



Perception of the effectiveness of family strategies in addressing violence against children in Iringa Municipality

Irene Augustine Marandu

Department of Community Development, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; University of Iringa, Tanzania

* Corresponding Author: Irene Augustine Marandu

Article Info

ISSN (online): 2582-7138

Volume: 03

Issue: 06

November-December 2022

Received: 04-10-2022

Accepted: 21-10-2022

Page No: 155-163

Abstract

This study was conducted to examine the effectiveness of family Strategies in addressing violence against children in Iringa Municipality Tanzania. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative approach with Cross-Section Research Design. The sample consisted of 60 participants who were selected by using simple random and purposive sampling techniques. The data were collected using questionnaire, interviews and Focus Group Discussions. Quantitative and qualitative data were analyzed using Statistical Product for Social Solutions (SPSS) version 25 and thematic analysis respectively. The descriptive analysis involved calculation of percentages and frequencies. The findings of the study were presented using tables in which frequencies and percentages were utilized whereas content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data in accordance to the study objectives. The results shows provision of children needs, supporting children who are reporting violence cases, awareness creation on the violence prevention strategies, positive relationship between parents and children, freedom of reporting on violence cases, good communication between parents and children were the perception of the effectiveness of the family strategies in addressing children violence. The study concluded that there is no effective communication between parents and children hence the results demonstrate that parents don't talk openly with their children concerning child violence because it is not their tradition, the cultural barriers, lack of parental education, and the struggles against poverty. Moreover, the results show that 76.7 % of the children are not free to report violence that happened to them. The study further recommended that families in Iringa Municipality and Tanzania as a whole should make sure that parents talk openly with their children concerning child violence. Making child protection their priority, overcoming cultural barriers that affect child violence initiates, enhancing parental education, and struggling to overcome poverty, moreover, families should make sure that the children are free to report violence that happened to them.

Keywords: Effectiveness, family, strategies, children, violence

1. Introduction

Child violence is a phenomenon that has gained universal attention particularly in the last decade of the 20th Century. Following the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991, the world has increasingly assumed the character of a global village. Child abuse therefore was firstly being taken as a serious concern in western countries, but currently it has been a worldwide phenomenon. This is because the children make up the segment of society that is the most defenseless, vulnerable, and completely dependent (Nair, 2019) ^[14].

In Africa, child violence is currently the major concern for the development of children. According to Mallya, (2018) ^[9] most of the studies shows that child violence is and will be an overwhelming epidemic. The statistics have shown an estimated 906,000 children are victims of violence every year. The rate of victimization is 12.3 children per 1,000 children as found by the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse Organization (2018) ^[19]. Also it is estimated that 1,500 children die each year from child violence which translates into four deaths per day (Leclerc, 2015) ^[4]. Sub-Saharan countries are also being seen as among the states which have many cases of child abuses in Africa.

McDaniel and Dillenburg (2017) ^[11] state that, "In most of sub-Saharan states, children are brought up by very young parents with no partner or family support or by a parent who has learning difficulties; these are among the factor for the current increased risk of neglect". Other studies mentioned additional factors for increasing child abuses in sub-Saharan Africa, such factors are poverty, social isolation, unemployment, housing problems, or lack of parental basic childcare skills. The trend is clear children who have young, poor and or uneducated parents are at high risk of being neglected or abused (Molina, 2016).

Tanzania is recently estimated to have a population of 58 million people with its population being very youthful. It is estimated that children below 15 years comprise about 44% of the population and an additional 19% are youth between 15-24 years (National Bureau of Statistics, 2002). This population makes children prone to violence in the community despite of the government efforts to end it. A 2019 report by UNICEF on Violence Against Children pointed out that nearly 3 in 10 girls and approximately 1 in 7 boys in Tanzania claimed to have experienced sexual violence prior to the age of 18, while a Molina (2019) study found that the prevalence was largely unchanged, indicating that intervention measures were largely ineffective. There some initiatives taken to ensure that the situation is changed. First the Five-year National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPAVAWC 2017/18 – 2021/22), has been developed by consolidating different action plans addressing violence against children in the country. The NPA-VAWC emphasizes the actions needed for both preventing and responding to violence and recognizes that investing in violence prevention initiatives has a positive impact on inclusive growth.

