

**INVESTIGATING EXPERIENCES OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN ON
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: A CASE STUDY OF KIGAMBONI
MUNICIPALITY, DAR ES SALAAM REGION**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE
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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that, they have read and here by recommends for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania a dissertation entitled: “Investigating Experiences of Vulnerable Children on Gender-Based Violence: A Case Study of Kigamboni Municipality, Dar Es Salaam Region”, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Social Work of the Open University of Tanzania.

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DECLARATION

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.....

Signature

.....

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my daughters Seleyian Saruni, Semeyian Saruni, Sian Saruni and my beloved Parit Saruni who were source of my academic achievements. For this I remain grateful.

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ABSTRACT

The study focused on “Investigating Experiences of Vulnerable Children on Gender-Based Violence in Kigamboni Municipality. The research objectives were examining the gender-based violence experienced by vulnerable children, identifying the contributing factors to gender-based violence, and assessing the effectiveness of existing interventions to address it. Ecological System Theory guided the study and employed pragmatism philosophy. The study used a descriptive research design that accommodated mixed research approaches. This study employed stratified random sampling and purposive sampling to achieve its objectives. The sample size of this study was 100 respondents, where data was collected through a quantitative approach through a questionnaire and analyzed using the SPSS software Vision 29. And results presented in tables, while the qualitative data were collected using interviews and analyzed using content analysis. The findings revealed that poverty and lack of education within families were the significant factors contributing to gender-based violence against children in the study area. The study observed prevalent forms of abuse, including physical and sexual abuse, exacerbated by socio-economic disparities. The interventions identified included community education, which was found to be insufficient in protecting children and preventing violence. Based on the findings, it was recommended to implement school food programs to ensure that children have access to necessary nutrition, empower low-income families to manage basic needs, improve access to support services such as counseling and medical care, and enhance education on self-awareness and protective measures for both children and the community.

Keywords: Children, Gender-based violence and Vulnerability

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CP	-	Child Protection
CR	-	Care Reform
DI	-	Deinstitutionalization
DSW	-	Department of Social Welfare
EU	-	European Union
GBV	-	Gander Based Violence
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LCA	-	The Law of the Child Act
MVC	-	Most Vulnerable Children
SW	-	Social Worker
UNCRC	-	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
URT	-	United Republic of Tanzania
VAC	-	Violence Against Children

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Chapter Overview

The purpose of this study is to investigate the prevalence, forms, and factors contributing to gender-based violence (GBV) among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality, Dar es Salaam. It aimed to assess the effectiveness of existing interventions and propose solutions to mitigate the issue of gender-based violence. By understanding the dynamics of GBV, the study seeks to provide insights that inform policies and strategies to protect children from gender-based violence in the municipality. This chapter provides an overview of the study, including a chapter overview and background to the problem, the problem statement, and the study's objectives. It also presents research questions, the study's significance, and the dissertation's organization.

1.2 Background to the Research Problem

From a global perspective, gender-based violence against children is a worldwide concern that impacts children from many different socioeconomic backgrounds (World Bank, 2019; Rwezwana and Pain, 2021). Gender-based violence is prevalent in nations worldwide and among all levels of society. Studies find that approximately 33% of children may encounter sexual violence at some point in their lives, with girls also being vulnerable to such violence. Though both genders experience adverse consequences, females are especially vulnerable to sexual violence (World Bank, 2021).

Several researches have shown a positive correlation between childhood encounters with violence and an increased likelihood of experiencing violence in adulthood (Tyson, 2020; Meyer et al., 2021). According to data from United Nations Women (2020), 35 percent of children have encountered physical or sexual violence. In addition, according to reports, a minimum of 137 children were fatally victimized by their own families in the year 2020. Mexico, similar to other countries in the world, has agreed to protect children from violence and promote women's rights. According to the UNESCO Consultative Council Declaration (2015), gender-based violence is a severe violation of human rights regardless of age, social status, geography, or culture. Violence against women is a public health problem that has adverse health consequences worldwide. The United Nations (UN Women, 2017) reports that women and children face sexual harassment and violence in public spaces, in public transport, in the streets, and in places of recreation such as parks and markets, both in developing and developed countries (Masinire& Sanchez-Cruz, 2023).

In India, deep patriarchal norms and inadequate legal and policy frameworks have blocked efforts to prevent violence against children. Violence against children was the top category of crimes in recent Crimes in India reports (National Crime Record Bureau [NCRB], 2019, 2020). India's National Family Health Survey-IV (International Institute for Population Sciences [IIPS]) (2017) revealed that 33% of ever-married women had experienced physical, sexual, or emotional spousal violence, with the most common types of spousal violence being physical violence (30%) followed by psychological violence (14%). Significant gender disparities in access to food, health care, and immunizations leave girl children in India at risk of

systematic neglect from birth through the life cycle (Fikree & Pasha, 2004; Majumdar et al., 2023).

The World Health Organization report states that the worldwide prevalence of gender-based violence in couples amounts to 30%, while in Europe, it stands at 22.3%. The report by the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), *Violence Against Women: An EU-wide survey*, indicates that 20% of the women in the EU older than 18 years old suffer physical violence in the context of their relationship with their partner. In comparison, 43% suffer psychological violence, and 7% suffer sexual violence at the hands of their partners or ex-partners—according to the report *Global Study on Homicide*. Gender-related killings of children by the United Nations show that every year, 50,000 children are killed in the context of gender-based violence and family relationships. In Spain, the Macro-survey of gender-based violence in 2011 directly quantified the number of children maltreated per year at 593,038, and the annual average of homicides, according to official data shown in the statistics of the Ministry of Equality, is higher than 60.

Femicide (or femicide) is the misogynous and gender-related killing of children. It is a serious problem globally. According to United Nations estimates, intimate partners or family members murdered nearly 60% of the 87,000 children intentionally killed across the world in 2017. Reports estimate that current or former partners kill around three children every day in the United States. Incidents related to her gender result in the killing of a child in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) every two hours; beyond the loss of lives, these murders have profound and

intergenerational ripple effects on the mental health and livelihoods of relatives and communities (D'Ignazio et al., 2022). The lifetime prevalence of GBV varies, from 11% to 47% in high-income countries and 16–47% in Africa (D'Ignazio et al., 2022). More than one-third (37%) of Ethiopian children experience the problem of gender-based violence (Muluneh et al., 2020). It is also estimated that nearly 1 in 3 children experience physical or sexual intimate violence or non-partner sexual assault in their lifetime (Muluneh et al., 2020). Children who experience violence have the possibility of experiencing it again, and intimate partner violence (IPV) survivors are more vulnerable to GBV.

GBV is a common practice in Sub-Saharan Africa and sexual violence prevalence is high in some countries, such as Zambia (90%) and Ethiopia (711%) (Mabetsheet al., 2022). According to the Gender Equality Index Report (2020), which includes data on reproductive health, employment, and empowerment, 27 of the 30 countries in the world that exhibit inequitable gender indices are in Africa. Most African cultural beliefs and traditions promote men's hierarchical role in sexual relationships and especially in marriage. Almost two-thirds (63%) of the African population lives in remote rural settings, which increases the difficulty of accessing basic amenities, and communities are disparate from the influence of the central government or laws that prohibit GBV. Only 22 African countries have adopted laws banning GBV (Muluneh et al., 2020). GBV is now a common occurrence in Ethiopia, where the Amhara Region is home to many survivors and internally displaced populations due to humanitarian crises. Due to human-made factors like political instability, ethnic- and religion-based conflict, and war, as well as natural disasters such as drought and

flooding, children face daily exposure to violence and life-threatening situations. The war impacted more than 10.6 million people, and women, children, and the elderly were vulnerable to both direct (sexual violence, massacre of civilians, and displacement) and indirectly (lack of legal protection, interruption of access to health care, mental and psychological problems) are among the few (Gebresilassie et al., 2023). As revealed by unpublished regional reports, thirteen of the twenty-one zones were affected. Health facilities (50 hospitals, 453 health centers, and 150 health posts) were extensively damaged, and more than 720224 internally displaced persons live in the region (Gebresilassie et al., 2023).

In Tanzania, GBV has been addressed by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Special Groups through Regional and Council Health Management Teams by formulating relevant policies and plans (Simmons et al., 2019). Moreover, a national gender-based violence coordination unit, a social welfare department, and private sector representatives have been established. Furthermore, campaigns against gender-based violence in Tanzania have also been integrated into the HIV prevention programs as a multi-sectoral approach toward ending the practice. However, most relevant national and international stakeholders, like the UN Women, the Tanzania Women's Lawyers Association (TAWLA), and the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), to mention just a few, have invested more in women's empowerment to overcome gender-based violence against children.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gender-based violence against children is the growing social problem that threatens protection campaign against children in the coming future (Rwezwana & Pain, 2021). In Tanzania, the government has implemented various policies and programs to address gender-based violence against children. These policies and programs include awareness campaigns, The National Plan of Action on Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC), one-stop centers in many referral hospitals, police gender and children's desks, and community child protection groups through the child protection committee at the district, ward, and village levels (TAWLA, 2014). However, challenges such as limited funding, weak enforcement mechanisms, and cultural barriers hinder the effectiveness of mitigating GBV against children.

Gender-based violence against vulnerable children has significant implications for their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. In 2022, there was a concerning increase of 373 cases of violence against children in Kigamboni Municipality compared to the previous year, 2021, which recorded 306 cases (Police Report, 2022). This uptick highlights the urgent need to address and understand the factors contributing to this rise in violence against vulnerable children. Despite numerous studies on gender-based violence (GBV), like Nderitu (2021), Kimaro and Anastasi (2018), Mulupi and Karanja (2019), Ngwira and Chirwa (2021), Kamugisha and Mushi (2020), Mbwana and Joseph (2022) and Omolo, et a (2020), there remain significant research gaps regarding the application of mixed methods in exploring GBV among vulnerable children. For instance, a study by Kimaro and Anastasi (2018) in Mwanza, Tanzania, focused primarily on quantitative data to assess the

prevalence of physical abuse among vulnerable children, lacking a qualitative dimension to capture the emotional and psychological impacts. Similarly, Mulupi and Karanja (2019) investigated gender-based violence using interviews but did not incorporate statistical methods, leaving out broader trends in the population. This study aims to bridge the gap by employing a mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data to understand how GBV affects vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality comprehensively

1.3 Objective of the Study

This section consists of two parts: the general objective and the specific objective of the study.

1.3.1 General objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to investigate experiences of vulnerable children on gender-based violence in Kigamboni Municipality, Tanzania.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives of the Study

- i. To examine forms gender-based violence experienced by vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality.
- ii. To explain the factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality.
- iii. To assess the effectiveness of existing interventions to address gender-based violence among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. What do children in Kigamboni Municipality experience in gender-based violence?
- ii. What factors contribute to gender-based violence against children in Kigamboni Municipality?
- iii. What is the effectiveness of the existing interventions to address gender-based violence against children in Kigamboni Municipality?

