentiality

This refers to researchers' ethical obligation to protect their participants' privacy by ensuring that sensitive information collected is not disclosed in any way during data collection and processing (Mirza, 2023). In this study, confidentiality of collected information was maintained throughout the interview session. This ethical helped to build trust and minimize risk.

3.15.4 Assent

Assent is the process by which children, who may lack full legal capacity to give informed consent, express their willingness to participate in a study (Anderson & Morrow, 2011). The study seeks respondents' consent from parents and guardians of the children. This study specifically targeted children aged 12 to 17 and, therefore, only required consent from the children and consent from their parents or guardians.

3.15.5 Voluntary Participation

Voluntary participation is a critical aspect of ethical research and ensures that participants are not pressured to participate (Bryman, 2016). This study was entirely

voluntary, and it addressed the voluntary participation of the respondent's consent.

3.15.6 Do Not Harm Principle

The "Do not harm" principle in research ethics mandates that researchers avoid causing physical, psychological, social, or emotional harm to participants (Beachamp &Childress, 2001). In this study, the do-not-harm principle was observed by ensuring that all research activities were designed and conducted with the utmost care to ensure participants were not exposed to risk.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter presents the findings of the study on community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) in Tanga City Council. The data was collected through questionnaires administered to community members, interviews with ward executives, social welfare and gender desk officers, and focus group discussions for children. The findings are structured according to the study objectives: exploring community involvement in preventing CSA, examining the effectiveness of current community involvement strategies, and investigating challenges faced by community members in preventing CSA.

4.2 Cross Tabulation for the Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section presents a crosstabulation analysis of the respondents' demographic characteristics, including marital status, age, and education level. The analysis provides insights into how these factors intersect and influence community perceptions, behaviors, and social dynamics. Table 4.1 summarizes the distribution of respondents across different demographic categories. In responses to age and marital status, most respondents belong to the 18–35 age group (n=45, 43.3%), with 20 (19.2%) being single, 17 (16.3%) married, and 8 (7.7%) divorced. This indicates that many young individuals are either unmarried or recently married.

The 36–45 age group (n=29, 27.9%) has a higher percentage of married individuals (15, 14.4%), suggesting that middle-aged adults are more likely to be in stable marital relationships. The 46+ age group (n=20, 19.2%) shows a noticeable shift,

with more married individuals (12, 11.5%) but also a considerable number of divorced participants (4, 3.8%), highlighting the long-term impact of marital instability. Also, in the 12–17 age group (n=10, 9.6%) are single, with no married or divorced individuals in this category. This implies that individuals in this age range are legally and socially considered children.

Table 4.1: Cross Tabulation for the Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Demographic Characteristics	Single (n=36, 34.6%)	Married (n=46, 44.2%)	Divorced (n=22, 21.2%)	Total (n=104, 100%)
Age Group				
12- 17	10 (9.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (9.6%)
18–35	20 (19.2%)	17 (16.3%)	8 (7.7%)	45 (43.3%)
36–45	6 (5.8%)	15 (14.4%)	8 (7.7%)	29 (27.9%)
46 Above	4 (3.8%)	12 (11.5%)	4 (3.8%)	20 (19.2%)
Education Level				
Primary Education	6 (5.8%)	10 (9.6%)	6 (5.8%)	22 (21.2%)
Secondary Education	15 (14.4%)	18 (17.3%)	7 (6.7%)	40 (38.5%)
University Education	12 (11.5%)	12 (11.5%)	4 (3.8%)	28 (26.9%)
Informal Education	3 (2.9%)	6 (5.8%)	5 (4.8%)	14 (13.5%)

Sources: Field Data, 2025.

This distribution suggests that CSA prevention strategies should focus more on young adults (18–35 years), especially singles and newlyweds, as they will likely be first-time parents and guardians. Awareness programs on child protection, parenting, and marital conflict resolution can be crucial at this stage. The finding aligns with the study by UNICEF (2021), which found that young parents often lack experience and knowledge about child safety, increasing the risk of child abuse due to negligence or lack of supervision. Furthermore, marital instability among younger couples can lead to children being more vulnerable to CSA due to inconsistent parental presence.

Responses to marital status and education level vary significantly across marital status categories. The highest proportion of married individuals (18, 17.3%) have secondary education, while 12 (11.5%) have university education, indicating that formal education may contribute to marital stability. Among single respondents, 15 (14.4%) have secondary education, and 12 (11.5%) have a university education, showing that most unmarried individuals are well-educated. On the other hand, divorced individuals are more evenly distributed, with 7 (6.7%) having secondary education, 6 (5.8%) having primary education, and 5 (4.8%) having informal education.

This data suggests that education may play a role in preventing marital breakdown, as higher education levels are more common among married individuals. The finding aligns with a study by the World Bank (2019), which found that educated individuals tend to have better conflict resolution skills and financial stability, contributing to marital longevity. However, the presence of divorced respondents across all education levels also highlights that education alone is not a determining factor in marital stability. CSA prevention efforts should incorporate family counseling, financial stability programs, and mental health support for educated and less-educated individuals.