However, international organizations also play a vital role on addressing child violence in Tanzania. For example, UNICEF's efforts include establishment and strengthening of district, ward and village protection committees that coordinate and monitor the various entities working for child protection, raise awareness, and support case referral; strengthening the capacity of the District Social Welfare Office for effective case management; setting-up of Gender and Children Desks at police stations; building the capacities of health facilities, including one-stop centers, for identification and coordination of abuse cases across health, police and social welfare departments; establishing juvenile courts; keeping children out of detention and prison; strengthening Child Helpline referrals; and establishing a comprehensive Child Protection Management Information System to provide data and statistical information (Molina, 2019). However, to what extent these strategic actions are effective on addressing children violence in Tanzania? This is the question that the research answered.

The statistics show that in Iringa Municipality the situation of child violence is worse than any part of Tanzania. According to UNICEF (2019) ^[20] Iringa Municipality is estimated to have 120 to 145 acts of child violence through rape and sexual harassments occur each year. Conversely, in order to insure that the incidents of children violence are eliminated in Iringa Municipality there are number of strategic measures which have been taken. The government has ensured that child protection is well-defined within Tanzania's regulatory framework and a comprehensive child protection system has been expanded to 51 local government authorities including in Iringa Municipality, with direct support from UNICEF.

Service providers have been trained to deliver integrated and multi-sectoral services, combining social welfare, justice, health, education and community development (URT, 2020) ^[21].

At community and family level there are also some initiatives, like trainings so as enable people to understand child protection within a child rights framework by consider principles of human rights. Radio campaigns to enable people to understand the child's best interests in the context of child development and the importance of sustain the role of the parent/guardian/community to provide a constant love, care and support to children. Workshops to enable stakeholders and parents to view child's circumstances in terms of their vulnerability to abuse and to understand different ways on how to strengthen a child's resilience to abuse (URT, 2020) ^[21], these initiatives are being implemented mainly by NGOs like Mapinduzi Community, Save the Children with assistance from international NGOs like USAID and UNICEF.

However, according to URT report on child violence 2020-2021 the situation keeps on being worse despite of the taken strategies. This research therefore aimed at investigating the effectiveness of the existing strategies in addressing children violence /abuse, and recommends some ways to enhance the fights against child violence in Iringa Municipality and Tanzania as whole.

2. Material and Methods

2.1 Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Iringa Municipality. The Municipality is located in Iringa Region within Latitude 70 South of the Equator and Longitude 340 East of Greenwich Meridian, with the elevation of 1625m above sea level and it covers 162 Square Kilometres. The Municipal bordered with Iringa District Council to the North and West, Mufindi District council to the South and Kilolo District Council to the East. Administratively, Municipal has 18 Wards, 162 streets (MAR, 2016). Economic activities which most of the people do in Iringa Municipality are farming, pastoralist, tourism, and entrepreneurship. The tribes which are inhabitants of Iringa Municipality are Hehe in majority, plus Bena, Maasai, and others. According to National census count of 2012, the Municipal is estimated to have a total population of 146,762 with annual growth rate of 1.6% per year, whereby 70,333 (43.12%) were male and 76,429 (56.87%) were females.

2.2 Research Design

The proposed study used a cross-sectional research design. The selection of this design was basically on the ground that, a cross-sectional research design allows the researcher to study different groups of respondents at one point at a time, it is simple to use and easy to collect various information from respondents based on a particular study that a researcher conduct with great degree of accuracy and quick results.

2.3 Target Population, Sample Size and Sampling techniques

2.3.1 Target population

The target population of the study was the violated children from Iringa Municipality and residents of Kihesa and Mwangata wards.

2.3.2 Sample size and sampling techniques

A sample is defined as the representative of the population. It

is a very important tool for any empirical study that is geared for making inference or generalization of the entire population (Kothari, 2004) [3]. Different approaches were used to calculate sample size but, in this case, the population is known, thus the researcher went directly to the required respondents especially the Social Welfare Officers from two selected wards, the Gender Desk Police Officer, and informants from two NGOs (Mwananchi and Save the Children). Therefore, from each of the above frame, a unit of analysis was two (2) Social Welfare Officer, two (2) respondents from NGOs, and one (1) Gender Desk Officer to make a total of five (5) individuals.