1.5 Significant of the Study

This study contributes to the existing body of knowledge by filling the gap in understanding the contributing factors of gender-based violence against vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality. It facilitates a deeper understanding of the contributing factors that cause gender-based violence, which enhances the prevalence of violence among vulnerable children. This knowledge will assist academicians in refining existing theories and developing new frameworks to address gender-based violence among vulnerable children. For policymakers, this study has consequential implications for the prevalence of gender-based violence among vulnerable children. Understanding contributing factors to gender-based violence and addressing occurrences of violence among vulnerable children leads to designing targeted interventions and policies to combat gender-based violence to prevent the occurrence of violence against vulnerable children. By identifying contributing factors to gender-based violence against vulnerable children, policymakers can develop evidence-based strategies to bridge the knowledge gap and promote awareness at the

family, community, and national levels on how to prevent gender-based violence, thereby leading to the eradication of violence against vulnerable children.

The findings of this study will provide valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders involved in child protection efforts. It will inform the development of evidence-based policies, programs, and interventions aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality and beyond.

1.6 Organization of Dissertation

This dissertation is organized into five chapters. Chapter one provides an overview of the study, background to the problem, problem statement, research objectives, research questions, and significance of the study and organization of the dissertation. Chapter two covers the literature review, including key concepts, theoretical literature review, empirical studies on gender-based violence among vulnerable children, conceptual framework, and research gap. Chapter three outlines the research methodology, including research philosophy, research approach, research design, the study area, target population, sampling procedures, data collection methods, data analysis, interpretation and presentation, validity and reliability of the research instruments, and ethical considerations. Chapter four presents the findings and analysis of the data based on the data collected from the field. Finally, Chapter Five concludes the study with a summary of key findings, conclusions, recommendations, and further research.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter delves into the literature review, which encompasses the definitions of key terms, a theoretical literature review, an empirical literature review, and a conceptual framework. The chapter aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the existing research and theories related to the study topic, identify gaps, and establish a foundation for this study. The literature review critically analyzes previous studies and theories, helping contextualize the research within the broader academic discourse.

2.2 Conceptual Definition

2.2.1 Gender-based violence

Gender-based violence refers to any harmful act directed at an individual or group based on their gender, resulting in physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm (TAWLA, 2014). According to Meghan (2021), gender-based violence includes physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse, as well as harmful practices such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, and trafficking, among others. In the context of this study, gender-based violence against children refers to any form of violence, abuse, or harm inflicted upon a child due to their gender.

2.2.2 Vulnerability

Vulnerability refers to individuals' heightened susceptibility to harm or adverse outcomes due to age, gender, or socioeconomic status (World Bank, 2019).

According to Kasi et al. (2019), vulnerability can denote the particular feature or condition in which an individual or a collective faces the potential risk of being targeted or injured, whether physically, emotionally, or psychologically. In the context of children, vulnerability entails an increased risk of abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

2.2.3 Children

Children are individuals in the early stage of life, typically from birth to adolescence, characterized by physical, cognitive, and emotional development (UNICEF, 2018). Children represent a vulnerable population requiring protection, care, and support to ensure their well-being and development. Children, biologically, are individuals in the early stages of human development, typically from birth to adolescence, characterized by growth, maturation, and physiological changes (Santrock, 2020). In this study, a child can be defined as any person who has not attained the age of majority.

2.3 Theoretical Literature Review

This section discusses the Ecological System Theory and its applicability to the study. It explores how the chosen theory underpins the research objectives, guiding the analysis of gender-based violence among vulnerable children within the study's context. The study will apply Ecological System Theory to explain the occurrence of gender-based violence among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality. The theory has been built on the ecological model of human development developed by Bronfenbrenner in 1979. The human development theory posits that human behavior is a product of the interplay between individuals and the environment.

The theory delineates four different types of risk factors that exert influence on gender-based violence: person, relationship, community, and society. At the individual level, these determinants include the biological and personal characteristics of both the perpetrator and victim, such as age, income, substance usage, education, mental health, personality, attitudes, and beliefs. The relationship in question involves the various interactions and dynamics between the perpetrator and the victim, including factors such as marital status, family structure, power dynamics, communication patterns, disputes, and level of closeness (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). The community level encompasses the residential environment, and the environments where the perpetrator and victim interact outside work, such as the local neighborhoods, educational institutions, workplace, peer circles, and social connections (Berger2007) expanded upon Bronfenbrenner's ecological model theory by categorizing the various development settings into five hierarchical levels of external influence: microsystem, mesosystem, ecosystem, macro system, and chronosystem.

The Ecological Systems Theory underscores how various environments influence individuals. In the context of gender-based violence among vulnerable children, it elucidates how factors like family dynamics, community attitudes, and societal norms contribute to different forms of violence experienced (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). For example, violence within families may be exacerbated by community tolerance or cultural beliefs (Namy et al., 2017). The Ecological Systems Theory highlights the multifaceted influences on individuals. Regarding gender-based violence among vulnerable children, it elucidates how various factors within microsystems (e.g.,

family, school) and macrosystems (e.g., cultural norms, societal structures) contribute to such violence (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). For instance, family dysfunction or societal acceptance of violence can increase children's vulnerability. Recognizing these interconnected factors is crucial for developing holistic interventions to prevent and address gender-based violence against vulnerable children (Namy et al., 2017).

The Ecological System Theory explains the effectiveness of existing interventions to address gender-based violence among vulnerable children. An ecological framework for prevention is based on the following assumptions: Children and families are part of an environmental system. This sense of belonging means prevention strategies must target interventions at multiple levels, such as the individual, the family, the community, and society (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). At the fourth level, societal factors are examined to understand how they encourage or inhibit a climate of violence (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

The theory addressed strategies to prevent/reduce GBV through empowering women and girls. For instance, placing girls in school to acquire knowledge and skills will enable them to be aware of safeguarding themselves from any causes that might lead them to be violated. Empowering women and men economically can also be a strategy that can prevent them from being violated as they will stand by themselves, earning their income to sustain their lives (Bronfenbrenner, 1979).

2.4 Empirical Literature Review

This section discusses various literary works related to the study's objectives. It examines previous research findings, highlighting how they align with or differ from the current study of gender-based violence among vulnerable children,

2.4.1 Gender-Based Violence Experienced by Vulnerable Children

Gender-based violence disproportionately affects women, with Indigenous women and girls facing exceptionally high risk (Hegarty et al., 2022). According to the World Health Organization multi-country study on violence against women, the lifetime and current (past 12 months) prevalence of physical or sexual intimate partner violence ranged from 15 to 71% and 4 to 54%, respectively, and the prevalence of emotional violence ranged from 20 to 75%. In Europe, vulnerable children may experience various forms of gender-based violence, including sexual abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and forced marriage (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2020). These violations occur within familial settings, institutions, and communities, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies to protect children and promote their rights. In England, vulnerable children may face gender-based violence such as sexual abuse, exploitation, and domestic violence (NSPCC, 2020). These forms of violence can occur in various settings, requiring targeted interventions.

In America, vulnerable children may experience gender-based violence, including sexual abuse, domestic violence, and trafficking (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021). These forms of violence occur across diverse settings and communities, underscoring the importance of comprehensive prevention efforts and support services to address the needs of vulnerable children. In New York, vulnerable children may endure gender-based violence like sexual abuse, intimate partner violence, and exploitation (New York State Office of Children and Family Services, 2021). These violations occur in various contexts, necessitating coordinated

efforts from authorities and support organizations to safeguard the well-being of vulnerable children.

In Australia, children are subjected to significant levels of sexual and physical abuse. According to Sanchez et al. (2022), these forms of abuse are prevalent and have severe implications for the well-being of children. Rudolph et al. (2018) further highlight the severity of this issue, indicating that six out of ten children suffer from physical abuse in Australia the prevalence of such abuse points to a critical need for improved child protection measures and support systems. The findings suggest that existing interventions may not be sufficient, and there is a necessity for more robust policies and community engagement strategies to safeguard children from these harmful experiences. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach involving education, legal reforms, and increased awareness to reduce the incidence of abuse and support affected children. Top of Form

In Asia, physical abuse is the most prevalent form of abuse, affecting approximately 54% of children, with a significant contributing factor being poverty among family members (UNICEF, 2018). This form of abuse often occurs in the school environment, where children are particularly vulnerable to mistreatment (Schroeder, 2019). The lack of adequate resources and support systems, coupled with economic hardships, exacerbates the risk of children experiencing physical abuse. Moreover, inadequate supervision and enforcement of child protection policies in schools contribute to the persistence of this issue. Addressing these underlying factors is crucial for mitigating the prevalence of physical abuse among children in this region.

In Africa, vulnerable children endure various forms of gender-based violence, including child marriage, female genital mutilation, and sexual exploitation (UNICEF, 2020). These abuses are deeply embedded within cultural, social, and economic contexts, highlighting the necessity for targeted interventions to safeguard children's rights. In South Africa, specifically, children face severe gender-based violence, such as sexual abuse, rape, and domestic violence (UNICEF South Africa, 2020). These violations are prevalent across different environments, exacerbating the plight of vulnerable children. The widespread nature of these abuses underscores the urgent need for comprehensive protection measures, legal reforms, and support services to effectively prevent and address these issues. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving community education, stringent law enforcement, and providing psychological and social support to victims. An East Africa Perspective, Otieno (2019), in the article titled *"Exploring Sexual and Physical Violence Against Children in Uganda,"* examined the various forms of gender-based violence (GBV) that vulnerable children face in Uganda. Otieno's study found that sexual abuse and physical violence were the most common forms of GBV experienced by children, particularly in rural areas and informal settlements. The main finding was that children, especially girls, are frequently subjected to sexual exploitation and early marriages, while boys are more likely to face physical violence and forced labor. The study concluded that gender stereotypes and power imbalances significantly contribute to the persistence of these abuses. Otieno recommended strengthening legal frameworks and community-based child protection programs to combat these forms of violence, with a focus on involving local leaders and empowering children to speak out against abuse.

According to Njeri (2020), the article titled "*Psychological and Emotional Abuse Among Vulnerable Children in Kenya*" focused on the less visible forms of GBV, such as psychological and emotional abuse. Njeri's research highlighted that these forms of abuse are often overlooked despite having long-lasting impacts on children's mental health. The main findings indicate that psychological abuse, including verbal degradation, neglect, and emotional manipulation, is pervasive in both family settings and schools. Vulnerable children, particularly orphans and those from low-income families are at higher risk of experiencing emotional abuse, which often leads to low self-esteem, anxiety, and depression. Njeri concluded that while efforts have been made to address physical and sexual violence, there is a critical gap in interventions aimed at preventing and addressing psychological abuse. The study recommended that future interventions focus on mental health services and emotional support systems for vulnerable children, alongside awareness campaigns to sensitize communities to the importance of emotional well-being. Both authors address different forms of gender-based violence in East Africa but from distinct perspectives. Otieno highlights sexual and physical violence as the most visible and prevalent forms of GBV in Uganda, suggesting that structural and legal reforms are needed to combat them. On the other hand, Njeri focuses on the often overlooked psychological and emotional abuse in Kenya, advocating for more attention to mental health and the long-term emotional impacts on vulnerable children. Together, these studies underscore the multifaceted nature of GBV and the need for comprehensive interventions that address all forms of violence, both visible and hidden.