Studies indicate that families facing economic hardships, regardless of education level, are at higher risk of experiencing stress, which can lead to child neglect or abuse. In response to age and education level, respondents (18–35 years) are more likely to have secondary (n=18, 17.3%) and university education (n=14, 13.5%), while older individuals (46+) tend to have primary (n=6, 5.8%) and informal

education (n=5, 4.8%). This generational gap in education highlights the need for differentiated CSA awareness approaches. Young, educated individuals may respond better to digital and community-based interventions, whereas older, less-educated individuals may require in-person workshops and culturally sensitive training.

These findings align with studies by UNESCO (2021) on educational disparities; older generations may not have had the same access to formal education as younger individuals, which affects their ability to engage with modern CSA prevention programs. The finding also concurs with the report by Plan International (2020) that shows that younger individuals are more open to discussing child protection issues in public forums, while older individuals may hold traditional beliefs that hinder open dialogue about CSA. To bridge this gap, CSA prevention initiatives must combine modern digital awareness campaigns with traditional community engagement models that respect cultural norms while promoting child safety.

4.3 Community Involvement in the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

The study determined the extent of community involvement in CSA prevention. Participants highlighted various initiatives, including awareness campaigns, child protection committees, and collaboration with law enforcement.

4.3.1 Awareness Campaigns

Key informants reported that awareness campaigns play a crucial role in CSA prevention. In reflection with this insight participants said;

> *"In our neighborhood, we hold regular community meetings where experts educate us about child sexual abuse. They explain the warning signs to watch for and how we, parents, can talk to our*

children about safety. Before these campaigns, many people believed abuse only happened to strangers' children, but now we know it can happen anywhere. We have also learned the importance of reporting cases immediately. This knowledge has made our community more alert and protective of our children."(Ward Executive Officer, Interview 2025).

Another participant quoted said that;

"Before attending awareness sessions, I never thought much about child abuse, and I assumed my children were always safe. However, after learning about the different forms of abuse, I realized that even emotional abuse can have lifelong effects. The campaigns taught us to create an open environment where children feel safe talking to us. I regularly check in with my children and encourage them to speak up if anything makes them uncomfortable. These sessions have truly changed how we raise our children". (Head of Household, Interview, 2025)

Another participant said that.

"As an elder in this community, I used to think child protection was only the parents' responsibility. But through awareness campaigns, I have learned that we all have a role to play. Now, I speak to fellow elders about looking out for vulnerable children and reporting any suspicious behavior. We also remind young parents to pay attention to their children's well-being. Since these campaigns started, I have seen a change in how people react to cases of abuse now, they report them instead of staying silent." (Head of Household, Interview, 2025)

Another participant said that:

"I used to believe that only adults could protect children, but through these awareness campaigns, I realized that even young people like me have a role to play. We learned about peer support, how to identify signs of abuse among our friends, and how to encourage them to seek help. Many young people suffer in silence because they fear no one will believe them, but now we are taught to listen and support them. These campaigns have helped create a culture where children feel safer speaking up." (Head of Household, Interview, 2025).

The study found that awareness campaigns play a vital role in CSA prevention by educating community members about abuse, signs of abuse, and the importance of

reporting. This aligns with the findings of Smith et al. (2023), who emphasized that education and awareness-raising campaigns are central to community involvement in CSA prevention. Similarly, Brown et al. (2022) highlighted that community education contributes to a shift in perceptions and an increased willingness to report abuse.

The personal accounts of respondents in the current study reinforce these conclusions, with participants acknowledging that awareness campaigns have changed their understanding of child abuse and improved their ability to protect children. Mwenda et al. (2022) also found that awareness efforts in Tanzania have contributed to a growing recognition of the role of cultural beliefs and social norms in CSA prevention.

Table 4.2: Community Involvement in Awareness Campaigns

Participation Level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Actively involved	45	45%
Occasionally involved	35	35%
Not involved	20	20%
Total	**100**	**100%**

Sources: Field Data, 2025

4.3.2 Child Protection Committees

Several respondents mentioned the existence of child protection committees at the ward level. A social worker explained:

> *"In our ward, the child protection committee meets regularly to discuss children's safety. They check on vulnerable children, such as those living in difficult conditions, and work closely with social welfare officers. Their presence has helped in identifying abuse cases early. However, I have noticed that sometimes, they lack the resources to respond effectively. More support in terms of funding and training would make their work even better".(WEO,* Interview 2025.

Another participant said that:

> *"The child protection committee in our area has helped many families understand their rights and responsibilities in protecting children. They educate parents on positive parenting and help resolve cases of neglect. I appreciate their work, but I have also seen cases where they struggle due to a lack of training. If they received more support, they could handle complex issues like legal processes and child counseling much better."*(Police Gender Desk, Interview 2025)

Another participant said that:

> *"We often work with the child protection committee when we suspect a child is facing abuse at home. They help us connect with social workers and ensure that cases are followed up. Their role is very important, but I have seen cases where they are slow to act due to financial constraints. If they had more resources, they could respond faster and reach more children in need." (WEO,* Interview 2025)

Another participant said:

> *"Many young people do not know about child protection committees, yet they exist to help us. When I learned about them, I realized they are a great resource for children facing abuse or neglect. However, they need to do more outreach so that more young people are aware of their services. Also, if they had more funding, they could organize school visits and community meetings to educate us better."*(Social Welfare Officer, Interview 2025