For the case of residents of Kihesa and Mwangata wards, the total size of population was difficult to establish thus, the sample size was derived by computing the minimum sample size required for accuracy in estimating proportions by considering the standard normal deviation set at 95% confidence level (0.65), percentage picking a choice or response (50% = 0.5) and the confidence interval (0.05 = ±5). The formula is:

$$n = \frac{z^2(p)(1-p)}{c^2}$$

Where: z = standard normal deviation set at 95% confidence level, p = percentage picking a choice or response, c = confidence interval.

$$n = \frac{(z^2(p * q))}{e^2} = \frac{0.60^2 * 0.5 * 0.5}{0.05^2} = 60$$

The sample of the study for residents of Kihesa and Mwangata wards selected on equal proportion as;

$$\frac{1}{2} * 60 = 30$$

Therefore, a total of 60 residents of Mwangata and Kihesa wards (approximately 30 respondents from each ward), were selected.

Moreover, the study employed both probability and non-probability sampling techniques to obtain respondents from the population. Simple random sampling was used to select 60 respondents from Kihesa and Mwangata wards in Iringa Municipal and Purposive sampling was used to select 10 key-informants who were ward social welfare officer, respondents from NGO, and Gender Desk Police Office. The reason of using simple random sampling is because it gives every member in the study to have an equal chance to represent the entire community, applied to the respondents who perceived to be knowledgeable on the study topic respectively.

2.4 Data Collection Methods and Instruments

Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected. Quantitative data were collected by using questionnaires with both open and closed ended questions, whereas qualitative data were collected using semi-structured interview and Focus Group Discussion. The questionnaires that consisted of both closed and open-ended questions were used to collect

data from violated children and residents. Semi-structured interview method was used to obtain data from ward social welfare officer, respondents from NGO, and Gender Desk Police Office.

2.5 Data Analysis and Interpretation

A Statistical Product for Social Solutions (SPSS version 25) was used to analyze quantitative data. The descriptive analysis involved calculation of percentages and frequencies. Findings were presented using tables in which frequencies and percentages were utilized whereas content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data in accordance to the study objectives.

2.6 Validity and Reliability of Research Instruments

2.6.1 Validation of instruments

Validity refers to the degree to which a study accurately reflects or assesses the specific concept that the researcher is attempting to measure. The validity of the instrument is the extent to which it does measure what it is supposed to measure (Jonathan *et al.*, 2012).

To ensure validity of the study, the internal validity approach was applied. This was done through establishment of trust between researcher and respondents, give respondents awareness of the research topic and initiating interview and questionnaire through the specified themes of the research topic.

2.6.2 Reliability of data

According to Jonathan *et al.*, (2012) reliability is the extent to which an experiment, test, or any measuring procedure yields the same result on repeated trials. Reliability is concerned with the accuracy of the actual measuring instrument or procedure.

In order to control the reliability of this research pre testing of interview and questionnaire questions was done in order to check if they are comprehensive enough to collect the required data. After the pre testing modifications and improvement of research instruments was made.

2.7 Ethical Considerations

In this study, the researcher adhered to all ethical issues by obtaining necessary permissions first from the University of Iringa and subsequently from Local Authorities in Iringa District. Furthermore, the researcher explained to the respondents about the research aim, and that the study was for academic purposes only. Ethical consideration was also addressed by showing commitment to respondents and ensuring a high level of confidentiality and anonymity with no names collected and disclosed. Also, the norms and cultures of participants were respected and an individual's participation in the study was voluntary.

