



East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences

ejass.eanso.org

Volume 7, Issue 1, 2024

Print ISSN: 2707-4277 | Online ISSN: 2707-4285

Title DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37284/2707-4285>

EANSO

EAST AFRICAN
NATURE &
SCIENCE
ORGANIZATION

Original Article

Determinants of Child Abuse in Arusha Region

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Article DOI : <https://doi.org/10.37284/eajass.7.1.1840>

Date Published: **ABSTRACT**

25 March 2024

Keywords:

Child Abuse,
Violence,
Economic
Hardship,
Substance
Abuse,
Alcohol.

Although there are enormous efforts towards alleviation of child abuse worldwide, it still persists. It is estimated that between 500 million and 1.5 billion children worldwide bear some form of violence annually. That being the case, this study conducted research to find out the determinants of Child Abuse in Arusha. The research employed a descriptive research design. The sample size was 100 children. Structured and semi-structured questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions were employed as data collection tools. Quantitative and qualitative analysis was used to interpret the data, and inferential statistics was used to analyse the data. The study established that the age of the respondent, employment status of parent or guardian, income per month of parent or guardian, age of parent or guardian, and drugs and alcohol abuse by parent or guardian were individually useful in the prediction of Y (Experienced child abuse) which is the dependent variable. It is concluded that the risks of experiencing child abuse increase in the communities as a result of financial dependence, employment status, economic status, age at marriage, and parent or guardian tendency to substance abuse.

APA CITATION

Magesa, R. J. & Shekuwe, R. (2024). Determinants of Child Abuse in Arusha Region. *East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*, 7(1), 139-149. <https://doi.org/10.37284/eajass.7.1.1840>

CHICAGO CITATION

Magesa, Rehema John and Rehema Shekuwe. 2024. "Determinants of Child Abuse in Arusha Region". *East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences* 7 (1), 139-149. <https://doi.org/10.37284/eajass.7.1.1840>.

HARVARD CITATION

Magesa, R. J. & Shekuwe, R. (2024) "Determinants of Child Abuse in Arusha Region". *East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*, 7(1), pp. 139-149. doi: 10.37284/eajass.7.1.1840.

IEEE CITATION

R. J., Magesa & R., Shekuwe "Determinants of Child Abuse in Arusha Region". *EAJASS*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 139-149, Mar. 2024.

MLA CITATION

Magesa, Rehema John & Rehema Shekuwe. "Determinants of Child Abuse in Arusha Region". *East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*, Vol. 7, no. 1, Mar. 2024, pp. 139-149, doi:10.37284/eajass.7.1.1840.

INTRODUCTION

Globally, violence against children has been thriving despite different efforts to end it. It is estimated that between 500 million and 1.5 billion

children worldwide endure some form of violence annually (ACPF, 2021). Different instruments and strategies have been put forward to have a unanimous agreement to end these acts against

children. Among others; Sustainable Development Goal 16 Target 2 intends to End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children (UN, 2020). While Article 2.2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted in 1989 by the General Assembly resolution 44/25 stipulates that States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members (UN, 1989).

Despite these efforts, different countries still report data on abuse against children. According to WHO (2022), it is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 years, have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the year 2015. Different forms of abuse have been reported including physical, psychological, human trafficking, sexual, and economic abuse. According to the Children's Defense Fund (CDF; 2014) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS, 2012, 2017), millions of children worldwide from all socioeconomic backgrounds, across all ages, religions, and cultures are exposed to child maltreatment every day and millions more are at risk (Chitiyo and Zachary, 2019)

Africa as a continent has recorded fragmented progress in ending child violence. It is estimated that In Africa, 50 percent of the child population is estimated to have experienced or witnessed some form of violence including physical, sexual, or emotional violence (ACPF, 2021). In Tanzania, child abuse has been prominent throughout the country. Both boys and girls are being abused by their family or non-family members including neighbours, teachers, random adults, etc. According to the LHRC report of 2021, it is reported that incidents of violence against children (VAC) decreased from 15,870 in 2020 to 11,499 in 2021, a decrease of 27.5%. Out of the 11,499 reported incidents, 85% involved female victims and the remaining 15% were male victims. These are only the reported incidents.