The findings indicate that child protection committees are active at the ward level, supporting families, monitoring child welfare, and working closely with social workers. However, challenges such as inadequate funding, lack of training, and limited outreach hinder their effectiveness. These results concur with Brown et al. (2022), who noted that while child protection initiatives exist, their effectiveness depends on financial and institutional support. Similarly, Mwenda et al. (2022) found that while community-based child protection mechanisms exist in Tanzania, their impact is constrained by inadequate resources. The study further revealed that some community members, particularly young people, are unaware of the role of

child protection committees. This observation supports Smith et al. (2023), who emphasized that raising awareness about available child protection structures enhances community engagement

4.3.3 Collaboration with Law Enforcement

The study found that community members collaborate with police officers and social workers to prevent CSA. One police officer emphasized:

> *"In our area, we have built a strong relationship with the police to protect our children. When we notice suspicious behavior or hear of abuse cases, we report immediately. The police have been helpful in responding, but sometimes delays occur due to a lack of officers. If more officers were assigned to child protection cases, we could prevent more incidents before they happen." (WEO,* Interview 2025)

Another participant said that;

> "*At first, many parents were afraid to involve the police, thinking that cases would not be taken seriously. But through awareness campaigns, we have learned that reporting early can save a child. Now, when we see something suspicious, we reach out to the police and social workers. However, some parents still hesitate due to fear of retaliation from perpetrators. We need stronger protection for those who report abuse." (*Police Gender Desk, Interview 2025)

Another participant said:

> *"We work closely with police officers to ensure that reported cases are handled quickly and professionally. Our role is to provide support to children and families while law enforcement takes legal action. The challenge is that some community members still see police as intimidating rather than helpful. More community-police dialogues would help build trust and encourage cooperation in protecting children."* (SWO, Interview 2025)

Another participant said that;

> "*At first, many parents were afraid to involve the police, thinking that cases would not be taken seriously. But through awareness campaigns, we have learned that reporting early can save a child.*

*Now, when we see something suspicious, we reach out to the police and social workers. However, some parents still hesitate due to fear of retaliation from perpetrators. We need stronger protection for those who report abuse." (*Police Gender Desk, Interview 2025)

Another participant said:

"Many young people are afraid to report abuse because they don't know how the police will react. Some believe that nothing will be done, so they stay silent. But I have seen cases where, when someone speaks up, action is taken quickly. If the police worked more closely with youth groups and schools, more children would feel safe enough to report abuse." (SWO, Interview 2025)

This study found that community members collaborate with police officers and social workers to prevent CSA. Yet, challenges such as fear of retaliation, lack of trust, and limited police personnel hinder practical cooperation. These findings align with those of Brown et al. (2022), who reported that community members in Australia were initially hesitant to report CSA due to fear and mistrust of law enforcement. Similarly, Mwenda et al. (2022) found that cultural and social barriers in Tanzania prevent some victims and families from reporting abuse, even when community-police collaboration exists. Participants in the current study emphasized the need for stronger legal protection for those reporting abuse, echoing the findings of Smith et al. (2023), who found that protective measures for whistleblowers increase the likelihood of community involvement in CSA prevention.

The finding of this study aligns with system theory, which emphasizes the complex interaction of various components. Systems theory posits that an entity or phenomenon can best be understood by examining the relationships and interactions among its components rather than in isolation (Ahmed et al., 2022). Awareness campaigns in system theory are a way to enhance communication and information

flow within the system. The findings reveal that community members who maintain communication and flow of information enable them to engage in the prevention of child sexual abuse. Effective awareness campaigns can alter perceptions and behavior, influencing the system's participants, including parents, children, and community members.

Furthermore, the study reveals that the child protection committee represents a subsystem within its broader child protection system. As system theory emphasizes the importance of subsystems and their roles, the committee can coordinate efforts, resources, and interventions, ensuring that all system components work harmoniously. Moreover, collaboration is a critical aspect of any system; in this context, it integrates different stakeholders, including social services and educational institutions, to form a cohesive strategy for protecting children Glacial et al. (2020). These findings illustrate how individual elements can work together within a system to achieve a common goal.

4.4 Effectiveness of Community Involvement in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Tanga City Council

This section presents the findings (Table 4.3) related to the study's second objective, which aimed to assess the effectiveness of community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) in Tanga City Council. The data was collected through questionnaires filled out by respondents, providing valuable insights into how community-based initiatives contribute to child protection.

Table 4.3: Effectiveness of Community Involvement in Preventing CSA

Variables	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Community awareness campaigns help prevent CSA	10	10	15	15	5	5	50	50	20	20
Child protection committees effectively report abuse cases	8	8	17	17	7	7	52	52	16	16
Collaboration with law enforcement ensures quick response to CSA cases	12	12	18	18	6	6	45	45	19	19
Community reporting mechanisms are accessible and effective	14	14	20	20	4	4	42	42	20	20
Community interventions reduce children's risk of CSA	9	9	16	16	8	8	48	48	19	19
Community members actively participate in preventing CSA	11	11	19	19	3	3	46	46	21	21

Sources: Field Data, 2025

4.4.1 Community Awareness Campaigns Help Prevent CSA

The findings indicate that 70% of respondents (50% Agree, 20% strongly Agree) believe that community awareness campaigns significantly prevent CSA. However, 25% of respondents (10% Strongly Disagree, 15% Disagree) feel these campaigns are ineffective. This suggests that while awareness efforts exist, they may not reach all community members or lack consistency in their implementation. Increasing the frequency and depth of these campaigns can further improve awareness levels and encourage proactive reporting of CSA cases.