3. Results and Discussion of the Findings

3.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The researcher was interested to study the demographic characteristics of the respondents in relation to the perception of the effectiveness of the family strategies in addressing violence against children, such as age, marital status, and level of education. These variables were analyzed and discussed in sub-sections as follows:

Table 1: Characteristics of Respondents

Education of the respondents	Frequency (n=60)	Percent (%)
No formal education	8	13.4
Primary education	14	23.3
Secondary Education	12	20.0
Post-secondary education	26	43.3
Total	60	100.0
Gender of the respondents		
Male	30	50.0
Female	30	50.0
Total	60	100.0
Age of the respondents		
15 – 25	4	6.7
26 – 35	14	23.3
36 – 45	30	50.0
46 and above	12	20.0
Total	60	100.0
Marital status of the respondents		
Never married	4	6.7
Married	32	53.3
Widowed	16	26.7
Separated	8	13.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2022

3.1.1 Education of the respondents

The results in Table 1 indicate that majority (43.3 %) of the respondents of this study acquired post-secondary education. Other respondents (20.0 %) reached secondary education, there were others (23.3 %) who reached the primary level of education, and the rest (13.4 %) had no formal education, so the researcher had to read, explain questions, and fill their answers since they could not read and write. However, the overall results in education level imply that most of the respondents were educated thus they provided valid information for this study.

3.1.2 Gender of the respondents

Moreover, the results in Table 1 illustrate that both genders (females and males) were involved equally without any bias. This is because the number of males involved in this study were 30 (50.0 %) equal to the number of females who were also 30 (50.0 %). The equal involvement of both genders implies that this study obtained balanced data from both males and females in the research field.

3.1.3 Age of the respondents

Regarding the age of the respondents, half of the respondents (50.0 %) are between the age of 36 to 45 years old. There are also respondents (20.0 %) who are between the age of 46 and above, 23.3% who are between 26 to 35 years old, and 6.7 %

who are between 15 to 25 years old. This result implies that most of the respondents who were interested in this research topic are adults and elders. This is because most of them have children, so they were more affiliated with this research topic.

3.1.4 Marital status of the respondents

Proceeding with the marital status of the respondents, 53.3 % of the respondents are married, 26.7 % are widowed, 13.3 % were separated, while the rest 6.7 % never get married. This result implies that most of the respondents in this study are married; therefore, they are experienced with children issues hence they are knowledgeable about this research topic.

3.2 Effectiveness of family strategies in addressing children violence

On this variable, the respondents were asked to state their perception of the effectiveness of existing family strategies in addressing child violence in the study area. This variable was important in this research because families are the primary socializing agent of the children. Whether children develop successfully depends substantially on whether families provide the physical and psychological support children need to acquire developmental competencies. Such family situations can affect family functioning and contribute to child violence (Soboleski, 2001). The followings are the results of this variable;

Table 2: Perception of the effectiveness of existing family strategies

Family Strategy	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)
Praise and rewards for desirable behavior are effective	40.0	30.0	16.7	6.7	6.7
Child skills and awareness of undesirable behaviors are effective	30.0	28.3	16.7	15.0	10.0
Provision of child's needs is effective	46.7	31.7	6.7	6.7	8.3
Child freedom of expression is effective	33.3	33.3	10.0	13.3	10.0
Parents' involvement in teaching good behaviors is effective	36.7	36.7	13.3	6.7	6.7

Source: Field Work, 2022

Note: SA=Strongly Agree, A=Agree, N=Neutral, D=Disagree, SD=Strongly Disagree

The results in Table 2 demonstrate the perception of the respondents on the effectiveness of existing family strategies in reducing child violence at the family level. On if praise and

rewards for desirable behavior are effective in reducing child violence at the family level, 40.0 % of the respondents strongly agreed with this statement while 30.0 % were

agreeing. This result implies that most of the residents of the study area know the importance of praise and rewards for desirable behaviors in reducing child violence at the family level. According to Bandura (2006) ^[1], praise and rewards for desirable behaviors help children to maintain good attitudes which can directly or indirectly distance them from violence such as sexual and emotional violence.

Furthermore, the respondents were asked if child skills and awareness of undesirable behaviors are effective in reducing child violence at the family level; most of the respondents also strongly agreed (30.0 %) and agreed (28.3 %). This illustrates that most of the respondents have an understanding of the significance of child skills and awareness of undesirables' behaviors in reducing child violence at the family level. According to Walker *et. al.*, (2018) ^[23], a child's undesirable is aggressive social behavior, which contributes to social rejection and deviant peer group formation which are the main influence of child violence. For instance, children who are associated with people who use cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol are in great danger of being abused.