Different forms of violence against children have been reported in Tanzania as in other African countries. Of all the reported cases it was found that 89% of VAC incidents reported by the media were sexual VAC, while 11% were physical and emotional VAC (LHRC, 2021). A number of factors have been identified as the cause of sexual VAC. Among them economic hardship, labour exploitation, Stress of the perpetrators, Lack of Education for the victims, Poor health problems, Homelessness, unemployment, Acquaintances, age of parents or guardians, and Lack of Self-Confidence of perpetrators (Gupta and Grag, 2020).

DETERMINANTS OF CHILD ABUSE

Economic Hardship and Child Abuse

Relatively Poor economic conditions of households have resulted in abuse among family members. Poverty, debt, material hardships, income losses, and unemployment have been among the economic hardships encountered by many families globally. Women and children have been victims of violence as compared to adult men due to economic hardships. In a study by Brooks-Gunn and Duncan (1997), it has been argued that income deprivation leads to lower achievement by undermining the quality of parenting including abuse and the availability of educational resources in the home. This has further been seconded by the following studies conducted by Ecker (1994); Jewkes et al. (2005), and Artz et al. (2016) exemplifies this. In a study conducted by Ecker (1994) in Sub-Saharan Africa, it was deduced that poverty is a recognized factor that fuels child sexual abuse where it forces young people to engage in transactional sex or the "sugar daddy/mommy phenomenon" whereby young women or men gain financial support from older men or women in return for sexual services rendered. Ecker further explains that oftentimes, young women and men experience abuse, and such early behaviour is motivated by the receipt of money or other small gifts. In another study by Jewkes et al, in their 2005 qualitative study called "If they rape me, I can't blame them: reflections on gender in the social context of child rape in

South Africa and Namibia explained how economic factors can lead to child sexual abuse. This qualitative study was based on 77 semi-structured in-depth interviews and 3 small group discussions conducted in Windhoek, Namibia, and rural Mpumalanga province in South Africa. The study deduced that poor children were particularly vulnerable to transactional sexual abuse relationships where they would agree to anything in return for food and clothing.

The East, Central, and Southern African Health Community, (2011), in their work, “Child Sexual Abuse in Sub-Saharan Africa”, state that in the International Labour Organization (ILO) 2001 study, 250 girls were interviewed on juvenile prostitution in Tanzania. The most common reason that was given for leaving home was poverty (30%); only 3% of respondents specifically mentioned sexual abuse in the home as their primary reason for leaving. Widespread poverty and the lack of educational and employment opportunities for young people strongly encourage them to seek opportunities elsewhere.

Social and Cultural Factors for Violence Against Children

A number of social and cultural factors have been reported globally to be the determinants of child abuse. Many studies have mentioned age, educational level, lack of employment, number of wives, number of male children, and number of female children as social factors influencing violence against children (Alrammah, et al., (2018); Olaitan & Idowu, 2016; and Sika-Bright and Nnorom, 2013). In another instance, Uzodimma et al. (2013) have revealed that family separation, poor parental education, low parental socio-economic status, and very sadly lack of social support and child protection structure are factors fostering abuse and neglect of children in Nigeria.

Culture being complex as it is, has been reported to perpetrate child abuse in different parts of the world. The multicultural context with regard to child upbringing and care has made it even harder to work on policies and instruments to protect

children around the world. A good example is within the African continent where a girl child passes through a number of customs and rites which in a way becomes harmful to her. A number of harmful practices to a girl child include female genital mutilation, son preference, early marriage, denial of inheritance, triple roles, denial of education, and many more. The boy child on another hand is affected by a few of the harmful practices as compared to the girl. The boy child is affected mainly by child labour and physical abuse while the girl child is affected by both of those plus other forms of abuse. According to ActionAid(2015), harmful traditional practices in Africa include female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C), early or forced marriage, polygamy, breast flattening, cosmetic mutilation, dowry and bride price, and marriage by abduction or rape, ‘honour’ crimes, corrective rape, and female infanticide, wife battery, ritual sexual slavery, virginity testing, practices related to initiation or menstruation, some widowhood rituals and accusations of witchcraft levied at older women. These practices tend to demean the position of women and girls in specific society and they are abusive in nature.