The study aligns with Johnson et al. (2023), who conducted a meta-analysis on the effectiveness of online prevention programs in Australia. Their findings indicated that such programs significantly increased knowledge, awareness, and protective behaviors related to CSA. This supports the current study's finding that awareness efforts are crucial in CSA prevention. Similarly, Njoki et al. (2023) highlighted that survivor support services provide essential education, reinforcing the need for

awareness campaigns in CSA prevention.

4.4.2 Child Protection Committees Effectively Report Abuse Cases

With 68% of respondents (52% Agree, 16% strongly Agree) acknowledging the role of child protection committees, these committees contribute significantly to CSA prevention. However, 25% (8% Strongly Disagree, 17% Disagree) believe these committees are not fully effective, likely due to a lack of funding, training, or follow-up mechanisms. Strengthening these committees through better support and community engagement would enhance their effectiveness.

The finding aligns with the study by Njoki et al. (2023), which emphasized the role of structured survivor support services in preventing CSA, noting that well-functioning systems provide essential protection and recovery assistance. Similarly, Johnson et al. (2023) found that community-based programs significantly improve CSA prevention outcomes. These findings support the current study's argument that child protection committees, when well-supported, can effectively report and address CSA cases. From the perspective of System Theory, child protection committees operate at the mesosystem level, linking families, schools, and local authorities with the shared goal of preventing CSA (Mbali et al., 2022). System Theory suggests that strengthening these interconnected structures enhances their capacity to respond to and avoid abuse effectively.

4.4.3 Collaboration with Law Enforcement Ensures Quick Response to CSA Cases

64% of respondents (45% Agree, 19% strongly Agree) stated that collaboration with law enforcement effectively prevents CSA. However, 30% (12% Strongly Disagree,

18% Disagree) expressed dissatisfaction with law enforcement's responsiveness, possibly due to corruption, delayed investigations, or lack of resources. Improving law enforcement accountability and community-police relations can strengthen CSA prevention efforts.

The finding concurs with Kamau, et al., (2022), who found that traditional healing practices restore social harmony and emotional well-being for CSA survivors. Similarly, Njoki et al. (2023) emphasized the importance of legal support in CSA survivor recovery, reinforcing the need for strong law enforcement collaboration. The finding aligns with System Theory whereby law enforcement collaboration functions at the exosystem level, where external institutions impact individual and community safety. System Theory suggests that enhancing these partnerships strengthens the protective environment, reducing CSA risks (Ahmed et al., 2022).

The study revealed that the effectiveness of CSA prevention relies heavily on collaborative efforts between families, schools, local organizations, and government agencies. This supports Systems Theory's assertion that no single component functions in isolation; the system's strength lies in how these entities interact. The findings showed that when families and community leaders work alongside law enforcement and social welfare officers, preventive measures become more responsive and efficient, demonstrating the importance of interdependence among system components.

The study confirmed that feedback mechanisms such as community awareness campaigns, reporting procedures, and peer education were crucial in reinforcing CSA prevention efforts. According to Systems Theory, feedback loops enable

systems to adapt and self-regulate. In this case, community awareness activities disseminated knowledge and provided feedback that helped modify strategies and reallocate resources effectively. These adaptive behaviors illustrate the dynamic nature of community systems in addressing emerging threats such as CSA.

4.4.4 Community Reporting Mechanisms Are Accessible and Effective

The data shows that 62% (42% Agree, 20% strongly Agree) of respondents believe community reporting mechanisms are effective, but 34% (14% Strongly Disagree, 20% Disagree) feel inaccessible or inefficient. Challenges such as fear of retaliation, social stigma, and a lack of clear reporting procedures may contribute to these concerns. Enhancing the anonymity and safety of reporting channels can encourage more victims and witnesses to come forward.

The finding aligns with Johnson et al. (2023), who found that structured online reporting mechanisms improved CSA prevention efforts. Similarly, Njoki et al. (2023) emphasized the role of survivor support services in providing safe avenues for reporting abuse, which aligns with the need for improved community reporting mechanisms in the current study. The finding also aligns with the system theory that reporting mechanisms operate at the microsystem and exosystem levels, affecting individuals directly while being influenced by larger social and institutional structures (Mwape, 2023). Strengthening these mechanisms can enhance overall system responsiveness to CSA cases.

4.4.5 Community Interventions Reduce Children's Risk of CSA

A majority of 67% (48% Agree, 19% strongly Agree) agree that community-led interventions have lowered children's risk of CSA. However, 25% (9% Strongly

Disagree, 16% Disagree) still believe interventions are insufficient. This could be due to inconsistent implementation, lack of follow-up, or limited community participation. Strengthening intervention programs through better coordination and funding would improve their impact. This finding concurs with a study by Kamau et al. (2022) that cultural interventions play a significant role in CSA prevention.

Likewise, Njoki et al. (2023) noted that survivor support services, which include intervention programs, are crucial in reducing CSA risks. These studies support the current findings by emphasizing the importance of structured community interventions. Community interventions function at the macrosystem level by influencing societal norms and expectations. System Theory highlights that a well-structured intervention can enhance resilience and reduce CSA risks across multiple community levels.