Regarding if provision for a child's needs (i.e. food, shelter, clothes, and education) is effective in reducing child violence at the family level, most of the respondents were strongly agreeing (46.7 %) and agreeing (31.7 %) with the statement. The results in table 3 imply that most of the residents of the study area understand that provision of child's needs (i.e. food, shelter, clothes, and education) is effective in reducing child violence at the family level. According to Myers, (2018) ^[13], most children are more likely to get violence if they don't attain their basic needs. In the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the respondents one of the respondents approved this by claiming that;

"Most of the victims of child violence were intimidated by simple gifts like transportation favors, money, games, and food. So provision of these needs can minimize the chance of the kids to be abused in any way"

Moreover, the respondents were asked if child freedom of expression (i.e. feeling, opinions, and perceptions) is effective in reducing child violence at the family level. Likewise, most of the respondents strongly agreed (33.3 %) and agreed (33.3 %). This denotes that most of the residents in the study area understood the significance of child freedom of expression (i.e. feeling, opinions, and perceptions) in reducing child violence at the family level. According to Myers, (2018) ^[13], child freedom of expression helps children to report violence that they are encountered in their daily lives, and this is effective in reducing child violence. During the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the respondents, one respondent said that;

"Most of the respondents understood the significance of child freedom of expression (i.e. feeling, opinions, and perceptions) in reducing child violence at the family level but they are too busy to do that regularly, even when they had time most of them afraid that giving the children that freedom is spoiling the children, and parents see it as the weakness so they are avoiding it"

In addition, the respondents were asked if positive parents' involvement with their children's behaviors is effective in reducing child violence at the family level; most of the respondents either strongly agreed (36.7 %) or agreed (36.7 %) to this statement. This result implies that most of the residents of the respondents in the study area approved parents' involvement with their children's behaviors is effective in reducing child violence at the family level. However, Treatment of Child Abuse Organization, (2018) ^[19] describes that inconsistent parental involvement with their children contributes to abusive behavior and that positive parental involvement with children and positive reinforcement of desirable behavior contribute to cooperative and pro-social behaviors which can prevent children from violence.

Table 3: Families support children who are reporting to be abused

Item	Frequency (n=60)	%age (%)
The presence of support for children reported being abused		
Yes	45	75.0
No	15	25.0
Total	60	100.0
Ways used to support children reported to be abuse		
Reporting to the local government authorities	20	33.3
Sent them to hospitals for examination	11	18.3
Reporting to the gender desk	5	10.0
Reporting to social welfare offices	4	6.7
Suing the abusers	5	8.3
Total	45	75.0

Source: Field Work, 2022

The other question involved in this study questionnaire was if families support children who are reporting to be abused: Most (75.0 %) of the respondents said Yes, while only 25.0 % of the respondents said No, this implies that most of the residents in the study area support their children who are reporting to be abused, and according to UNICEF report (2019) ^[20] this is effective in minimizing child violence in family level.

However, of the 45 respondents (75.0 %) who said Yes, when they were asked if they support the children who are reporting to be abused or violated, 33.3 % of the respondents said

through reporting to the local government authorities, 18.3 % said through sent them to hospitals for further examination, 10.0 % reports to the gender desk, 6.7 % report to social welfare offices, and the rest 8.3 % of the respondents sue the abusers. This implies that most of the residents in the study area know the authorities which are designed to deal with child violence. According to Mathoma *et. al.*, (2016) when people know where to report child violence it fuels the fight of minimizing child violence. In the interview with the Social Welfare Officer (SWO) of Kihesa Ward, she claimed that;

“Though there are regular reports on child violence cases, in 10 cases which are reported, only 3 or 4 cases that may be true, the rest is acts of avenging against

family enemies, relationship conflicts, or the family’s victims just want money from the suspected abusers”

Table 4: Children's knowledge of violence prevention strategies

Item	Frequency (n=60)	%age (%)
Children's knowledge of violence prevention strategies		
Yes	38	63.3
No	22	36.7
Total	60	100.0
Strategies		
To avoid communication with strangers	19	50.0
Defensive mechanisms	13	34.2
To recognize the indicators of violence	6	15.8
Total	38	63.3