In Tanzania, vulnerable children face gender-based violence, including child marriage, female genital mutilation, and sexual exploitation (UNICEF, 2020). These violations are often entrenched in cultural contexts, making implementing targeted interventions to protect children's rights and ensure their well-being imperative. Yaghambe and Tshabangu (2013) highlight that physical violence, particularly corporal punishment, is the most common form of violence experienced by children in Tanzania. This form of punishment is pervasive in both home and school settings. Additionally, Rudatsikira et al. (2007) reported a high prevalence of physical fighting among students in schools, with a rate of 50.6% for both female and male students. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive measures to address the cultural acceptance of violence, promote non-violent forms of discipline, and foster a safe environment for children in Tanzania.

2.4.2 Factors Contributing to Gender-based Violence Among Vulnerable Children

Factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children globally include poverty, lack of education, cultural norms promoting gender inequality, weak legal protections, and inadequate access to services (UNICEF, 2014). (Beyene et al., 2019) identify factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children globally, including poverty, lack of education, cultural norms reinforcing gender inequality, weak legal protections, and limited access to services. These interconnected factors create environments where children are at increased risk of experiencing various forms of violence and exploitation, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive interventions.

In Europe, factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children include cultural attitudes, socioeconomic inequalities, and gaps in support services (European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2020). In England, additional factors may consist of family breakdown, exposure to domestic violence, and lack of access to mental health support (NSPCC, 2020). These factors exacerbate the risk of gender-based violence against vulnerable children, necessitating comprehensive interventions to address underlying issues and provide adequate protection and support.

In America, factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children include socioeconomic disparities, exposure to substance abuse, and inadequate support services (CDC, 2021). Graaff (2021) identifies significant contributors such as poverty, lack of education, and cultural norms reinforcing gender inequality. These factors collectively increase children's vulnerability to gender-based violence, making them more susceptible to abuse and exploitation. The intersection of poverty and lack of access to education exacerbates the risk, as it limits opportunities for economic and social advancement, often trapping families in cycles of hardship. Moreover, cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality further entrench these vulnerabilities, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to break the cycle of abuse. In Australia, poverty and lack of awareness among family members and the community have significantly contributed to a high percentage of gender-based violence against children (Rudolph, 2023). This lack of understanding often results in inadequate responses to incidents of abuse and a failure to recognize the signs and long-term impacts of gender-based violence. The Australian Child

Foundation (2023) supports this view, stating that a significant portion of the community remains unaware of the detrimental effects of gender-based violence on children. This unawareness exacerbates the problem, as it leads to insufficient protective measures and a lack of support for victims. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive public education campaigns and initiatives to improve socioeconomic conditions, thereby reducing the prevalence of gender-based violence against children in Australia.

In Asia, physical abuse is the most prevalent form of abuse, affecting 54% of children, and is primarily caused by the poverty of family members (UNICEF, 2018). Poverty can lead to stress, frustration, and a lack of resources, which may manifest in abusive behavior towards children. Additionally, Schroeder (2019) argues that gender-based violence is exacerbated by parents not taking responsibility for their children's safety. This lack of parental responsibility includes failing to provide a safe environment, neglecting to educate children about their rights, and not monitoring their interactions with others. Such negligence leaves children vulnerable to various forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. The combination of economic hardship and parental neglect underscores the need for comprehensive interventions, including financial support for families and education programs to raise awareness about child protection and the responsibilities of caregivers. In Africa, factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children include cultural norms, poverty, and weak legal protections prevalent in many African countries (UNICEF, 2020). In South Africa, additional factors such as high levels of inequality, exposure to community violence, and historical legacies of

apartheid further exacerbate the issue (Burris, 2022). These conditions increase the vulnerability of children, making them more susceptible to various forms of gender-based violence. The intertwining of cultural practices that often perpetuate gender inequality with socioeconomic challenges creates an environment where children are at greater risk. This situation underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions and comprehensive policy reforms to protect children and address the root causes of violence.

In East Africa, Kilonzo (2020), the article titled "*Poverty and Gender-Based Violence Among Children in Tanzania: A Case of Rural Areas*," explored the socioeconomic factors contributing to gender-based violence (GBV) against vulnerable children in rural Tanzania. Kilonzo's (2020) main findings indicate that poverty is a primary driver of GBV, as families struggling with economic hardships often resort to practices such as child labor, child marriage, and exploitation, putting children at high risk. The lack of education and awareness about children's rights further exacerbates the issue. The author concluded that without addressing the economic vulnerabilities of these families, efforts to prevent GBV will remain inadequate. Kilonzo recommended the implementation of poverty alleviation programs targeting vulnerable families, combined with awareness campaigns to educate communities about children's rights and the harmful impacts of gender-based violence.

According to Mwangi (2021), the article titled "*Cultural Norms and Gender-Based Violence Among Vulnerable Children in Kenya*" investigated how cultural traditions contribute to the persistence of GBV among children in Kenya. Mwangi (2021)

found that practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), early child marriage, and patriarchal family structures create environments where gender-based violence is normalized. The study's main finding was that while legal frameworks exist to protect children, enforcement is weak due to societal acceptance of these harmful cultural practices. Mwangi concluded that cultural norms play a critical role in perpetuating GBV and that addressing these norms is crucial to making lasting changes. The author recommended a combination of legal enforcement and community-based cultural education programs to challenge and transform harmful traditional practices. This suggests that change must come from within communities, guided by local leaders and influencers.

According to a survey performed among adolescents in underdeveloped nations, it was found that 13.4 percent of boys in Tanzania have been victims of sexual assault (CDF, 2013). Potential hazards for males encompass the acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) and HIV, as well as broader physical and mental health issues, substance misuse, diminished efficiency, and the reaffirmation of their manhood through perpetuating their victimization, although in the role of an aggressor. According to the TDHS 2015/16, 10 percent of women aged 15-49 had undergone genital cutting.

2.4.3 The Interventions to Address Gender-based Violence Among Vulnerable Children

Global interventions targeting gender-based violence among vulnerable children include prevention programs, legal reforms, support services, capacity building, and research efforts (UNICEF, 2021). These interventions aim to reduce violence

prevalence, support victims, enhance professionals' skills, and inform evidence-based policies. For instance, WHO reports that multi-component interventions combining education, economic empowerment, and community mobilization have significantly reduced violence against children (WHO, 2017). Such comprehensive approaches are crucial for effectively combating gender-based violence and protecting vulnerable children worldwide. Crooks et al. (2019) emphasize interventions in Europe targeting gender-based violence among vulnerable children. These include prevention programs, legal reforms, support services, capacity building, and research initiatives. Comprehensive strategies combining education and community engagement have shown promise in reducing violence prevalence and protecting vulnerable children. According to Lourdes (2023) underscores interventions in Europe to tackle gender-based violence among vulnerable children. These encompass prevention programs, legal reforms, support services, capacity building, and research initiatives. Such comprehensive approaches aim to reduce violence prevalence and protect the well-being of vulnerable children across Europe.

An American perspective, USAID (2023) discussed various interventions to combat gender-based violence among vulnerable children. The interventions include prevention programs, legal reforms, support services, capacity building, and research initiatives. Such comprehensive efforts aim to reduce violence prevalence and safeguard the well-being of vulnerable children throughout the region. Sheppard (2019) emphasizes the importance of support services and capacity building in interventions addressing gender-based violence among vulnerable children. These

efforts provide essential resources and skills to support victims and professionals, contributing to the effective prevention and response to violence.

In Australia, the Australian Child Foundation (2023) recommends that one critical intervention to combat gender-based violence is ensuring that children are provided with adequate food at school. This approach aims to address children's basic needs, reduce their vulnerability, and ensure that they are not subjected to neglect or exploitation due to hunger or food insecurity. Access to sufficient nutrition at school supports physical health and promotes a safe and supportive environment where children can focus on learning and personal development.

In addition, Rudolph (2023) emphasizes the importance of improving access to support services as a crucial intervention. These services include counseling, medical care, and legal assistance, which are vital for helping children who have experienced gender-based violence. These resources ensure that affected children receive emotional, psychological, and legal support to recover and seek justice. Together, these interventions aim to create a holistic approach to protecting children from gender-based violence, addressing both their immediate needs and providing long-term support. In Asia, Sujatha (2020) recommended that children be educated on self-awareness to help them avoid risky situations and protect themselves from potential dangers. This approach emphasizes the importance of empowering children with the knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to threats, thus enhancing their ability to stay safe. The focus on self-awareness education aims to equip children with a sense of autonomy and confidence in managing their safety and well-being.

Similarly, Alrimawi et al. (2018) emphasized the crucial role that parents and caregivers must play in ensuring the safety of children within their environments. They advocate for active involvement in children's lives, including monitoring their activities, providing a secure and nurturing home environment, and educating them about potential risks. The authors argue that a proactive approach from parents and caregivers is essential in creating a protective barrier against gender-based violence and other forms of abuse. By fulfilling their responsibilities, parents and caregivers can significantly reduce children's risks, ensuring a safer and more supportive upbringing. These recommendations highlight a dual approach to safeguarding children: educating them on self-protection and ensuring that the adults responsible for their care are actively engaged in their safety and well-being. Ndiaye (2021) advocates for interventions in Africa targeting gender-based violence among vulnerable children, including community education, legal reforms, and support services. These multifaceted approaches aim to raise awareness, strengthen legal protections, and provide essential support to victims, ultimately safeguarding the well-being of vulnerable children across the continent. (Otieno, 2019) highlights community awareness interventions in Africa to address gender-based violence among vulnerable children. These efforts aim to educate communities about the signs and consequences of violence, promote gender equality, and encourage reporting and support for victims, ultimately working towards the prevention and protection of vulnerable children.

In East Africa, Mugisha (2020), the article titled "*Addressing Gender-Based Violence Among Vulnerable Children: A Case Study of Uganda*" explored various

interventions aimed at protecting children from gender-based violence in Uganda. The study found that government-led initiatives, such as school-based programs and legal reforms, have been effective in raising awareness and reducing instances of gender-based violence. Mugisha (2020) highlights that community involvement, mainly through child protection committees, has been vital in addressing the issue at the grassroots level. The main finding was that 60% of the children in the study area were better protected due to these interventions. The author concluded that while the interventions were impactful, they were often underfunded and lacked sustainability. Mugisha recommends enhancing government funding for child protection initiatives and increasing collaboration between local NGOs and government bodies to provide comprehensive support services for children affected by gender-based violence.