Much as economic hardship, social and cultural factors have been mentioned to be the reasons for child abuse, the study feels that many more factors are associated with this problem. As other studies accepts that it is a multifaceted and complex study, the study deemed it necessary to know the real determinants of child abuse in Arusha

METHODOLOGY

Research Approach

The study used a mixed-method approach. This means the study employed a combination of both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods. The importance of using mixed methods in this study was to enable the researcher to answer questions with both open and closed-ended questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions. Qualitative and quantitative data were used in a mutually complimenting manner meaning each method provided answers to the research questions.

Research Design

Research design as defined by Gupta and Gupta (2011) is a process that allows the researcher to have an understanding of the significance of the research and the steps that are involved. This study used a descriptive survey design. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) explain that a descriptive survey design is utilized to obtain information regarding the current situation about a phenomenon to describe what exists, with respect to variables or conditions in a situation. This design the relationships and practices that exist, beliefs and processes that are ongoing, effects that are felt, and trends that are developed. The study adopted the design to provide an analysis and explanation of views and comments about child sexual abuse. This design was considered appropriate since it enabled the researcher to collect data with less manipulation of variables (Siedlecki, 2020).

Study Area

Arusha region is located in the northern part of the country that borders Kenya via Namanga and in between Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro. According to the 2012 national census, Arusha had a population of 1,694,310. Arusha is a multicultural city that contains different ethnolinguistic communities. Arusha is famously known as the "Geneva of Africa" as it is famous for its safaris and a massive explosion of tourists as it is surrounded by national parks like Tarangire and the Ngorongoro conservation area (Arusha City, 2019).

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Arusha is among one of the most developed regions in Tanzania. The main economic activities of the residents are business, agriculture, and civil services. Business activities include shops, hotels, transport, bars, banks bureau de change, and others. Civil servants are spread over the wards these are teachers, policemen, doctors, technicians, and lawyers. The study was conducted in the Arusha district council (ADC). ADC is boarded by Meru to the East, Monduli to the West, Longido to the North-West, and Simanjiro to the South. ADC surrounds the Arusha Municipal Council on both Sides. It covers an area of 1446.692 square kilometres with a population of 449,518.

The district is divided into three divisions (Muklat, Moshono, and Enaboishu). It has 27 wards, 67 villages, 256 suburbs, and 72,289 households. There is also one township authority of Ngaramtoni. The economic activities in ADC are agriculture, livestock keeping, culture tourism, and small-scale industries and enterprises. The dominant ethnic groups residing in the district include the Maasai and Meru tribes. There are other ethnic groups like Chagga, Pare, Nyiramba, Iraq, Sukuma, Gogo, and Rangi who migrated from the nearest Districts for trading and social issues (Arusha District Council, 2017).

Study Population

The study was conducted in the Moivo and Olorien wards of Arusha district council. The study population was 168,897 children (NBS, 2013) were a sample of 100 was picked to fulfil the study requirements. To acquire more data on child abuse in Arusha, the researcher obtained information from different people like parents/guardians, ward leaders, community development officers, religious leaders, and social welfare officers.

Sample Size

Since the study employed a mixed methods approach, sample sizes for qualitative and quantitative approaches were also calculated differently.

The sample size for Quantitative

According to the 2012 census, the Arusha District Council has a total of 168,897 children. So, the researcher calculated the sample size based on a formula by Yamane (1967) as shown below;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where n = Sample size; N = The total population given (168,897); e = Desired precision (10%) since the population is high. **Where** the total number of population (N) = 168,897; e = 10% (0.1)

$$n = \frac{168,897}{1 + 168,897 * 0.01^2} = 99.98 = 100$$

Based on the above formula, the sample size used in this study was 100 respondents.