Source: Field Work, 2022

The other questions under this session wanted to investigate if children acquired knowledge of violence prevention strategies; most of the respondents (63.3 %) said yes children acquired them while 36.7 % said no they don't. This implies that most of the parents in the study area teach their children strategies that can keep them safe from those who would perpetrate violence on them. According to Lema, (2017), this theory is effective since it helps children to deal with those who would want to commit violence against them. Nevertheless, on what they teach them; out of 38 respondents

(63.3 %) who said yes, 19 respondents (50.0 %) said they teach them to avoid communication with strangers, 13 respondents (34.2 %) said they teach them defensive mechanisms like said no to handouts and assistance from violent people, and 6 respondents (15.8 %) teach their children to recognize the indicators of violence and report them on time. According to the UNICEF report, (2019) ^[20], these strategies can plan an effective way to minimize child violence at the family level.

Table 5: Level of parents' relationship with their children

Level of families' relationship with their children	Frequency (n=60)	%age (%)
Positive	32	53.3
Neutral	18	30.0
Negative	10	16.7
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Work, 2022

Positive families' relationship with their children is another phenomenon that can play an effective in minimizing child violence at the family level (Madu, 2015). And this is another variable that was measured in this session. The result in table 5 indicates that most of the parents (53.3 %) in the study area have a positive relationship with their children, while 30.0 % of the respondents have a medium/ordinary relationship with their children, and the rest 16.7 % are distant from their children. This suggests that although most of the parents are

too close to their children efforts should be done to strengthen those who are not too close to their children to minimize child violence in the Iringa region. This is because, during the interview with Gender Desk Officer, he claimed that;

“Iringa has a problem of excessive alcohol abuse, especially to parents, so most of them lack enough time to have a consistent affair with their children”

Table 6: Level of communication between parents and their children

Level of communication between parents and their children	Frequency (n=60)	%age (%)
Yes	20	33.3
No	40	66.7
Total	60	100.0
The type of child violence information		
Children's rights and responsibilities	12	20.0
The importance of expressing their feelings and emotions	8	13.3
Total	20	33.3
The reasons for not having effective communication between parents and their children		
It is not their priority	10	16.7
It is not their tradition	12	20.0
Lack of parental education	8	13.3
Struggles against poverty	10	16.7
Total	40	66.7

Source: Field Work, 2022

Table 6 illustrates that most of the parents in the study area don't have effective communication with their children concerning child violence. This was shown by 66.7 % of the respondents who said no to the question of parents in the study area having effective communication with their children concerning child violence. According to Madu, (2015) parents should have effective communication with their children concerning violence so that children could acquire some knowledge and freedom to deal with it. This result shows that children in the study area neither acquire some knowledge of violence from their parents nor the freedom to deal with it.

However, when 20 respondents (33.3 %) who claimed there is effective communication between parents and children concerning child violence were asked what they normally talk about, 20.0 % said they talk about children's rights and responsibilities while 13.3 % said they talk about the importance of expressing their feelings and emotions. Also when 40 respondents (66.7 %) were asked the reasons for not having effective communication between parents and their children concerning child violence, 16.7 % said it's not their priority, 20.0 % said it is not their tradition, 13.3 % said is due to the lack of parental education, and 16.7 said it is due to their struggles against poverty.

Table 7: Level of children freedom to report violence

Level of children's freedom to report violence	Frequency (n=60)	%age (%)
Yes	14	23.3
No	46	76.7
Total	60	100.0
The reasons for not having children's freedom to report violence		
Fear of their parents 'reactions	4	6.7
Threats from the people who violet them	18	30.0
Fear of bullying	18	30.0
Absence of parental care	6	10.0
Total	46	76.7

Source: Field Work, 2022

Additionally, on if children feel free to report violence that happened to them; most of the respondents (76.7 % said No while 23.3 % said Yes. This indicates that most of the children in the study area don't feel free to report violence that happened to them. When those 46 respondents (76.7 %) were asked why children don't feel free to report the violence that happened to them, 6.7 % said is because of the fear of their parents 'reactions, 30.0 % said its due to the threats from the people who violet them, other 30.0 % said it is because of the fear of bullying, and the rest 10.0 % said it is due to the absence of parental care. Moreover, in the interview with the