4.4.6 Community Members Actively Participate in Preventing CSA

The findings show that 67% of respondents (46% Agree, 21% strongly Agree) acknowledge active community participation in CSA prevention. However, 30% (11% Strongly Disagree, 19% Disagree) believe participation is still low. This suggests that while some community members are engaged, more efforts are needed to increase widespread involvement. Encouraging community-driven initiatives and fostering collective responsibility can enhance CSA prevention strategies. This finding concurs with a study by Johnson et al. (2023), which found that CSA prevention efforts are most effective when community members are active.

Similarly, Kamau, et al. (2022) noted that traditional healing practices foster community engagement, contributing to CSA prevention. The current study aligns

with these findings, reinforcing the importance of increasing community participation. Community participation operates at the microsystem level, directly influencing children's immediate environments. System Theory suggests increasing engagement strengthens the protective network, reducing CSA risks. The findings align with system theory, which comprises interrelated parts, and understanding the whole system requires examining these interactions (Ahmed et al., 2022).

Practical and accessible community reporting mechanisms are crucial parts of this system. They serve as the channel through which concern about child sexual abuse can be reported and acted upon; thus, by facilitating communication among various stakeholders, these mechanisms help in the identification and awareness of risks, promoting a collective response. Furthermore, community interventions aimed at reducing children's risk of sexual abuse can be seen as proactive strategies within this system. These interventions often involve education, outreach, and support services that empower children, families, and community members to recognize, prevent, and respond to abusive situations.

4.5 Challenges Faced by the Community in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

The findings in Table 4.4 highlight the significant challenges of CSA prevention. While efforts exist, issues like cultural norms, lack of resources, fear of reprisal, weak law enforcement, and low awareness hinder effective interventions. Addressing these challenges requires stronger community engagement, increased funding, and policy reforms.

Table 4.4: Challenges faced by the Community in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

Themes	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Cultural and Social Norms	40	40
Lack of Resources	25	25
Fear of Reprisal	15	15
Weak Law Enforcement	12	12
Low Community Awareness	8	8

Sources: Field Data, 2025.

4.6 Challenges Faced by the Community in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

4.6.1 Cultural and Social Norms

Cultural beliefs and social norms significantly hinder efforts to prevent CSA, as indicated by 40% of respondents identifying this as a significant challenge. Many community members perceive reporting abuse, especially when the perpetrator is a relative, as shameful, leading to cases being settled privately. This perpetuates cycles of abuse without legal consequences. One participant highlighted this issue, stating:

> *"In our community, it is considered shameful to report abuse cases, especially if the perpetrator is a relative. Many families prefer to settle the matter privately, which unfortunately allows abusers to continue harming children." (*WEO, Interview 2025)

Another participant added that;

> *"Some elders still believe in traditional ways of handling disputes, where compensation is given to the victim's family instead of seeking justice".* (SWO, Interview 2025)

Similarly, some elders still practice traditional methods of handling disputes, such as compensation instead of justice, which discourages victims from reporting abuse. Addressing these harmful beliefs through continuous education is essential to breaking these cultural barriers. Cultural and social norms remain among the most

significant obstacles to CSA prevention in the Tanga City Council. The reluctance to report abuse cases, especially when perpetrators are family members, sustains a cycle of abuse. This aligns with Lachman et al. (2021), highlighting how deeply rooted cultural beliefs often hinder child protection efforts. In the Tanzanian context, traditional dispute resolution methods, such as offering compensation rather than pursuing justice, further exacerbate the issue. To address these challenges, continuous community education campaigns must be implemented to change these harmful perceptions and promote justice for victims.

4.6.2 Lack of Resources

A lack of adequate resources, cited by 25% of respondents, is a significant barrier to effective CSA prevention. Community programs aimed at protecting children often suffer from inadequate funding and a shortage of trained personnel, leaving victims without proper psychological and legal support. One participant emphasized this by saying:

> *"We try our best to run child protection programs, but we lack trained personnel to assist victims. Many children in need of psychological support go without proper help."* (SWO, Interview 2025).

Another participant said that:

> *"Our community awareness meetings are irregular due to a lack of funding. We need more support to ensure we reach more people with the right information on preventing child abuse."* (*PGDO,* Interview 2025)

The study found limited resources significantly hinder CSA prevention efforts, a challenge reported in prior research. Child Forum (2021) emphasized that insufficient funding has led to the incomplete implementation of child protection

programs, such as the Junior Councils initiative in Tanzania. This lack of financial and human resources limits awareness campaigns and psychological support services, leaving victims vulnerable. Addressing this issue requires increased budget allocation from local governments and the involvement of non-governmental organizations to fill the resource gaps.

4.6.3 Fear of Punishment

Fear of punishment prevents many individuals from reporting CSA cases, with 15% of respondents acknowledging this as a critical challenge. People who report cases involving influential community members risk facing threats or intimidation, discouraging them from taking action. One participant stated:

> *"People are scared to report powerful individuals involved in abuse cases. Some who have spoken out faced threats and intimidation, making others reluctant to take action."* (WEO, Interview 2025)

Another participant said that;

> *"Parents fear that if they report an abuser, their family might be targeted. This fear forces many to remain silent, leaving children vulnerable. Even community leaders hesitate to take action against certain individuals because of their influence."* (SWO, Interview 2025).