According to Nderitu (2021), the article *"The Role of Cultural Norms in Gender-Based Violence: An Analysis of Interventions in Kenya"* analyzed the cultural barriers to implementing gender-based violence interventions in Kenya. Nderitu (2021) found that, despite existing legal frameworks, gender-based violence persists due to deeply ingrained cultural norms that support child marriage and female genital mutilation. The study's main finding was that interventions focused solely on legal reforms were insufficient in addressing the root causes of violence. Nderitu concluded that without community-based cultural interventions, efforts to combat gender-based violence would remain ineffective. The study recommends incorporating cultural awareness campaigns into intervention programs and involving local leaders and elders in the fight against gender-based violence, as their influence plays a crucial role in changing societal attitudes towards vulnerable children.

According to Mutasingwa et al. (2023), Tanzania highlights interventions in Africa addressing gender-based violence among vulnerable children, including education, legal reforms, and the elimination of harmful cultural practices. These comprehensive strategies aim to empower communities, strengthen legal protections, and challenge harmful norms, ultimately promoting the safety and well-being of vulnerable children across the continent. While, Mtaita et al. (2021) underscore interventions in Tanzania targeting gender-based violence among vulnerable children, focusing on community support and education. These initiatives aim to empower communities to recognize and address gender-based violence, providing essential support to victims and promoting awareness and prevention efforts to safeguard vulnerable children across Tanzania.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework is a structure that helps to clarify the relationships between key variables in a study. It provides a visual or theoretical model that guides the research process, illustrating how different concepts interrelate (Swai et al., 2020). In the context of Investigating Gender-Based Violence among Vulnerable Children, the conceptual framework shows how factors related to gender-based violence impact children's well-being and the effectiveness of interventions designed to protect them. In this study, the independent variable is gender-based violence, which includes various forms such as physical, emotional, sexual, and psychological abuse. The dependent variable is the well-being and safety of vulnerable children, which is influenced by the prevalence and forms of GBV they experience. The intervention variable represents the strategies and programs aimed at preventing GBV and

mitigating its effects on vulnerable children. These interventions may include community education, legal reforms, counseling services, close parental care, and child protection measures.

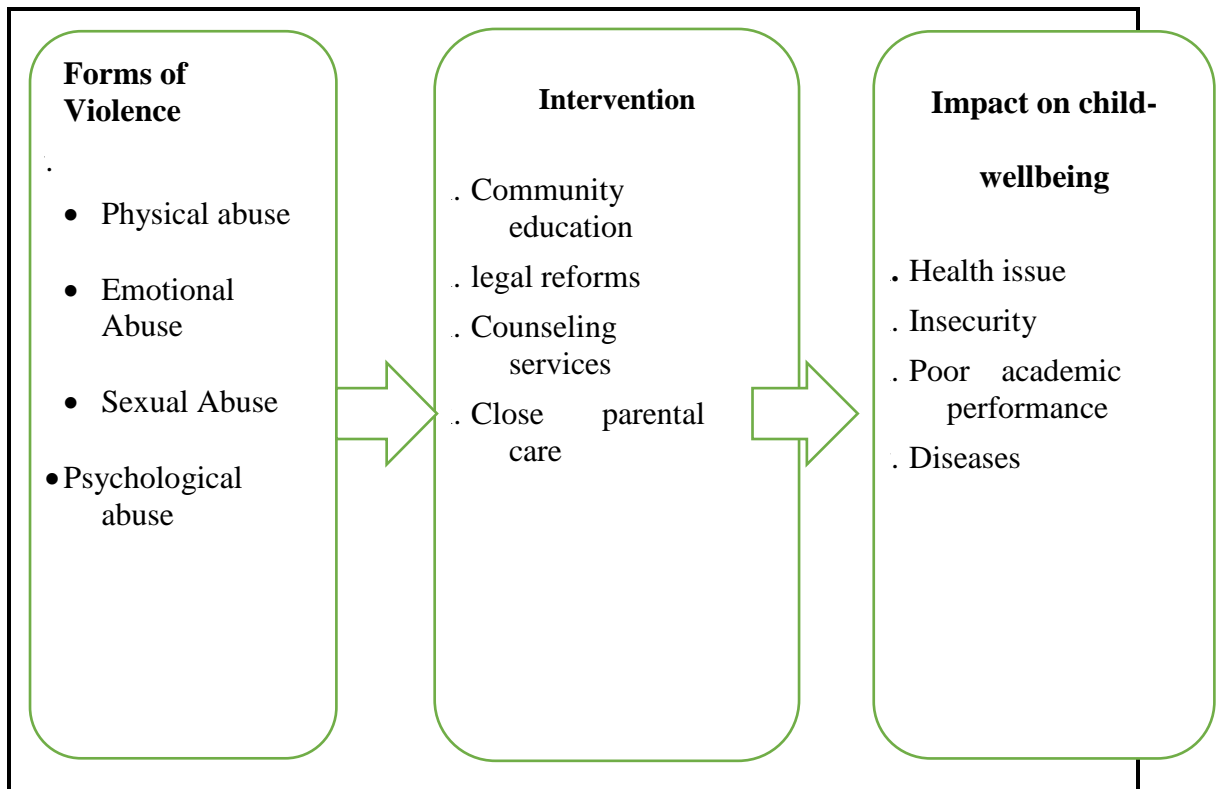


Figure 2.1: The forms of violence and its impact to child -wellbeing

Source: Researcher, 2024

2.6 Knowledge Gap

Despite numerous studies on gender-based violence (GBV), like Nderitu (2021), Kimaro and Anastasi (2018), Mulupi and Karanja (2019), Ngwira and Chirwa (2021), Kamugisha and Mushi (2020), Mbwana and Joseph (2022) and Omolo, et al (2020), there remain significant research gaps regarding the application of mixed methods in exploring GBV among vulnerable children. For instance, a study by Kimaro and Anastasi (2018) in Mwanza, Tanzania, focused primarily on quantitative

data to assess the prevalence of physical abuse among vulnerable children, lacking a qualitative dimension to capture the emotional and psychological impacts. Similarly, Mulupi and Karanja (2019) investigated gender-based violence using interviews but did not incorporate statistical methods, leaving out broader trends in the population. This study aims to bridge the gap by employing a mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative data to understand how GBV affects vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality comprehensively. Using interviews, questionnaires, and statistical analysis will ensure that the study addresses the prevalence and the deeper emotional and social consequences of GBV.

There is also a notable population gap in previous research. For instance, studies such as those by Ngwira and Chirwa (2021) have focused on small sample sizes or specific groups of children, such as orphans or those living in rural areas, without considering a more general population of vulnerable children. The study by Kamugisha et al. (2020) in Dar es Salaam examined only a subset of children from low-income households, omitting the broader range of children affected by GBV, including those from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. This research seeks to fill the population gap by focusing on a diverse population of 135,110 children in Kigamboni, ensuring that all children vulnerable to GBV are represented. The inclusion of children from varied backgrounds will allow for a more detailed understanding of how factors such as poverty, education, and family structure influence experiences of violence.

Also, there is concern about the issue of location gap evident in previous studies on GBV among children. Most research has been concentrated in rural areas or smaller

urban settings, such as the study by Mbwana et al. (2022) in rural Dodoma, which left out urban municipalities like Kigamboni, where urbanization and changing social structures may contribute to different forms of GBV. In addition, the study by Omolo et al. (2020) focused on slum areas, ignoring peri-urban areas where children might experience different forms of gender-based violence due to changing family dynamics and migration. This study noted the methodological gap of employing a mixed approach in the previous literature review. Thus, in this study, the researcher intends to use a mixed-method approach to cover the gap left by another researcher by employing qualitative and quantitative approaches. Using interviews, questionnaires, and statistical analysis will ensure that the study addresses the prevalence and the deeper emotional and social consequences of GBV.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter presents the research methodology employed in the study. It covers the methods and procedures used to collect, analyze, and interpret data, ensuring the research objectives are met. The section includes details on the research philosophy, research approach, research design, study area, target population, sampling techniques, sample size and sampling frame, data collection instruments, and the analysis methods adopted to ensure the validity and reliability of the research instruments and ethical consideration.

3.2 Research Philosophy

Research philosophy is a fundamental concept that shapes the design and execution of research studies (Saunders, 2004). It encompasses the beliefs and assumptions about how data related to the phenomenon should be collected, analyzed, and utilized (Saunders, 2004). This research adopted a pragmatism research philosophy. Pragmatism's research philosophy uses a mixed research approach, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches, to gain a complete understanding of the research problem. This research adopted a pragmatism research philosophy to explore diverse perspectives and promote a deeper understanding of complex phenomena through dialogue and interaction with participants (Saul, 2023).

3.3 Research Approach

Research approach refers to the plan or methodological framework employed in the study to investigate a particular research question or phenomenon (Rapp, 2020). This research adopted a research approach in which qualitative and quantitative approaches were applied. The qualitative approach is utilized to gather rich, detailed data, allowing for exploring participants' perspectives, emotions, and experiences in their own words (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This approach provides depth and context to the findings. On the other hand, the quantitative approach is used to quantify occurrences and the number of respondents to specific research questions. They also interpret what they find, an interpretation shaped by the researchers' own experiences and backgrounds.

3.4 Research Design

Research design refers to the framework or structure that guides the planning and execution of a research study (Derek, 2023). This research applied a descriptive research design to examine the prevalence, forms, effectiveness of intervention, and factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children. A descriptive research design involves observing, documenting, and analyzing the characteristics of a phenomenon without manipulating variables (Derek, 2023).

3.5 Study Area

This research was conducted in Kigamboni Municipality in Dar es Salaam Region, Tanzania (Figure 3.1). Kigamboni Municipality is situated in Dar es Salaam Region in Tanzania. Geographically, Kigamboni Municipality is situated at a latitude of 6.8312° S and a longitude of 39.3036° E relative to the Greenwich Meridian, and it is

one of the five municipalities in Dar es Salaam Region (NBS, 2022). Kigamboni Municipality is a newly established municipality within the Dar es Salaam Region in Tanzania, which was established in 2015. The reason that the researcher chose Kigamboni Municipality as the study area was that it is a newly established municipality within Dar es Salaam with rapid urbanization and socioeconomic challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and inadequate social service, which increases the vulnerability of children to gender-based violence. Kigamboni Municipality has an unemployment rate of 17.8%, slightly higher than neighboring areas such as Ubungo (16.4%), Ilala (11.9%), and Kinondoni (17.0%). This high level of unemployment suggests a higher prevalence of poverty, which may contribute to the rate of violence against children in the area Kamugisha et al. (2020).



Figure 3.1: Kigamboni Municipality: Ward Location.

Source: Kinondoni Municipal Profile, 2024.