Social Welfare Officer (SWO) of the Mwangata ward he verified this by saying;

"Children are not free to report violence that happened to them in Iringa, because most of them are threatened that they will be killed if they do so, or no one will believe them since most of the people who commit violence to these children are either trusted by the victim's family or they are close relatives (uncles, grandparents, or parents themselves"

Table 8: The impact of effective parents' relationship with their relation

The impact of effective parents' relationship with their relation	Frequency (n=60)	%age (%)
Yes	44	73.3
No	16	26.7
Total	60	100.0
The consequences of ineffective parents' relationship with their children		
Parents have no time to communicate with their children	12	27.3
Children have a fear to report violence	16	36.4
Children are involved in risks behaviors	10	22.7
Children don't get their basic needs	6	13.6
Total	44	73.3

Source: Field Work, 2022

Also, the researcher investigated the impacts of the parent's relationship with their children in the fight against child violence in the study area. The results in Table 8 indicate that most of the residents of the study area accepted that family relationship affects the fights against child violence. This is because 73.3 % of the respondents said Yes to if family relationship affects the fights against child violence, while it is only 26.7 % of the respondents said No it doesn't.

When those 44 respondents (73.3 %) who said Yes were asked how the family relationship affects the fights against child violence; 16 respondents (36.4 %) said it made children have fear of reporting violence, 12 respondents (27.3 %) claimed it leads parents to have no time to communicate with

their children regarding child violence, 10 respondents (22.7 %) said it leads children to be involved in risks behaviors such as alcoholism and drug abuse, the rest 6 respondents (13.6 %) said it leads children to lack their basic needs hence influence them to engage in abusive/violated behaviors.

The overall result in table 9 indicates that almost 26.7 % of children in the study area are a threat of being abused because their parents don't have a clue that their relationship with their children affects the fights against child violence. Moreover, according to the finding in Table 9, family relationship affects the fight against child violence because it made children have fear of reporting violence, leads children to be involved in risky behaviors such as alcoholism and drug

abuse, and it leads children to lack their basic needs.

Table 9: Mean score of perception on the effectiveness of existing family strategies

Perception statement	Kihesa div. (mean Score 5)	Mwangata div. (mean Score 5)	Average (mean Score 5)
Praise and rewards for desirable behavior are effective	4.1	3.6	3.8
Child skills and awareness of undesirable behaviors are effective	3.6	3.6	3.6
Provision of child's needs is effective	3.9	4.1	4.0
Child freedom of expression is effective	3.9	3.9	3.9
Positive parents' involvement with their children's behaviors is effective	4.1	3.5	3.8
Mean average	3.9	3.7	3.8

Source: Field Work, 2022

Table 9 illustrates, in summary, the mean score of the respondent's perception of the effectiveness of existing family strategies in addressing child violence in the research area. The findings indicate that there is effectiveness in the family strategies taken to address child violence in the research area. This is because family strategies have scored a mean score which is above 3, which means people are positive about the family strategies taken to address child violence in the research area.

Among the family strategies which scored higher on minimizing child violence in the study area include the provision of child's needs (mean score 4.0), child freedom of expression (mean score 3.9), positive parents' involvement with their children's behaviors (mean score 3.8), and praise and rewards to desirable behavior (mean score 3.8). This implies that most of the children in the study area are accessible to their needs, have freedom of expression, have positive parental involvement with their behaviors, and praise and rewards desirable. All these are effective in addressing child violence at the family level.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

This chapter presents conclusion and recommendations based on the study findings.

4.1 Conclusion

The result of the effectiveness of family strategies in addressing child violence in the study area shows that although most of the families perceived positively the importance of praise and rewards for desirable child behaviors, child skills and awareness of undesirable behaviors, provision of children's needs, and positive parental involvement with their children in minimizing child violence, plus most of the families are effective on supporting children who are reporting to be abused, teaching children violence prevention strategies, and enhance the parental relationship with their children. The results also indicate that there is no effective communication between parents and children hence the results demonstrate that parents don't talk openly with their children concerning child violence because it is not their priority, the cultural barriers, lack of parental education, and the struggles against poverty. Moreover, the results show that 76.7 % of the children are not free to report violence that happened to them.