The fear of punishment against those who report CSA cases is a significant deterrent to justice. The findings of this study concur with the study by Daly (2022) in other contexts where individuals, particularly in marginalized communities, hesitate to report cases due to potential threats. The influence of powerful community members discourages victims, parents, and even local leaders from speaking out. Strengthening witness protection mechanisms and ensuring anonymity for whistleblowers would encourage more people to report cases and break the silence

surrounding CSA.

4.6.4 Weak Law Enforcement

Weak law enforcement, reported by 12% of respondents, is another key factor undermining CSA prevention efforts. Many cases take too long to process, and some perpetrators are released due to a lack of evidence or corruption within the justice system. One participant noted:

> *"Many cases take too long to be processed in court, and some perpetrators are released without punishment. This discourages victims from reporting abuse." (PGDO,* Interview 2025)

Another participant added:

> *"Some police officers demand bribes before taking action, making it difficult for poor families to seek justice for their children. There have been cases where perpetrators were released after a short time due to lack of evidence. We need better investigative procedures to ensure justice is served." (*WEO, Interview 2025)

The inefficiency of law enforcement further impedes CSA prevention efforts. Slow legal processes, corruption, and a lack of investigative capacity have been reported as key barriers to justice. This aligns with Child Forum (2021), which noted that despite existing legal frameworks, weak enforcement limits the effectiveness of child protection measures in Tanzania. Ensuring accountability within law enforcement, training officers on handling CSA cases, and establishing specialized child protection units would improve response mechanisms.

4.6.5 Low Community Awareness

A lack of awareness about CSA, reported by 8% of respondents, contributes to the continuation of abuse cases. Many parents, teachers, and caregivers lack the

necessary knowledge to identify signs of abuse or report cases appropriately. As one

participant pointed out:

> *"Many parents do not know the signs of abuse or how to report it. This ignorance means that some cases go unnoticed until it is too late. On the adverse side, some teachers and caregivers are unaware of their role in protecting children.* (SWO, Interview 2025)

Another participant said:

> *"We need more outreach programs, especially in rural areas, where information about CSA prevention is still very limited." (PGDO,* Interview 2025)

Limited knowledge about CSA prevention among parents, teachers, and caregivers

contributes to the problem. As noted in the findings, many community members are

unaware of how to identify abuse signs or take appropriate action. Previous studies

have indicated that awareness is a critical component in preventing child abuse, as

demonstrated in European contexts where extensive education programs have

strengthened child rights protection (CCAB, 2019). Expanding outreach programs,

particularly in rural areas, and integrating CSA awareness into school curricula

would enhance community preparedness in tackling abuse.

The challenges identified in this study are closely aligned with the Systems Theory,

which emphasizes the interdependence of components within a community or

society. The findings revealed that weaknesses in any part of the community system,

cultural norms, institutional resources, enforcement mechanisms, or awareness levels

can negatively affect the entire CSA prevention effort. Cultural and social norms

were shown to disrupt reporting pathways and silence victims, demonstrating how

societal attitudes can create blockages within the system. According to Systems

Theory, the system's function is compromised if key components such as family, community leadership, and traditional beliefs are misaligned with child protection goals.

The lack of resources reflects a breakdown in systemic support. Without adequate inputs like funding, training, and personnel, key system components, such as CPCs and community programs, cannot effectively operate Child Forum (2021). This illustrates how resource constraints in one subsystem can limit the capacity of the broader protective network. Fear of punishment, especially when perpetrators are influential, indicates that power dynamics within the community system can hinder information flow and disrupt feedback loops necessary for the system to self-correct. The reluctance of victims and witnesses to engage with formal mechanisms due to fear represents a critical flaw in the openness and adaptability of the system. Banda and Chimwanza (2021).

Weak law enforcement further illustrates systemic failure, as poor collaboration and ineffective judicial responses undermine trust and prevent the reinforcement of protective norms. Systems Theory posits that systems must be responsive and accountable to function well, which is lacking when delayed or manipulated cases (Abebe, 2020). However, low community awareness represents a deficiency in the system's informational component. An uninformed community cannot detect, respond to, or prevent CSA effectively, weakening the system's capacity to protect its most vulnerable members.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter summarizes findings, conclusions, recommendations, and areas for further study. It is structured to align with the study's objectives, which focus on community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse (CSA), the effectiveness of such involvement, and the challenges faced in the prevention efforts within Tanga City Council.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study aimed to assess the role of community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council. The key findings, based on the study's objectives, are summarized as follows:

5.2.1 Community Involvement in the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

The study found that community members actively engage in CSA prevention through public awareness campaigns, reporting suspected cases, and participating in child protection committees. Religious institutions, local government leaders, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are crucial in mobilizing resources and sensitizing the community. However, the level of involvement varies, with some community members remaining reluctant due to cultural and societal barriers.

5.2.2 Effectiveness of Community Involvement in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

The study revealed that community involvement has contributed significantly to

raising awareness, increasing the reporting of CSA cases, and fostering protective environments for children. However, despite these efforts, CSA remains a prevalent issue due to weak law enforcement, inadequate follow-ups on reported cases, and limited access to professional psychosocial support services for victims. Resource constraints and inconsistent coordination between stakeholders often hinder the effectiveness of community involvement.