3.6 Study population

According to the National Bureau of Statistics in Tanzania (2022), data show that the population of Kigamboni Municipality was 317,902. By focusing on this demographic population, the study aims to provide insights into the extent of violence among children in Kigamboni Municipality and inform efforts to address and prevent such violence effectively. Top of Form

3.7 Sampling Procedure

The sampling procedure refers to selecting participants from a larger population for inclusion in a research study (Shona, 2019). This study employed stratified random sampling and purposive sampling to achieve its objectives. Stratified random sampling ensures that different subgroups within the population are represented, enhancing the generalizability of the findings. Subgroups considered here are parents, children's community leaders, and social workers. Purposive sampling is chosen because the study occasionally requires respondents with specific characteristics or experiences related to the phenomena under investigation. This approach allows for including individuals, such as children above ten years, with unique insights or expertise relevant to the study's focus, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

3.7.1 Sample Size and Sampling Frame

In this study, the researcher used a sample size of 100 respondents for a population of 317,902, a common practice in social science research where the goal is often to generalize findings from a sample to a larger population. This sample size was chosen to strike a balance between accuracy and practical constraints such as time, resources, and access to participants. According to Krejcie and Morgan (1970), for populations that do not exceed 500,000, a sample size of around 100-384 respondents can provide reliable and representative data, depending on the desired confidence level and margin of error. Similarly, Saunders et al. (2012) suggest that for a population between 100,000 and 500,000, a sample size of 100 respondents is adequate if the research aims for a confidence level of 95% with a margin of error

between 5% and 10%. Therefore, a sample of 100 respondents in this case is reasonable and ensures the study's findings are both accurate and practical.

Table 3.1: Sampling frame and sample size

Category of respondents	Sample size	Percentages
Children	30	30
Parents	30	30
Area leader	25	25
Police officer	6	6
Social Welfare officer	9	9
TOTAL	100	100%

Sources: Research, (2024)

3.8 Sources of Data

3.8.1 Secondary Source of Data

Secondary data refers to information already collected and analyzed by other researchers or institutions (George, 2023). The secondary data sources are advantageous because they are cost-effective, easy to obtain, and save time. This study will gather secondary data from various sources such as magazines, books, journals, websites, and research papers. These sources provide information that can be analyzed and interpreted to support the research objectives. In this study, the researcher read different materials on gender-based violence against vulnerable children in order to get insight into categorizing data collected from interview responses.

3.8.2 Primary Source of Data

Primary data are data that the researcher collects from the respondents for the first time, which answers research questions, or data collected directly from the respondents, which comes to answer research questions (Kothari, 2004). The research uses this method to get reliable and genuine information from the respondents. In this study, primary data was collected through a questionnaire, where respondents were given the arranged questions, which enabled the study to accumulate the specific information related to the research problem, and the interview involved the presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and replies in terms of oral-verbal responses.

3.9 Data Collection Methods

Data collection tools are instruments or methods used to gather data from participants in a research study. These tools include questionnaires, interviews, observations, and standardized tests (Smith, 2020). In this study, the research employed a questionnaire and interview to gather data on the forms, contributing factors, and effective interventions for addressing gender-based violence against children. Top of Form

3.9.1 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a structured tool used to gather data by presenting a set of questions to respondents, typically in written format (Smith, 2020). In studying gender-based violence against vulnerable children, questionnaires are relevant for systematically collecting qualitative data on the forms, factors, and methods to address this issue. Questionnaires provide standardized and firsthand data or

information that can be analyzed to identify the problem comprehensively. This study administered questionnaires to social workers, Police officers, parents, and community leaders. Additionally, questionnaires enable researchers to collect data efficiently, allowing for large-scale data collection in a relatively short time. Respondents are often more comfortable providing feedback in this format, as it allows them to express their views anonymously and without pressure. This method ensures that the data collected reflects the respondents' authentic experiences and perceptions.

3.9.2 Interview Method

The interview involves presenting oral-verbal stimuli and replies in terms of oral-verbal responses. This method used personal interviews and, where viable, through telephone interviews (Kothari, 2004). A structured 30-interview schedule was organized and administered to the children. The interview method assisted the researcher in facing the children and interrogating them in order to get detailed information about issues relating to gender-based violence among vulnerable children.

3.10 Data Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis examines, cleans, transforms, and models data to discover useful information, draw conclusions, and support decision-making (Dawson, 2002). Research involves using statistical tools to identify patterns, trends, and relationships within the data. Data presentation involves displaying the analyzed data in a structured format, such as tables, graphs, and charts, to communicate the findings effectively (Dawson, 2002).

3.10.1 Data Analysis

For this study, both qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed. The quantitative data were processed using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) for Windows Version 29, which allowed for a comprehensive statistical analysis of the data (Saunders et al. (2009). Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data, providing an overview of the key findings. For the qualitative data, thematic analysis enabled the researcher to identify and interpret patterns and themes within the participants' responses.

3.10.2 Data Presentation

The study's findings were presented using tables and quotes to communicate the results effectively. Tables were used to display quantitative data, making comparing and interpreting the information easier. These tables included frequencies, percentages, and other relevant statistics. In addition, direct quotes from participants were included to provide context and highlight key points from the qualitative data. This approach ensured that the presentation of findings was both comprehensive and accessible to the readers (Creswell, 2014),

3.11 Validity and Reliability of the Research Instruments

3.11.1 Validity of the Research Instruments

Validity concerns the meaningfulness of research components, ensuring that the study accurately measures what it intends to measure. This includes content validity, ensuring that the questionnaire items adequately represent the construct of interest, and construct validity, ensuring that the questionnaire measures the intended theoretical construct (Melanie, 2012). The validity of this study is ensured by aligning

the research objectives with the data obtained from respondents through interviews and questionnaires. The responses accurately reflect the research objectives, indicating a strong correlation between the intended focus of the study and the actual data collected (Kothari, 2004). This alignment ensures that the findings are reliable and relevant to the research questions, strengthening the overall validity of the study's conclusions. Additionally, the data collection tools were pre-tested to verify that they effectively measured what they were intended to measure, thereby enhancing the credibility of the findings.

3.11.2 Reliability of the Research Instruments

The reliability of data collection is tested using Cronbach's Alpha through a questionnaire to determine the form, factors, and methods to address gender-based violence against children. Cronbach's Alpha assesses the internal consistency of the questionnaire items, ensuring that they measure the same underlying construct reliably (Melanie, 2012). Data reliability refers to the consistency and dependability of data. If data collection processes are repeated under the same conditions, they should produce the same results. As Saunders et al. (2009) stated, reliability was vital to ensuring that the research findings can be trusted over time. To ensure data reliability, the study was supported by official approvals from Kigamboni Municipal and the respective institutions involved. The data collection was standardized, with questionnaires distributed systematically to the participants. The researcher ensured that all participants received the exact instructions and that the data collection environment remained consistent. After the questionnaires were completed, they were promptly collected and compiled by the researcher, ensuring that no data was

lost or altered. This systematic approach contributed to the reliability of the data, ensuring that the study's findings were consistent and trustworthy across different instances.

3.12 Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations in research are crucial for ensuring that the study is conducted responsibly and with respect for the rights and well-being of participants. Critical ethical issues include obtaining informed Consent, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity, respecting the voluntary nature of participation, and adhering to the principle of "Do No Harm." These ethical principles guide researchers in conducting studies that are both scientifically sound and ethically responsible (Marie et al., 2023).

3.12.1 University Clearance

Before initiating the research, the researcher obtained a research clearance letter from the Open University of Tanzania. A university research clearance letter involves obtaining formal approval from the Open University of Tanzania after submitting the research proposal. This approval ensured that the study met all ethical standards, particularly regarding participant protection, data management, and research integrity. The clearance process involved thoroughly reviewing the research proposal, emphasizing how the study would handle sensitive information and the potential impact on participants. The clearance formally endorsed that the research was ethically sound and could proceed with data collection.

3.12.2 Confidentiality

Confidentiality was strictly maintained throughout the research to protect the participants' privacy. All data collected, including responses from interviews and questionnaires, were securely stored and only accessible to the researcher. Identifiable information was not disclosed to any third parties, and data was anonymized during analysis and reporting to prevent the identification of participants. The researcher implemented strict data protection protocols to ensure that participants' personal information remained confidential (Marie et al., 2023), thereby building trust and ensuring the integrity of the research process.

3.12.3 Anonymity

According to Bryman (2012), anonymity was preserved by ensuring that participants' identities were not linked to the data they provided. No names or identifying details were included in the reporting of findings, and pseudonyms were used where necessary. This approach protected participants from any potential repercussions from their involvement in the study. Anonymity was essential in this research, given the topic's sensitive nature, and was upheld to ensure that participants felt safe to share their experiences and perspectives without fear of exposure.

3.12.4 Consent

Informed Consent was obtained from all participants before they were involved in the study. Participants were provided detailed information about the research, including its purpose, procedures, potential risks, and benefits. They were informed of their right to withdraw from the study at any point without penalty. Consent forms were signed, ensuring participation was based on a clear understanding of the study

(National Institute of Health, 2018). The researcher explained the study in accessible language, ensuring that all participants fully understood their involvement, regardless of their background.

3.12.5 Voluntary Participation

Participation in the study was entirely voluntary, with no coercion or undue influence exerted on participants to participate (Creswell, 2014). The researcher clarified that participants had the right to decline participation or withdraw at any stage without any negative consequences. This voluntary participation principle was critical in maintaining the ethical standards of the research, ensuring that all data collected was willingly provided and that participants were genuinely interested in contributing to the study. This approach fostered a sense of respect and autonomy among participants.

3.12.6 Do Not Harm Principle

The "Do Not Harm" principle was a guiding ethical consideration throughout the study as explained by Guillemin & Gillam (2004); the researcher was committed to ensuring that no physical, psychological, or emotional harm came to participants due to their involvement in the study. This was particularly important given the sensitive nature of the research topic, which could potentially evoke distress among participants. The researcher was prepared to provide support or referrals if participation in the study caused any discomfort. Additionally, care was taken during data collection and analysis to handle sensitive topics with the utmost respect and empathy.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Chapter Overview

Chapter four presents and discusses the study findings, reporting data as provided by respondents and interpreting key issues emerging from the data. Data collected from various respondent categories is presented using tables and figures to enhance clarity and comprehension. Using tables and figures simplifies the presentation, discussion, and interpretation of data. This chapter aims to answer research questions, addressing the primary research objective. Through a systematic analysis, the chapter provides insights into the forms, factors, and interventions related to gender-based violence among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the issue and informing potential solutions..

4.2 Profile of the Respondents

The nature of respondents in every study depends on the topic's nature. This study focuses on gender-based violence against children, necessitating careful consideration of respondents' education level, age, and sex. Respondents include children from primary and secondary schools, parents, area leaders, social welfare officers, and police officers in Kigamboni Municipality. Understanding the educational background and age of the respondents was important, as it influenced their awareness and perceptions of gender-based violence. Additionally, considering sex is vital to capture gender-specific experiences and insights. This diverse respondent profile ensures a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing

to and forms of gender-based violence, as well as the effectiveness of interventions aimed at addressing this critical issue.

4.2.1 Respondents' Distribution by Gender

This study consisted of 100 respondents, with a distribution of 62% females and 38% males, as presented in Table 4.1. The gender distribution was significant as it reflects the varying perspectives and experiences of both male and female respondents concerning gender-based violence against children. By including a higher proportion of female respondents, the study aims to capture the nuanced experiences and insights of those who are often more affected by gender-based violence. This balanced approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of the issue, facilitating more effective and targeted interventions.