The Sample size for Qualitative

The study used key informants – Ward Executive Officer (WEO), Village Executive Officer (VEO), Community Development Officer (CDO), Social Welfare Officer, Faith-Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Teachers, and Guardians, District Education Officer for Primary and Secondary schools, Health Officer, and documentary reviews to collect data. The researcher obtained four (4) groups for focus group discussion which two groups were for women and two for men whereby, each group containing 6 respondents. These respondents were parents, caregivers, and community members who have children who are victims and potential victims. Saturation was used to determine the sample size in qualitative research of the focused group discussion in this study.

Sampling Procedures

The researcher employed both probability and non-probability sampling. A multi-stage sampling technique was used in selecting respondents for the study. Stage one involved the selection of the district where the research was to be conducted using simple random sampling. Stage two was a selection of two wards in which two streets were

selected making a total of four streets from the selected wards.

The study used snowball sampling technique and simple random sampling to select the children both potential victims and victims. Snowball sampling is a non-probability sampling method used when characteristics to be posed by sample are rare and difficult to find. In this method every individual had neither an equal chance of being selected nor assurance of being included in the final sample (Naderifar et al, 2017). Snowball was used to obtain victims through the assistance of the village ward leaders and other community members. And simple random sampling was used to select victims as well so as to have an equal chance of participants to participate in the study.

In non-probability sampling, the researcher used purposive sampling to select the community members, teachers, religious leaders, local leaders (WEO and VEO), Non-governmental Organizations, and Faith-Based Organizations as key informants.

Data Collection Methods

The study used both primary and secondary data sources. With primary, data was collected directly from the respondents in a raw form mainly the participants through questionnaires and interviews to have clear and accurate answers from the targeted and affected group whereas, with secondary data, the data was obtained from reviews and evaluations on already published literature in books, journals, and newspapers to have enough information related to the study.

Questionnaires

The questions may either be closed-ended or open-ended. For this study, a combination of both close-ended and open-ended questionnaires was prepared. Questions were prepared in such a way that children between 10 and 18 years could understand them and respond to them accurately.

Interview

This instrument was used because it applied to both illiterate and literate people (Respondents).

This also helped in the clarification of questions to respondents due to the presence of the researcher. Interviews were used to collect data from key informants at the village, ward, and district levels to get an in-depth exploration of their views regarding the topic. This technique was purposely selected because it normally provides an opportunity to probe further issues that need more information.

Focus Group Discussion

The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was also another instrument the researcher used for data collection. It was used for parents, guardians, teachers, and community members responsible for the care and fostering of children in Arusha District.

Documentary Review

The researcher sought the available documents from different offices to get data from reports. Not only that, but for books, journals, and other reports, the researcher visited libraries and browsed different websites to acquire the necessary information for the research. It is important to obtain such data as it is important to acquire information on current news and know what is happening.

Data Analysis

The study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches to analyse the data. In the quantitative approach, the researcher used both descriptive and inferential statistics to analyse the data collected. In obtaining the determinants of Child abuse in Arusha District, a multiple linear regression was applied to test variables which might be the cause of violence to the respondents. The estimation of the regression model for determinants of child abuse was as follows:

$$Y = \beta_0 + X_1\beta_1 + X_2\beta_2 + X_3\beta_3 + X_4\beta_4 + X_5\beta_5 + X_6\beta_6 + \xi;$$

Where: Y= Experienced in abuse

X1= Age of respondent, X2= Education level of parent or guardian, X3= Employment status of parent or guardian, X4= Income per month parent or guardian, X5= Age of parent or guardian, X6= parent or guardian alcohol, abuse drugs,

ξ = error term, β_0 = Regression constant, $\beta_1 - \beta_6$ = Regression coefficient in the model

For inferential statistics, Pearson's Chi-square was used to test the relationship between abuse and the quantitative independent variables. A p-value < 0.05 was considered significant

Ethical Considerations

To ensure that there was no breach of privacy and confidential information, this research considered the following aspects. Adhering to the ethical standard of the study, making subjects aware of all aspects of research, being open and honest, protecting the subjects from any discomfort, and securing the information of the subjects confidentially, permission from the institution, and providing feedback (McMillan & Schumacher, 2010).