5.2.3 Challenges Faced by the Community in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

Several challenges were identified in community-based CSA prevention efforts. These include fear of punishment from perpetrators, lack of proper training on CSA prevention among community members, limited collaboration between law enforcement and the public, and cultural norms that discourage open discussions about sexual abuse. Additionally, financial limitations and inadequate policy implementation hinder the sustainability of community-driven initiatives.

5.3 Conclusion

Based on the study findings, community involvement is critical in preventing CSA in the Tanga City Council. While various stakeholders actively participate in prevention efforts, their effectiveness is limited by systemic challenges, including cultural barriers, lack of resources, and insufficient law enforcement mechanisms. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-sectoral approach that enhances community participation, strengthens legal frameworks, and improves service provision for CSA victims.

5.4 Recommendations

Considering the study's findings, the following recommendations are proposed.

Enhancing Community Education and Awareness. Government and NGOs should conduct regular sensitization campaigns to educate the community on CSA prevention, reporting mechanisms, and the legal consequences of abuse. Strengthening Legal and Policy Implementation. Authorities should enforce strict legal measures against CSA perpetrators and ensure efficient follow-ups on reported cases. Community policing initiatives should be strengthened to facilitate better coordination between law enforcement agencies and the public. Improving Access to Support Services for CSA Victims. More counseling and rehabilitation centers should be established to provide psychosocial support to victims and their families. Training programs should be provided for community members and law enforcement officers to enhance their capacity to handle CSA cases.

5.5 Areas for Further Study

While this study focused on the role of community involvement in CSA prevention, further research is needed in the following areas: the psychological impact of CSA on survivors, the effectiveness of existing rehabilitation programs, and the effectiveness of school-based CSA prevention programs in enhancing children's awareness and self-protection. By addressing these areas, future research can contribute to a deeper understanding of CSA prevention and inform policies and interventions to ensure child safety in Tanga City Council and beyond.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: In-depth interview Guiding Questions

Dear respondent, my name is Upendo clement kisebengo a student at Open University of Tanzania pursuing a Master of social work. I kindly request that you complete this interview on the topic Asses the Role of community in prevention of child sexual abuse A case of Tanga city Council, supervised by open university.

The information that you will provide is for academic purpose only and not otherwise. The researcher will maintain confidentiality to the highest degree by reporting anonymity in research presentations. Your contribution will enable the successful accomplishment of my study and provide a reference for your organizational improvement. Your participation is voluntary you have right to withdraw from the study at any time

SECTION A: Do you consent to participate in this study?

YES ( )   NO ( )

SECTION B: To explore community involvement on preventions of child sexual abuse

1. In your experience, how would you describe the role of the community in preventing child sexual abuse?

2. From your interaction with the community, do you believe there are specific cultural or social norms that contribute child sexual abuse? If yes can you elaborate?

3. Through your community engagement what are common behavioral or emotional changes you observe in children experiencing child sexual abuse?

4. In your work what are some of the most common behavioral or emotional changes you observe in children experiencing sexual abuse?

5. What do you perceive as the main barriers to effective community involvement in the prevention of child sexual abuse, how does these challenges impact your work as a professional?

6. How do you perceive the level of awareness and understanding among community members regarding child sexual abuse? What educational efforts do you think are most needed to enhance this awareness?

7. Can you share your thoughts on the effectiveness of current community initiative aimed at preventing child sexual abuse?

8. In what ways do you think collaboration between your professional and community organization could be strengthened to improve the prevention of child sexual abuse

9. How do these factors influence your work as a social welfare, weo and gender desk officer?

10. What are the challenges being you facing as a member of this community regarding on prevention of child sexual abuse?

Interview question for children

1. What does safety mean to you in your community?

2. How can community members help you feel safe?

3. What types of awareness program do you think would help keep children safe from sexual abuse?

4. How can you and your friends look out of each other when it come to safety?

5. What can you do if someone you know feels unsafe?

6. Who are the trusted adults in your life? How do you think can help you and your friends prevent child sexual abuse in the community?

Appendix II: Questionnaire guiding Questions

Dear respondent, my name is Upendo clement kisebengo a student at Open University of Tanzania pursuing a Master of social work. Dear respondent, this questionnaire in prevention of child sexual abuse in Tanga city council, Tanzania. You're kindly requested to respond to the questions by using factors provided. The collected data will be strictly confidential and only utilized for academic purpose at the Open University of Tanzania.

Do you consent to participate in this study?

Yes ( )   No ( )

Please put (x) where is appropriate

A: Do not write your name anywhere on this paper

Section 2: Personal information

1: What is your age?

a) Below 18

b) 18-35 years

c) 36-45

d) 46 above

2: What is your level of education?

a) Primary level

b) Secondary level

c) University level

d) Informal level

3: What is your marital status?

a) Single

b) Married

c) Divorced

6. How are you participated in the child sexual abuse prevention at your community?

   i. Active involved

   ii. Occasionally involved

   iii. Not involved

SECTION C: To examine the effectiveness of current community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council

Instructions: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding the effectiveness of current community involvement in preventing child sexual abuse. Use the following scale:

SD - Strongly Disagree

D - Disagree

U - Undecided

A - Agree

SA - Strongly Agree

Variables	SD	D	U	A	SA
Community awareness campaigns help prevent CSA					
Child protection committees effectively report abuse cases					
Collaboration with law enforcement ensures quick response to CSA cases					
Community reporting mechanisms are accessible and effective					
Community interventions reduce children's risk of CSA					
Community members actively participate in preventing CSA					