Table 4.1: Gender of the respondents

Gender	Frequencies	Percentages
Female	62	62
Male	38	38
Total	100	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.2.2 Respondents by age

The study comprised two age groups; the first category included 30 children between 9 and 18 (Table 4.2). This group is crucial as it directly represents the vulnerable children experiencing gender-based violence. The second category comprises respondents aged between 25 and 60 years, which include parents, area leaders, police officers, and social welfare officers. These adult respondents provide essential

insights into the factors contributing to gender-based violence and the effectiveness of existing interventions. This diverse age distribution ensures a comprehensive understanding of the issue from the affected children's and the involved adults' perspectives.

Table 4.2: Age of respondents

Age category	Frequencies	Percentages
9-18	30	30
25-60	70	70
Total	100	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.3 Understanding about Gender-Based Violence

In this study, a total number of 30 children were interviewed; among the 30 children who were interviewed aged between 10 and 18, 30 percent of children did not understand the concept of gender-based violence, while 43 percent had some understanding of the concept (Table 4.3). Additionally, 27 percent of children understand the meaning of gender-based violence. The reflection of this data was obtained through the question, "What do you understand about gender-based violence for children. This finding indicates the varying levels of awareness and knowledge about gender-based violence among vulnerable children, underscoring the need for targeted educational interventions to enhance their understanding. Some of the respondents were interviewed and explained that,

.One of the respondents during the interview session stated that "giving corporal punishment to children constitutes gender-based violence."

Other children state that *"gender-based violence is giving preference boys children than girls in many aspects of life."*

(Key Informants Interview with children of 10 to 18 years old at Kigamboni Municipal, July 2024)

Table 4.3: Respondents Understanding Gender based Violence

Understanding Level	Frequencies	Percentage
Do Not Understand	9	30
Somewhat Understand	13	43
Understand the Meaning	8	27
Total	30	100

Source: Field data, 2024

In this finding, the total number of 70 respondents aged between (25 and 60), 91 percent of the respondents, including police officers, parents, and social welfare officers, indicated an understanding of the meaning of gender-based violence. Meanwhile, nine percent of the respondents have some understanding of the concept (Table 4.4). This indicates a high level of awareness among the majority of adult respondents, which is crucial for addressing and mitigating gender-based violence effectively, as supported by Alrimawi, Saifan, and Aburuz (2018). One of the respondents explained that,

." any harm that endangers the safety and protection of the children amounts to gender-based violence to children."

Table 4.4: Respondents Understanding Gender based Violence

Understanding Level	Frequencies	Percentages
Full Understanding	64	91
Somewhat Understanding	6	9
Total	70	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.4 Forms of Gender-Based Violence Experienced by Vulnerable Children

In this finding, the total number of 70 respondents aged between (25 and 60), 91 percent of the respondents, including police officers, parents, and social welfare officers, indicated an understanding of the meaning of gender-based violence. Meanwhile, nine percent of the respondents have some understanding of the concept (Table 4.4). This indicates a high level of awareness among the majority of adult respondents, which is crucial for addressing and mitigating gender-based violence effectively, as supported by Alrimawi, Saifan, and Aburuz (2018). One of the respondents explained that,

." any harm that endangers the safety and protection of the children amounts to gender-based violence to children."

Table 4.5: Forms of Gender-Based Violence Experienced by Vulnerable Children

Forms of Abuse	Frequencies	Percentages
Physical abuse	62	61.39
Sexual abuse	27	26.73
Emotional abuse	4	3.96
Psychological abuse	7	6.93
Total	100	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.4.1 Physical abuse

Child physical abuse refers to any intentional act causing physical harm or injury to a child. It can include actions like hitting, kicking, burning, or otherwise harming a child. In this study, 61.39% of respondents indicated a prevalence of physical abuse within the community, as shown in Table 4.5. This significant percentage highlights a severe concern regarding children's safety and well-being in Kigamboni Municipality. The findings emphasize the need for immediate and effective measures to prevent and address physical abuse, ensuring that children are protected from harm and can grow up in a safe environment.

4.4.2 Sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child, including exploitation, molestation, or inappropriate touching. It can also encompass non-contact acts such as exposure to sexual content or activities. In this study, 26.73% of respondents indicated the prevalence of sexual abuse within the community, as presented in Table 4.5. This statistic underscores a significant issue, revealing that a notable portion of children in Kigamboni Municipality are at risk of sexual abuse. The data call for urgent interventions to protect children, provide support to victims and prevent further abuse in the community.

4.4.3 Psychological abuse

Child psychological abuse involves behaviors that harm a child's emotional well-being and sense of self-worth. This can include verbal abuse, intimidation, isolation, rejection, and exposure to harmful behaviors or environments. In the study, 6.93% of respondents indicated the presence of psychological abuse within the community, as

reflected in Table 4.5. This data highlights a concerning issue, revealing that a small yet significant percentage of children in Kigamboni Municipality experience psychological abuse. Addressing this form of abuse is crucial for safeguarding children's mental health and fostering a supportive and nurturing environment.

4.4.4 Emotional abuse

Child emotional abuse involves actions that undermine a child's emotional development and self-esteem. This form of abuse includes constant criticism, humiliation, isolation, and neglect of emotional needs. According to the study, 3.69% of the respondents indicated the prevalence of emotional abuse within the community, as detailed in Table 4.5. This percentage, though relatively small, signifies that a portion of children in Kigamboni Municipality are affected by emotional abuse. Recognizing and addressing this issue is essential for ensuring children's emotional well-being and helping them develop into healthy and confident individuals.

4.5 Integration of Empirical Findings and Ecological System Theory

Ecological systems theory provides a framework for understanding how different environmental factors influence a child's development (Namy et al., 2017). The empirical finding that 61.39% of respondents commented on the prevalence of physical abuse against children highlights significant issues at multiple ecological levels. At the microsystem level, this reflects direct interactions and relationships within families and immediate environments where abusive behaviors may occur. The prevalence of physical abuse indicates a breakdown in supportive, nurturing environments that should protect children.

At the mesosystem level, the interaction between various settings, such as family, schools, and community organizations, may lack coordination or effectiveness in addressing and mitigating abuse (Muluneh et al., 2020). Furthermore, the exosystem level, including broader social, economic, and policy environments, may not provide adequate resources or support systems to prevent such violence. This high prevalence of physical abuse, as reported by respondents, underscores the need for comprehensive, multi-layered interventions that address the issue at every ecological level, ensuring protective measures are reinforced and that there is a cohesive response from all societal sectors to safeguard children's well-being.

4.6 Factors Contributing to Gender-Based Violence among Vulnerable Children

Many factors have been said to contribute to gender-based violence among vulnerable children, ranging from cultural norms and beliefs to economic disparities. Traditional gender roles and cultural practices often devalue children, particularly girls, perpetuating violence. Economic instability and poverty can lead to increased stress and conflict within families, contributing to such violence (Simmons et al., 2019). Additionally, a lack of education for children and their caregivers can hinder awareness of children's rights and gender equality. Weak legal frameworks and insufficient enforcement against child abuse allow perpetrators to act with impunity. Family dynamics, including dysfunctional relationships and domestic violence, as well as social isolation and the absence of strong support networks, further increase children's vulnerability to gender-based violence.

The findings from the respondents revealed the main factors contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children. The results indicate that 14 percent of the

respondents attributed gender-based violence to poverty, highlighting economic disparities as a significant cause. Family conflicts were identified by 18 percent of the respondents, indicating the impact of domestic issues on children's vulnerability. Additionally, 52 percent of the respondents pointed to a lack of education as a contributing factor, emphasizing the role of awareness and knowledge. Twelve percent of the respondents mentioned peer influence and socialization, showing the importance of social dynamics. Finally, four percent of the respondents identified other factors, suggesting additional influences (Table 4.6). This was further told by one of the 11-year-old children during the interview.

The child appeared tired and hungry; his parents did not give him money for lunch at school. The child explained that sometimes he was not given lunch money and had to use his transport fare to buy snacks. This was because his father had no money."

Table 4.6: Factors Contributing to Gender-based Violence among Vulnerable Children

Factor	Frequencies	Percentages
Lack of education	52	52
Family conflicts	18	18
Poverty	14	14
Peer influence and socialization	12	12
Other factors	4	4
Total	100	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.7 Integration of Empirical Findings and Ecological System Theory

According to Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, a child's development and experiences are shaped by multiple interconnected layers, ranging from the

immediate family to broader societal influences (Beyene et al., 2019). This study's empirical findings indicate that 52% of education campaigns addressing gender-based violence do not effectively reach children or the community at large. This aligns with the mesosystem and exosystem levels of the ecological model, where institutions like schools and community programs play a critical role in shaping a child's environment.

The limited reach of educational interventions suggests gaps in the exosystem, particularly in disseminating information and resources. It also reflects challenges in the mesosystem, where the interaction between educational institutions, families, and the wider community is insufficiently robust to ensure comprehensive awareness and protection (Beyene et al., 2019). These findings highlight the need for more integrated and far-reaching strategies that connect the various systems influencing children's lives, ensuring that educational campaigns and interventions effectively penetrate all relevant layers of the ecological framework.

4.8 Effectiveness of Existing Interventions to Address Gender-Based Violence among Vulnerable Children

This objective aims to assess the effectiveness of interventions by various stakeholders in combating gender-based violence among vulnerable children. The researcher seeks to determine if the efforts of the police force, community awareness campaigns, and support services provided by social welfare and education and policy initiatives are successful in addressing gender-based violence. The study will evaluate the impact of these interventions on reducing the incidence of violence, raising awareness, and providing support to victims. By examining the effectiveness of these strategies, the researcher hopes to identify successful approaches and areas

needing improvement. This evaluation will contribute to the development of more effective measures to protect vulnerable children from gender-based violence and ensure their safety and well-being, ultimately informing future policies and programs.

The study also explored the perspectives of 30 children regarding the effectiveness of interventions aimed at addressing gender-based violence among vulnerable children. The responses varied, reflecting differing levels of awareness and perception of the impact of these interventions. Out of the 30 children interviewed, 20 percent of the respondents reported that the interventions were effective, 26.7 percent felt that the interventions were inadequate, and 53.3 percent were unsure about their effectiveness (Table 4.7). This distribution suggests a lack of clarity or awareness among children about the measures to protect them, highlighting a potential gap in communication or implementation of these interventions.

Table 4.7: Children Perspective on the Interventions to Address Gender-based Violences

Response	Frequencies	Percentages
Yes, effective	6	20
Not effective	8	26.7
Don't know	16	53.3
Total	30	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.8.1 Police Force Intervention on Gender-based Violence among Vulnerable Children

The police force plays a critical role in collaborating with other stakeholders to ensure children are in a safe environment and that abusers are arrested and brought to

justice. Findings on the effectiveness of the police in handling cases of gender-based violence against children, gathered from 70 respondents including police officers, parents, area leaders, and social welfare officers, indicate varying levels of effectiveness. Out of these respondents, 14.3 percentages of the respondents found the police to be very effective, 21.4 percentages of the respondents indicated somewhat effective, 54.3 percentages of the respondents not effective and 10 percentages of the respondents were unsure (Table 4.7).