4.2 Recommendations

The study recommended that families in Iringa Municipality and Tanzania as a whole should make sure that parents talk openly with their children concerning child violence. Making child protection their priority, overcoming cultural barriers that affect child violence initiates, enhancing parental

education, and struggling to overcome poverty, moreover, families should make sure that the children are free to report violence that happened to them.

References

- Bandura A. Supervisory neglect and risk of harm: evidence from the Mexican child welfare system. *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*; c2006.
- Brennan FA, Cicchetti D, Shields A, Toth SL. Parenting dysfunction in child maltreatment. In: Bornstein MH, editor. *Handbook of Parenting: Applied and Practical Parenting*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates; c2004. p. 4.
- Kothari CR. *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*. New Delhi: New Age International; c2004.
- Leclerc M. Parental employment status and symptoms of children abused during a recession. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*. 2015;24(2):195-210.
- Leclerc-Madlala S. Transactional sex and the pursuit of modernity. *Social Dynamics*. 2014;40(1):1-21.
- Lema VM. Sexual abuse of minors: emerging medical and social problem in Malawi. *East African Medical Journal*. 2017;74(11):743-746.
- Long LL, Burnett JA, Thomas RV. *Sexuality Counseling: An Integrative Approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson; c2016.
- Madu SN. The relationship between perceived parental physical availability and child sexual, physical, and emotional abuse among high school students in the Northern Province, South Africa. *The Social Science Journal*. 2015;52(4):639-645.
- Mallya G. *Child Sexual Abuse, Associated Risk Factors and Health Impact Among Secondary School Students in Kinondoni Municipality, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*. Dar es Salaam: Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences; c2018.
- Mathoma AM, Maripe-Perera DB, Khumalo LP, Mbayi BL, Seloilwe ES. Knowledge and perceptions of parents regarding child sexual abuse in Botswana and Swaziland. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*. 2016;31(1):67-72.
- McDaniel D, Dillenburger K. Number of children in foster care increases for the third consecutive year. Washington, DC; c2017.
- Molina-Azorín JF. Mixed methods research: an opportunity to improve our studies and our research skills. *European Journal of Management and Business Economics*. 2018;25(2):37-38.
- Myers JE. A short history of child protection in America. *Family Law Quarterly*. 2018;42(3):450-455.
- Nair P. Child sexual abuse and media: coverage,

- representation, and advocacy. Institutionalized Children Explorations and Beyond; c2019.
15. National Bureau of Statistics. Population and Housing Census. Dar es Salaam: National Bureau of Statistics Tanzania; c2002.
 16. NPAVAWC. National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children. United Republic of Tanzania; c2022.
 17. Segawa W, Ngwe T. Intergenerational transmission of abuse: a two-generational prospective study of an at-risk sample. Sub-Saharan Africa; c2015.
 18. Hammond WR. Public health and child maltreatment prevention: The role of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Child maltreatment*. 2003;8(2):81-83.
 19. Treatment of Child Abuse Organization. A multivariate examination of the child abuse potential of parents with children aged 0-6 years. *Eurasian Journal of Educational Research*. 2018;N66:45-56.
 20. UNICEF. Parents' construction of emotional abuse and neglect of children in a rural district. United Republic of Tanzania; c2019.
 21. Theoklitou D, Kabitsis N, Kabitsi A. Physical and emotional abuse of primary school children by teachers. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 2012;36(1):64-70.
 22. Ventura Z, Sariyer G, Aydin F, Cankarde S, Kandemirci B. Child abuse and neglect among children who drop out of school: A study in Izmir, Turkey. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. 2001;25(3):393-401.
 23. Walker JI, Toth SL. Ecological perspectives on child maltreatment: research and intervention. *Early Child Development and Care*. 2018;188(5):611-623.
 24. Wright Tawangye E. Child maltreatment in the Children of the Nineties: A longitudinal study of parental risk factors. United States; c2008.