12. Have you observed any changes in community attitudes towards child sexual abuse due to these interventions?

a) Yes

b).no

c). if yes please specify

13. Have you or anyone you know participated in any community-based interventions

a) Yes

b) No

c) If yes please specify

14. On a scale of 1-5 how accessible do you find this intervention?

a) 1 (Not accessible at all)

b) 2 low accessible

c) .3 average accessible

d). high accessible

e) 5(very accessible)

15. What do you think are the main barriers to effectively preventing child sexual abuse in your community? (Select all that apply)

a)   Lack of awareness

b)   Stigma associated with discussing abuse

c) Insufficient resources for interventions

d) Ineffective communication about available resources

e) Other please specify

11. How effective do you think current community resource (like support groups, education programs etc. are in in preventing child sexual abuse?

12: What additional resources do you believe are necessary for effective prevention? (Select all that apply)

a). Educational programs in schools

b) Support for parents and caregivers

c). counselling services for survivor

d) Community workshops

e) Other (please specify)

13. Do you know how to report suspected child sexual abuse in your community?

a) Yes

b) No

14. Have ever witnessed or suspected child sexual abuse in your community?

a) Yes

b) No

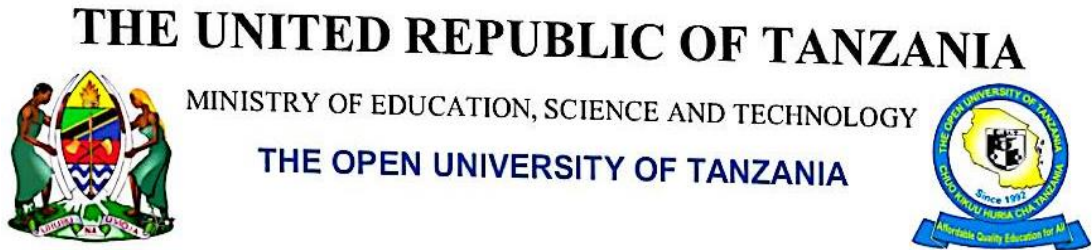If yes, did you report it? (If no, please explain why) ………….

15. What changes would you suggest to improve community efforts in preventing child sexual abuse?

16. In your opinion, how can communities better educate themselves about child sexual abuse?

17. Do you have any additional comments or insights you would like to share about the role of the community in preventing child sexual abuse?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Appendix III: Research Clearance Letter

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

Ref. No OUT/PG202286422

14th February, 2025

City Director,

Tanga City Council,

P.O. Box 178,

TANGA.

Dear Director,

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE FOR MS. UPENDO CLEMENT KISEBENGO, REG NO: PG202286422

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

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 **Ms. Upendo Clement Kisebengo, Reg.No: PG202286422),** pursuing **Master of Social Work (MSW).** We here by grant this clearance to conduct a research titled **"The Role of Community Involvement in Prevention of**

Child Sexual Abuse: A Case of Tanga City Council, Tanzania" She will collect her data at your area from 25th February 2025 to 25th April 2025.

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.Gwahula Raphael Kimamala

For: **VICE CHANCELLOR**

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
OFISI YA RAIS
TAWALA ZA MIKOA NA SERIKALI ZA MITAA
HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA TANGA

Unapojibu tafadhali taja:

Kumb. Na. JB.251/345/01/63   **07 Machi, 2025**

Watendaji Kata,
Halmashauri ya Jiji la Tanga,
TANGA.

Yah: **KIBALI CHA KUFANYA UTAFITI KUHUSU "THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: CASE STUDY IN TANGA CITY COUNCIL"**

Tafadhali husika na kicha cha habari hapo juu.

2.   Ofisi ya Mkurugenzi wa Jiji imepokea barua yenye **Kumb. Na.OUT/PG202286422** ya tarehe **14 Februari, 2025** kutoka Chuo Kikuu Huria Cha Tanziania inayomtambulisha **Ms. Upendo Clement Kisebengo (PG202286422)** ambaye anasoma **"Masters of Arts in Social Work (MASW)"**

3.   Kwa barua hii namtambulisha kwako **Ms. Upendo Clement Kisebengo** ambaye anafaya utafiti unaohusu **"The role of community involvement in prevention of child sexual abuse in Tanga City Council"** naomba umpokee na kumpa ushirikiano unaostahili. Utafiti huu utafanyika kuanzia tarehe **25 Februari hadi 25 Aprili, 2025.**

4.   Aidha wataalam kutoka Ofisi ya Mkurugenzi wa Jiji na Taasisi nyingine za Serikali wanaweza kupita wakati wowote kuhakiki kama kibali kilichotolewa kinatumika kwa madhumuni yaliyokusudiwa. Taarifa zitakazokusanywa zitumike kwa ajili ya malengo yaliyokusudiwa tu na zisitolewe bila utaratibu unaotambulika.

Nakutakia utekelezaji mwema.

M.F. Katani
Kny: MKURUGENZI WA JIJI

Nakala:
Mkurugenzi wa Jiji   –   **Aione kwenye jalada**
Afisa ustawi wa Jamii wa Jiji   –   **Kwa taarifa**

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