RESULTS

Characteristics of Respondents

The research sought to determine the characteristics of respondents with their gender, age, and education level across the study population. This was done to ensure fairness in the uptake of respondents' opinions and alleviate the probability of study findings suffering from bias. Descriptive statistics show that the gender split is 31(31%) for male respondents and 69(69%) for female respondents. This shows that all genders were significantly represented in the study thus the data collected were relevant and reliable for the study. The majority of respondents were aged between 35-39 years. Furthermore, results indicated that the majority of the respondents were in primary schools or had completed primary education. The results are presented in *Table 1*.

Table 1: Characteristics of respondents

	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Sex of respondent	Male	31	31
	Female	69	69
Age of respondents	10-14	37	37
	15-18	63	63
The education level of respondents	No formal education	13	13
	Primary	17	17
	Secondary	64	64
	Certificate	6	6
Marital status of respondent's parent or guardian	Single / cohabiting	27	27
	Married	65	65
	Divorced	5	5
	Widow	2	2
	Separated	1	1
Occupation of respondents' parent or guardian	Formal employment	17	17
	Farming & livestock keeping	44	44
	Housewife	35	35
	Retired	4	4
Education level of respondent's parent or guardian	No formal education	18	18
	Primary	36	36
	Secondary	32	32
	Tertiary	14	14
Residence status	House owner	34	34
	Rented house	49	49
	Family house	17	17
Income per month (Tshs)	Less than 100,000/=	36	36
	Between 100,000/= and 200,000/=	44	44
	Between 200,000/= and 500,000/=	18	18
	Above 500,000/=	2	2

Factors Associated with Child Abuse

A number of factors were associated with child abuse in Arusha district. After running a regression analysis, it was learned that at $p = 0.05$, the t-values for five factors become statistically significant because of their corresponding p-value

≤ 0.05 . Therefore, the Age of the respondent, Employment status of the parent or guardian, Income per month of the parent or guardian, Age of the parent or guardian, and drugs and alcohol abuse by the parent or guardian were individually useful in the prediction of Y (Experienced child abuse) which is the dependent variable.

Table 2: Regression coefficients

Model	Mean	Standard Deviation	Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized coefficients	t	Sig.
			β	Std. Error			
Constant	4.16	1.16	2.154	0.34		9.73	0.000
Age of respondent	3.86	1.24	0.87	0.91	0.14	0.53	0.036*
Education level of parent or guardian	2.98	1.29	0.57	0.31	0.149	0.29	0.067
Employment status of parent or guardian	2.69	1.01	-0.06	0.028	-0.172	-	0.002*
Income per month parent or guardian	2.66	1.22	-0.078	0.026	-0.126	-	0.045*
Age of parent or guardian	2.35	1.16	-0.17	0.027	-0.252	-	0.000*

parent or guardian	2.10	.96	0.24	0.052	0.109	0.208	0.0034*
alcohol, abuse drugs							

From the regression equation above, taking all the predictor variables constant (zero), the dependent variable is 2.154. From the findings in the regression equation above it can be deduced that one unit change in age of respondent results in 0.87 units increase in child abuse. Thus, the age of the respondent has a strong positive and significant influence on child abuse. Similarly, one unit change in employment status results in -0.06 unit increase in child abuse. Furthermore, one unit change in income per month results in -0.078 unit increase in child abuse. Based on the rule for significance level, the study indicates that there is a significant relation between age of respondent, employment status of parent or guardian, Income per month of parent or guardian, Age of parent or guardian, and drugs and alcohol abuse by parent or guardian with respect to child abuse in Arusha District. These factors have been reported elsewhere as the risk factors associated with not only child abuse but other forms of violence as well. The factors are further discussed in the following sections.