Table 4.8: Police force intervention on gender-based violence among vulnerable children

Effectiveness Level	Frequencies	Percentages
Very Effective	10	14.3
Somewhat Effective	15	21.4
Not Effective	38	54.3
Don't Know	7	10
Total	70	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.8.2 Effectiveness of Education Programs in Schools on Gender-based Violence among Vulnerable Children

Education programs in schools are essential interventions aimed at mitigating gender-based violence among vulnerable children. The Effectiveness of these programs is crucial in shaping attitudes and behaviors that can prevent violence. According to the findings, the impact of education programs was assessed among 70 respondents, including teachers, parents, and social workers. While 18.6% of the respondents found the education programs very effective, 24.3% indicated they were somewhat effective, 50% found them ineffective, and 7.1% did not know (Table 4.8).

These results suggest that while a significant portion of respondents see some negative impact of educational programs, there remains a need for improvement. However, this also means there is a significant potential for improvement, offering hope for the future.

Table 4.9: Effectiveness of Education Programs in Schools on Gender-based Violence

Effectiveness Level	Frequencies	Percentages
Very Effective	13	18.6
Somewhat Effective	17	24.3
Not Effective	35	50
Don't Know	5	7.1
Total	70	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.8.3 Community Awareness Campaigns on Gender-based Violence

Community awareness campaigns play a critical role in preventing gender-based violence (GBV) by educating the community about the issue, recognizing signs, and promoting safe environments for children. The effectiveness of these campaigns is vital, especially in reaching the most vulnerable children who are at higher risk of experiencing violence. However, the findings from this study indicate a concerning trend. Out of 70 respondents, including parents, police officers, social welfare officers, and area leaders, only 22.9 percent of the respondents believed that awareness campaigns were effectively reaching the most vulnerable children. A significant 68.6 percent of the respondents felt that these campaigns were not reaching these children, while 8.6 percent were unsure (Table 4.10). This data

suggests a gap in the reach and impact of current community awareness efforts, highlighting the need for more targeted and practical strategies to ensure that all community members, particularly vulnerable children, are adequately informed and protected.

Table 4.10: Effectiveness of Education Programs in Schools on Gender-Based Violence

Response	Frequencies	Percentages
Yes	16	22.9
No	48	68.6
Not Sure	6	8.6
Total	70	100

Source: Field data, 2024

4.9 Integration of Empirical Findings and Ecological System Theory

The ecological systems theory posits that a child's development is influenced by multiple layers of surrounding environments, from immediate family and community to broader societal and cultural factors (Rudolph, 2023). This study's empirical findings align with the theory, highlighting poverty within the family as a significant factor contributing to gender-based violence among vulnerable children, with 50% of respondents citing it as a critical issue.

The micro-level factors, such as family economic instability, can lead to stress and conflict, increasing the likelihood of violence. At the macro level, systemic poverty reflects broader socio-economic disparities that can limit access to Education, healthcare, and social services, thereby exacerbating vulnerability to violence

(Graaff, 2021). The intersection of these factors within the ecological framework underscores the complexity of addressing gender-based violence, as interventions must consider not only individual and familial contexts but also community and societal structures that perpetuate inequality and hardship.

Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory states that a child's development and experiences are shaped by multiple interconnected layers, ranging from the immediate family to broader societal influences. This study's empirical findings indicate that 68.6% of education campaigns addressing gender-based violence do not effectively reach children or the community at large. This aligns with the mesosystem and exosystem levels of the ecological model, where institutions like schools and community programs play a critical role in shaping a child's environment.

The limited reach of educational interventions suggests gaps in the exosystem, particularly in disseminating information and resources. It also reflects challenges in the mesosystem, where the interaction between educational institutions, families, and the wider community is insufficiently robust to ensure comprehensive awareness and protection (Rudolph, 2023). These findings highlight the need for more integrated and far-reaching strategies that connect the various systems influencing children's lives, ensuring that educational campaigns and interventions effectively penetrate all relevant layers of the ecological framework.

Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory emphasizes the interconnectedness of various environmental systems in influencing a child's development. The empirical finding that 53.3% of children are unsure about the effectiveness of interventions

against gender-based violence highlights a critical issue within the mesosystem and exosystem levels. The mesosystem includes interactions between key stakeholders such as families, schools, and community organizations, which is essential in conveying interventions' significance and efficacy. The exosystem encompasses broader societal influences, such as media and community programs, that indirectly affect children. The uncertainty expressed by more than half of the children surveyed suggests a gap in communication and awareness across these systems. It indicates that interventions by stakeholders, including law enforcement, social services, and educational institutions, may not be adequately visible or comprehensible to the children they aim to protect. This gap underscores the necessity for a more cohesive and transparent approach to educating children and the community about the measures taken to combat gender-based violence, ensuring they understand and trust the effectiveness of these interventions.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Chapter Overview

This chapter consists of two main sections: Conclusions and Recommendations. The conclusions are drawn from the research objectives and questions, and the recommendations are based on the findings.

5.2 Conclusion

The findings of this study reveal that many children in Kigamboni Municipality suffer from gender-based violence, primarily due to family poverty. This economic hardship prevents parents from providing adequate social services, leaving children vulnerable to various forms of violence. The lack of financial security means that children often go without necessities such as food and money for school, increasing their risk of exploitation and abuse. The data underscores the critical need for targeted interventions that address the root causes of poverty and provide support to families and children at risk. Addressing these economic disparities is essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable children, as financial instability directly contributes to their exposure to gender-based violence.

The findings of this study indicate that Education on gender-based violence has not effectively reached children in schools or the broader community in Kigamboni Municipality. This lack of awareness and understanding contributes significantly to the continued vulnerability of children to gender-based violence. Without adequate Education and sensitization, both children and community members remain

uninformed about the signs, consequences, and prevention of such violence. This knowledge gap perpetuates harmful behaviors and leaves children unprotected. It is imperative to enhance educational outreach and community awareness programs to ensure that all members of the community, especially children, are equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to recognize and respond to gender-based violence. This will help mitigate the risks and create a safer environment for all children.

The findings of this study indicate that physical violence is more prevalent in Kigamboni Municipality compared to other forms of gender-based violence. This prevalence suggests a significant issue within the community regarding the protection of children. The data reveals that there is a lack of community responsibility and engagement in combating gender-based violence against children. The community's insufficient efforts to prevent and address such violence contribute to its persistence, leaving children vulnerable and at risk. This underscores the need for more vital community involvement and effective interventions to protect children and promote a safer environment.

5.3 Summary of the Study:

The purpose of this study was to investigate gender-based violence (GBV) among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality, Dar es Salaam. The research aimed to explore the prevalence and forms of GBV experienced by children in this area, as well as the contributing factors to such violence. It also sought to evaluate the effectiveness of current interventions in addressing the issue. The research was guided by three key objectives: (i) to identify gender-based violence experienced by children, (ii) to determine the factors contributing to gender-based violence, and (iii)

to assess the effectiveness of existing interventions aimed at reducing the occurrence of gender-based violence.

The study employed a mixed research approach involving interviews and questionnaires to collect data from various respondents. The target population included children, social welfare officers, parents, area leaders, and police officers, all of whom have a direct role in either experiencing, witnessing, or addressing gender-based violence within the community. In total, 100 respondents participated in the study, providing a comprehensive view of the issue from multiple perspectives. The data collection tools, such as interviews and questionnaires, were used to gather first-hand information from the respondents, allowing for an in-depth understanding of the topic.

Data collected through these methods were analyzed using qualitative and quantitative techniques, with results presented in tables and narrative form. The study's findings revealed significant challenges, including high rates of physical and emotional abuse, a lack of awareness about gender-based violence, and insufficient interventions to address the issue effectively. These findings underscore the need for more targeted, community-driven efforts to combat GBV. The study concludes by recommending interventions such as empowering low-income families, improving access to support services, and implementing educational programs to raise awareness and prevent further violence.

5.4 Recommendation

The findings of this study indicate that 68.6% of respondents believe that Education about gender-based violence has not effectively reached children and the community,

with 53.3% of children unsure about the effectiveness of intervention programs and a 61.39% prevalence of physical abuse. These results highlight critical Education and awareness gaps and uncertainty surrounding current interventions. To address this, the researcher recommends implementing comprehensive gender-based violence education programs targeted at children, parents, and community leaders to increase awareness and prevention efforts. Child-friendly intervention centers should also be established to ensure accessible and effective support services. Enforcement of stricter legal frameworks against physical abuse is also necessary to mitigate its prevalence. These measures should be implemented by the Ministry of Education, Health and Social Welfare, and law enforcement agencies in collaboration with community-based organizations. In light of these findings, the researcher recommends the following measures to address gender-based violence among children.

5.4.1 Enhance Community Education and Awareness

Implement comprehensive education and awareness campaigns targeting parents, caregivers, and community members. These campaigns should aim to inform individuals about the signs, consequences, and prevention methods related to gender-based violence against children. Educational initiatives can include workshops, seminars, public service announcements, and informational materials that cover various aspects of gender-based violence. By raising awareness and increasing knowledge, these campaigns can empower communities to recognize and address instances of violence more effectively. They should also encourage open discussions about gender-based violence, challenging harmful norms and stereotypes that

perpetuate such behavior. Ultimately, these efforts aim to create a safer and more supportive environment for children.

(i). Education to the Community:

Implement comprehensive educational programs aimed at informing parents, caregivers, and community members about the importance of protecting children from gender-based violence. These programs should cover the signs and consequences of such violence, practical preventive measures, and the roles and responsibilities of community members in safeguarding children. The community can better support and protect children by increasing awareness and understanding.

(ii). Education to the Children:

Develop tailored educational initiatives for children, teaching them about their rights and how to recognize and respond to situations of gender-based violence. This Education should include practical self-defense strategies, understanding consent, and knowing where to seek help. This knowledge empowers children to defend themselves and report incidents, contributing to their overall safety and well-being.

5.4.2 Improve Access to Support Services

Expand access to essential support services for children who are victims of gender-based violence. This includes providing comprehensive counseling services to help them cope with trauma, ensuring they receive necessary medical care to address physical and psychological injuries, and offering legal assistance to navigate the justice system and secure their rights. Establishing accessible and child-friendly support centers within the community can facilitate immediate and ongoing assistance, aiding in the recovery and rehabilitation of affected children. These

services should be staffed with trained professionals equipped to handle the sensitive nature of gender-based violence cases, ensuring that victims receive compassionate and effective care.

(i). Counseling Services Centers

Establish specialized counseling centers dedicated to helping children cope with trauma resulting from gender-based violence. These centers should offer confidential and child-friendly environments where trained therapists can provide psychological support and guidance. The goal is to help children process their experiences and develop healthy coping mechanisms to facilitate emotional healing and resilience.