Age of Respondent and Parent/ Guardian

The age of the respondent was reported to be a factor of abuse. From the study, it was reported that the younger the age the more abuse and neglect. The respondents argued that children between 10 and 16 years of age were physically abused as compared to their older siblings. It was emphasized that this group and especially the girls were sexually abused more than physically abused. The following respondent reports

“When I reached 12 years old men started looking at me differently, sometimes I was touched on my chest without my consent. They started calling me ‘mchumba’ and telling me offal things”.

This finding correlates with that of Özgülük (2010) who states that the prevalence of physical abuse shows differences with respect to the age of the child victim. It is reported that girls in puberty are more likely to suffer from physical abuse.

The age of parent was also reported to influence the perpetration of child abuse in the study area. Younger parents/ guardians were reported to be prone to committing abuse as compared to the older ones. The respondents who live with their young parents reported that they are abused frequently while those living with their grandparents (*bibi/babu*) reported solemnly being abused. This finding relates to that of Santosh (2016) who states that the age of parent/ guardian is one of the prominent demographic factors in child abuse and the average age range of the perpetrators of child abuse would start from the late 20s and would extend up to early 30s.

Low Income of Parents or Guardian

From the findings of this study, it was learned that more than 80% of the respondents' parents or guardians earn less than 200,000 Tshs per month. With this amount, it is evident that they will not be able to cover all the needs required of their families. This was stated by the majority of respondents as they agreed that the status of being poor or having low-income influences child abuse. The respondents stated that their parents or guardians became violent when the children demanded basic needs or school utilities. They were physically abused for demanding schoolbooks, new uniforms, fees, and even proper food. The parents became angry for no reason and hit the children, as a result, some of the children sought to go elsewhere to find the needs the parents denied them. The following statement exemplifies this status;

“Whenever my mother is absent, I never tell my father what I need for school because he will slap me. My mother is the one who caters for all mine and my siblings' school needs including fees and exercise books”.

This finding can be related to the results of previous studies in the United States and elsewhere which have stated that poverty increases the prevalence of child abuse in households (Brown et al. 1998). One of the studies

often cited as evidence of the link between poverty and maltreatment is the third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (Sedlak & Broadhurst, 1996). In this study, families with annual incomes below \$15,000 were 22 times more likely to experience an incident of child maltreatment than were families with incomes above \$30,000. In Another study by The National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (2010), it was reported that children in low socioeconomic status households had significantly higher rates of maltreatment in all categories and across both definitional standards. They experienced some type of maltreatment at more than 5 times the rate of other children; they were more than 3 times as likely to be abused and about 7 times as likely to be neglected.

Employment Status of Parent or Guardian

As in the low-income status of parents, lack of employment was also found to be a factor influencing child abuse. The respondents reported that most of their parents lack permanent or formal jobs. As seen in Table 1 only 17% of respondents' parents and guardians have formal employment while the remaining (83%) have casual or dependent on farming. Lack of employment resulted in low or inadequate income for the parent. So, as a result, the parent becomes abusive due to stresses related to poverty. The following statement from one of the parents illustrates this;

"... Not having something to do is very bad for our children because we cannot solve their problems and needs yet they depend on only us. And most of us parents in one way or another are unemployed, and not having a promising job leads our children to go astray when anyone approaches them including their stepdads..."

This finding relates with other findings from different studies globally i.e. in a study by The National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (2010), it is reported that children with employed parents, when compared with those with no parent in the labour force had 2 to 3 times the rate of maltreatment overall, about 2 times the

rate of abuse, and 3 or more times the rate of neglect. Children with unemployed parents had 2 to 3 times higher rates of neglect than those with employed parents.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse by Parent or Guardian

Substance abuse was identified as one of the leading factors influencing child abuse. The respondents reported one or both parents or guardians have substance abuse problems. The parents were reported to abuse the children after using the drug or alcohol. The respondents argued that their parents consume alcohol frequently and sometimes they use marijuana or other hard drugs. They further emphasized that abuse in the household normally occurs once their parents are drunk or have used the marijuana. Different studies worldwide have confirmed the relationship between alcohol and abuse. Dore (1998) argues that there is a very significant relationship between substance abuse and child abuse. The study confirms that substance abuse affects the parent in three ways and hence accelerates his/her abusive behaviour; firstly, there is the direct effect of mood and mind-altering substances on a parent's physical well-being, resulting in emotion and behaviour that is likely altered in ways that are detrimental to parenting; secondly, there is the context in which parenting takes place that is also profoundly affected in negative ways by the parent's substance abusing behaviour. The poverty, interpersonal violence, social isolation, the presence of unrelated substance-abusing adults in the home, and parental mental illness, particularly depression, that often co-occur with parental substance abuse are all associated with both child maltreatment and high risk to the normative psychosocial development of children. Many of these factors, of course, exist independently of parental substance abuse. Finally, there are the effects of a parent's own childhood experiences of abuse on both the probability of becoming a substance abuser and the psychodynamic consequences manifested in behaviours associated with child abuse and neglect. There is evidence that a high proportion, estimated at one-

third, of parents who are abused as children will go on to severely maltreat their own children (Oliver, 1993). Alcoholism and drug abuse were further reported to have also caused violent attitudes not only to children in the household but also to their mother and another member of the family. They reported that, once the father is drunk, he tends to abuse all family members physically, psychologically, and even economically. The following case illustrates;

“When he comes home drunk, he forces my mother to give him all the money she has earned selling vegetables at the market. Immediately after getting the money, he forces her to give him food which he does not even buy...”

Further Crane et al. (2014) reveal the same as their study reports that alcohol and cocaine use disorders were significantly associated with domestic violence perpetration over the past year. A co-morbid alcohol use diagnosis increased the likelihood of IPV perpetration among participants with either cannabis or cocaine use disorder.

Finding from qualitative tools

The respondents gave a couple of different reasons that they were aware of that resonate adults to abuse children from a very young age. The reasons included; Men want to taste varieties, other men want virgin girls since they have never experienced having them, lack of food at home (that is the 3 meals, morning, afternoon, and evening), status of poverty, most said the status of poverty lead the children to be sexually abused because nothing goes for nothing, and without realizing they are being abused, it becomes too late because they only want to solve their problems on the particular time. Also, parents being poor forces their children to go out and look for their own basic needs, but it is not in many cases parents do the otherwise, bad cultural practices such as witchcraft which is on the rise; the majority of the community members believe sleeping with either your child or a young child, they will become rich in one way or another thus child sexual abuse is on the rise in their ward. The

lack of basic needs for children, and when anyone including their parents tries to help, it is when CSA happens and it is when they take advantage because they say nothing goes for nothing, the majority said parents are not able to provide for their children the necessity, hence force them to look outside the house, Parents are not home from work after their children get back from school, where this provides which here it gives an ample time for the abusers to tempt and seduce these children who have different needs that cannot be provided from home, single parenting several children becomes hard for the parent to provide the basic needs of her family. And the existence of a mixed culture that at the end of the day, some come with new cultural practices that destroy the good that was there. Also, some said step-fathers play a big role because they feel that it is not ok for them to provide for another man's child freely, thus gives them room to sexually abuse them, saying nothing goes freely, from food, clothing, shelter, school requirements such as stationaries and school fees

CONCLUSION

The risks of experiencing child abuse increase in the communities as a result of financial dependence, employment status, economic status, age at marriage, and parent or guardian's tendency to drink alcohol or use drugs. This is the case in Arusha District Council but the study believes that it might be the case in other parts of Tanzania too. Children in the country especially girls have been abused more as compared to boys. They encounter emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. This emphasizes that more efforts from all stakeholders should be put in place to mitigate child abuse in the country.

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