(ii). Medical care:

Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to comprehensive medical care to address both physical and psychological injuries. This includes immediate medical attention for injuries sustained and long-term care for ongoing health issues. Mental health services, including therapy and psychiatric support, should be integrated into medical care to address the psychological impact of violence.

(iii). Legal assistance:

Provide legal assistance to help children and their families navigate the justice system. This includes guidance on reporting incidents, understanding legal rights, and accessing protective measures. Legal support should also cover advocacy in court and other legal proceedings to ensure that victims' rights are upheld and that

perpetrators are held accountable. Access to legal assistance is crucial for securing justice and protecting the long-term welfare of affected children.

5.4.3 Implementing school food programs

To ensure that all children receive adequate nutrition, it is recommended to implement a school food program that serves all students, regardless of their family's financial status. This program should provide balanced meals to help children focus and perform better academically and promote their overall health. The program avoids stigmatization and ensures equal access to essential nutritional support by including able and unable families. Such initiatives can significantly reduce hunger-related issues among children, thereby decreasing their vulnerability to exploitation and improving their well-being. Collaboration with local farmers and suppliers can also support the local economy and provide fresh, nutritious food options.

5.4.4 Empowering Low-income families to Manage basic needs of Children

To reduce vulnerability to gender-based violence, it is essential to empower low-income families by providing targeted financial assistance programs that ensure children have access to necessities like food, clothing, and Education. Implementing community-based employment and skills training programs can help parents and caregivers achieve stable incomes, thereby supporting their families more effectively. Additionally, enhancing access to social services, including healthcare and educational resources, can alleviate financial pressures and create a more secure environment for children, ultimately safeguarding them from violence and exploitation.

5.4.5 Recommendations for further studies

This study has investigated gender-based violence among vulnerable children in Kigamboni Municipality, Tanzania, providing insights into the prevalence, factors, and effectiveness of interventions. However, further research is needed to explore the psychological and moral impacts of gender-based violence on children, particularly in rural areas. These regions often face different challenges and cultural dynamics, which can influence the nature and effects of such violence. Understanding the specific psychological and moral consequences can inform tailored interventions that address the unique needs of children in these settings. Additionally, future studies should consider longitudinal approaches to assess the long-term effects of gender-based violence on children's development and well-being. Such research is crucial for developing comprehensive support systems encompassing mental health services, community education, and policy reforms to protect children's rights and promote their holistic well-being.

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APPENDIX

Questionnaire for Respondents

PART A: Respondent's particulars.

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Occupation:

PART B: The questions

Answer (put cycle to the appropriate space)

Form of Violence:

1. How do you understand about gender based violence to children

2. What form of violence do think is prevalence in your environment
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual violence
 - Psychological Abuse
 - Emotional abuse

3. Do you believe poverty or economic hardship contributes to gender-based violence among vulnerable children?
 - Yes

- No
4. Have you observed cultural norms or traditions that perpetuate gender-based violence in your community?
- Yes
 - No
5. Do you think lack of access to education and opportunities exacerbates gender-based violence among vulnerable children?
- Yes
 - No
6. Have you witnessed discrimination or marginalization based on gender identity or sexual orientation leading to violence?
- Yes
 - No
7. Do you believe inadequate legal protection and enforcement contribute to the prevalence of gender-based violence?
- Yes
 - No
8. Have you noticed a lack of awareness or education about gender equality and respectful relationships among vulnerable children?

- Yes
 - No
9. Do you believe current laws and policies are effective in protecting children from gender-based violence?
- Yes
 - No
 - Somewhat
10. How effective do you think educational programs in schools are at preventing gender-based violence among children?
- Very effective
 - Somewhat effective
 - Not effective
 - Don't know
11. Are the support services provided by social welfare organizations sufficient to help children who have experienced gender-based violence?
- Yes
 - No
 - Somewhat
12. Do you feel that community awareness campaigns on gender-based violence are reaching the most vulnerable children?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
13. How effective do you find the role of the police in handling cases of gender-based violence against children?

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Not effective
- Don't know

14. Are there adequate mental health services available for children who are victims of gender-based violence?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

THANK YOU

MASWALI YA DODOSO: (SWAHILI VERSION)**Maswali ya Dodoso: (Swahili version)**

1. Unaelewaje kuhusu ukatili wa kijinsia kwa watoto?
2. Ni aina gani ya ukatili unaoona ni wa kawaida katika mazingira yako?
 - Ukatili wa kimwili
 - Ukatili wa kingono
 - Ukatili wa kisaikolojia
 - Ukatili wa kihisia
3. Je, unaamini umaskini au ugumu wa kiuchumi unachangia ukatili wa kijinsia miongoni mwa watoto walio katika mazingira magumu?
 - Ndiyo
 - Hapana
4. Je, umeona desturi au mila zinazochoea ukatili wa kijinsia katika jamii yako?
 - Ndiyo
 - Hapana
5. Je, unafikiri ukosefu wa upatikanaji wa elimu na fursa unachochea ukatili wa kijinsia miongoni mwa watoto walio katika mazingira magumu?
 - Ndiyo
 - Hapana

6. Umeshuhudia ubaguzi au kutengwa kwa misingi ya utambulisho wa kijinsia au mwelekeo wa kingono unaosababisha ukatili?
- Ndiyo
 - Hapana
7. Je, unaamini kwamba upungufu wa ulinzi wa kisheria na utekelezaji unachangia uwepo wa ukatili wa kijinsia?
- Ndiyo
 - Hapana
8. Umeona ukosefu wa uelewa au elimu kuhusu usawa wa kijinsia na mahusiano ya heshima miongoni mwa watoto walio katika mazingira magumu?
- Ndiyo
 - Hapana
9. Je, unaamini sheria na sera za sasa ni madhubuti katika kuwalinda watoto dhidi ya ukatili wa kijinsia?
- Ndiyo
 - Hapana
 - Kidogo
10. Je, unadhani programu za elimu mashuleni ni madhubuti kiasi gani katika kuzuia ukatili wa kijinsia miongoni mwa watoto?
- Zinasaidia sana
 - Zinasaidia kiasi

- Hazisaidii
- Sijui

11. Je, huduma zinazotolewa na mashirika ya ustawi wa jamii zinasosha kusaidia watoto waliokutana na ukatili wa kijinsia?

- Ndiyo
- Hapana
- Kidogo

12. Je, unahisi kampeni za uhamasishaji wa jamii kuhusu ukatili wa kijinsia zinafikia watoto walio katika mazingira magumu zaidi?

- Ndiyo
- Hapana
- Sijui

13. Unadhani polisi wanafanikiwa vipi katika kushughulikia kesi za ukatili wa kijinsia dhidi ya watoto?

- Wanafanya kazi vizuri sana
- Wanafanya kazi vizuri kiasi
- Hawafanyi kazi vizuri
- Sijui

14. Je, kuna huduma za kutosha za afya ya akili kwa watoto ambao ni waathirika wa ukatili wa kijinsia?

- Ndiyo
- Hapana
- Kidogo

ASANTENI KWA USHIRIKIANO

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN

Details of Respondents:

1. **Name:**
2. **Age:**
3. **Gender**
4. **Location:**

Interview Questions:

1. How would you understand about gender-based violence?
2. Are you aware of different forms of gender-based violence that can affect children?

(Mention anyone)
3. Have you ever experienced any form of gender based violence?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

If YES explain what kind of violence

4. Have you been subjected to verbal abuse, including insults, threats, or derogatory language?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If YES explain what verbal abuse experienced.....

5. Do you feel unsafe or threatened in your home environment due to emotional or psychological abuse?

- a. Yes
- b. No

6. Have you experienced sexual violence or coercion, such as unwanted touching or sexual advances?

- a. Yes
- b. No

7. What do think are the causes of gander based violence to children?

8. Do you believe current laws and policies are effective in protecting children from gender-based violence?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

8. How effective do you think educational programs in schools are at preventing gender-based violence among children?

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Not effective
- Don't know

9. Are the support services provided by social welfare organizations sufficient to help children who have experienced gender-based violence?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

10. Do you feel that community awareness campaigns on gender-based violence are reaching the most vulnerable children?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

11. How effective do you find the role of the police in handling cases of gender-based violence against children?

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Not effective
- Don't know

12. Are there adequate mental health services available for children who are victims of gender-based violence?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

THANK YOU

MASWALI YA MAHOJIANO:(SWAHILI VERSION)

1. Unaelewaje kuhusu ukatili wa kijinsia?
2. Je, unafahamu aina mbalimbali za ukatili wa kijinsia ambazo zinaweza kuathiri watoto? (Taja yoyote)
3. Umewahi kupitia aina yoyote ya ukatili wa kijinsia?
 - a. Ndiyo
 - b. Hapana

Ikiwa NDIO, eleza aina ya ukatili

4. Je, umewahi kukabiliwa na kauli zenye ukatili wa kijinsia, kama vile kejeli, vitisho, au lugha ya kudhalilisha?
 - a. Ndiyo
 - b. Hapana

Ikiwa NDIO, eleza aina ya matusi ya maneno uliokutana nayo

5. Je, unahisi kutokuwa salama au kutishiwa katika mazingira ya nyumbani kutokana na ukatili wa kihisia au kisaikolojia?
 - a. Ndiyo
 - b. Hapana

6. Umewahi kupitia ukatili wa kingono au kulazimishwa, kama vile kushikwa bila ridhaa au kushawishiwa kingono?

a. Ndiyo

b. Hapana

7. Unafikiri nini ndicho chanzo cha ukatili wa kijinsia kwa watoto?

8. Je, unaamini sheria na sera za sasa ni madhubuti katika kuwalinda watoto dhidi ya ukatili wa kijinsia?

a. Ndiyo

b. Hapana

c. Kidogo

9. Unafikiri programu za elimu mashuleni ni madhubuti kiasi gani katika kuzuia ukatili wa kijinsia miongoni mwa watoto?

a. Zinasaidia sana

b. Zinasaidia kiasi

c. Hazisaidii

d. Sijui

10. Je, huduma zinazotolewa na mashirika ya ustawi wa jamii zinatoshia kusaidia watoto waliopitia ukatili wa kijinsia?

a. Ndiyo

b. Hapana

c. Kidogo

11. Je, unaona kampeni za uhamasishaji wa jamii kuhusu ukatili wa kijinsia zinawafikia watoto walio katika mazingira magumu zaidi?

- a. Ndiyo
- b. Hapana
- c. Sijui

12. Unadhani polisi wanafanikiwa vipi katika kushughulikia kesi za ukatili wa kijinsia dhidi ya watoto?

- a. Wanafanya kazi vizuri sana
- b. Wanafanya kazi vizuri kiasi
- c. Hawafanyi kazi vizuri
- d. Sijui

13. Je, kuna huduma za afya ya akili za kutosha kwa watoto ambao ni waathirika wa ukatili wa kijinsia?

- a. Ndiyo
- b. Hapana
- c. Kidogo

ASANTENI KWA USHIRIKIANO