

Analysis of Violence Against Girls in Secondary Schools

Masanga Secondary School

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Introduction

Violence against girls can be referred to as an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females (psi 2016). Violence against girls exists in various forms, mainly being; Physical violence, sexual violence, Psychological violence, Digital violence and economical violence. An access to quality education and safe schooling environment are essential rights for every child, and a requirement to socioeconomic development. Violence against Girls has a profound impact on emotional, behavioral and physical health and social development throughout life. Also, there is a fundamental link between school violence and drop-out, absenteeism and mass failure for girls in schools.

Problem Identification

For a number of years violence against Girls have been very common in secondary schools especially in Kigoma.

Method

Objectives

This study was aiming at analyzing violence against girls in secondary schools of Kigoma Ujiji as the case study.

Significance

This study may help both the government and private institutions to undertake the problem of violence against Girls more serious and give them their rights.

Literature Review

The most serious implication of violence against girls is reduction in girls' attendance at school and increasing drop-out rates (UNGEI, 2010). Also school-based violence for girls is a serious problem affect the Girls' performance in school and at home (Abrahams, 2003)

Methodology

Under this study, questionnaire, interview and different documents were used in collecting data where Simple random sampling was used in selecting population of study.

Results

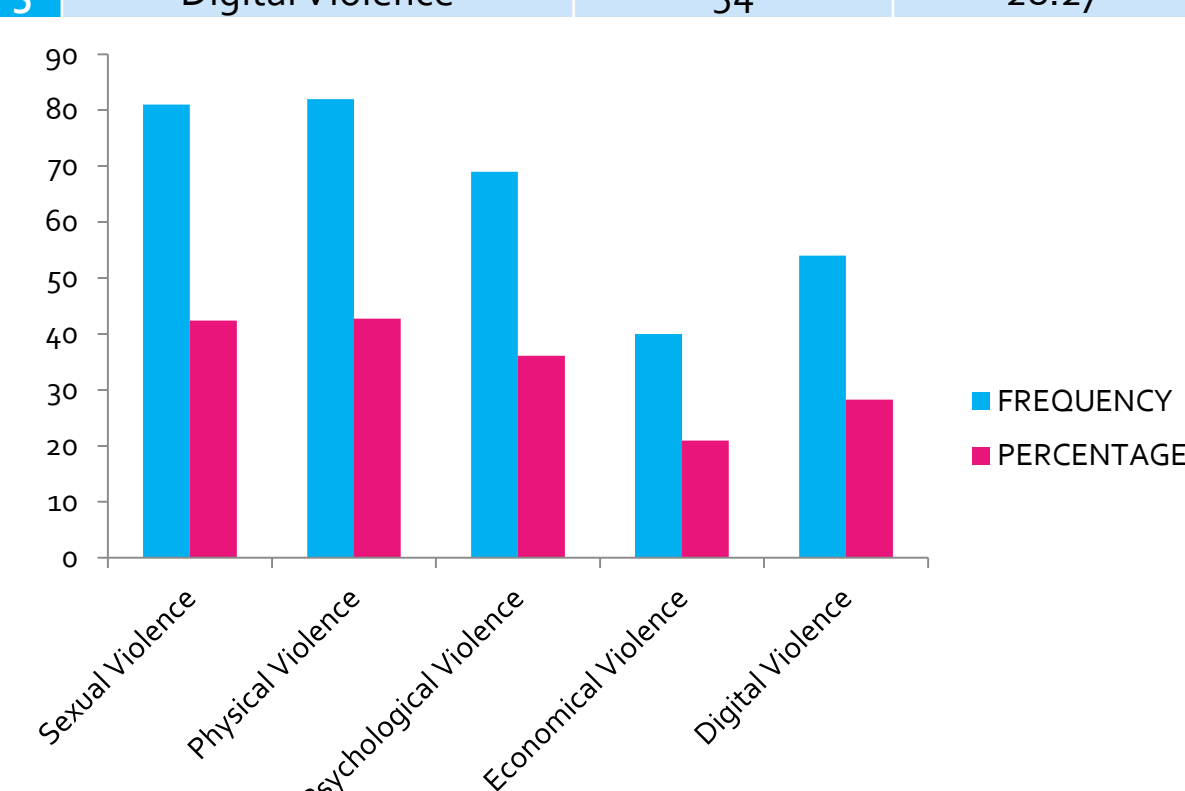
This study was conducted in seven (7) schools of Kigoma Ujiji Municipality, where 191 (128 girls & 63 boys) respondents were consulted. The study revealed that almost 152 Girls (79.58% of the responses) who are at school have experienced violence. The study covered all the five main forms of gender based violence where those experienced Sexual violence were 42.41%, Physical violence were 42.71%, Psychological violence were 36.13%, Economical violence were 20.94% and Digital violence were 28.27%. These data were summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1. responses of respondents on different forms of violence against Girls.

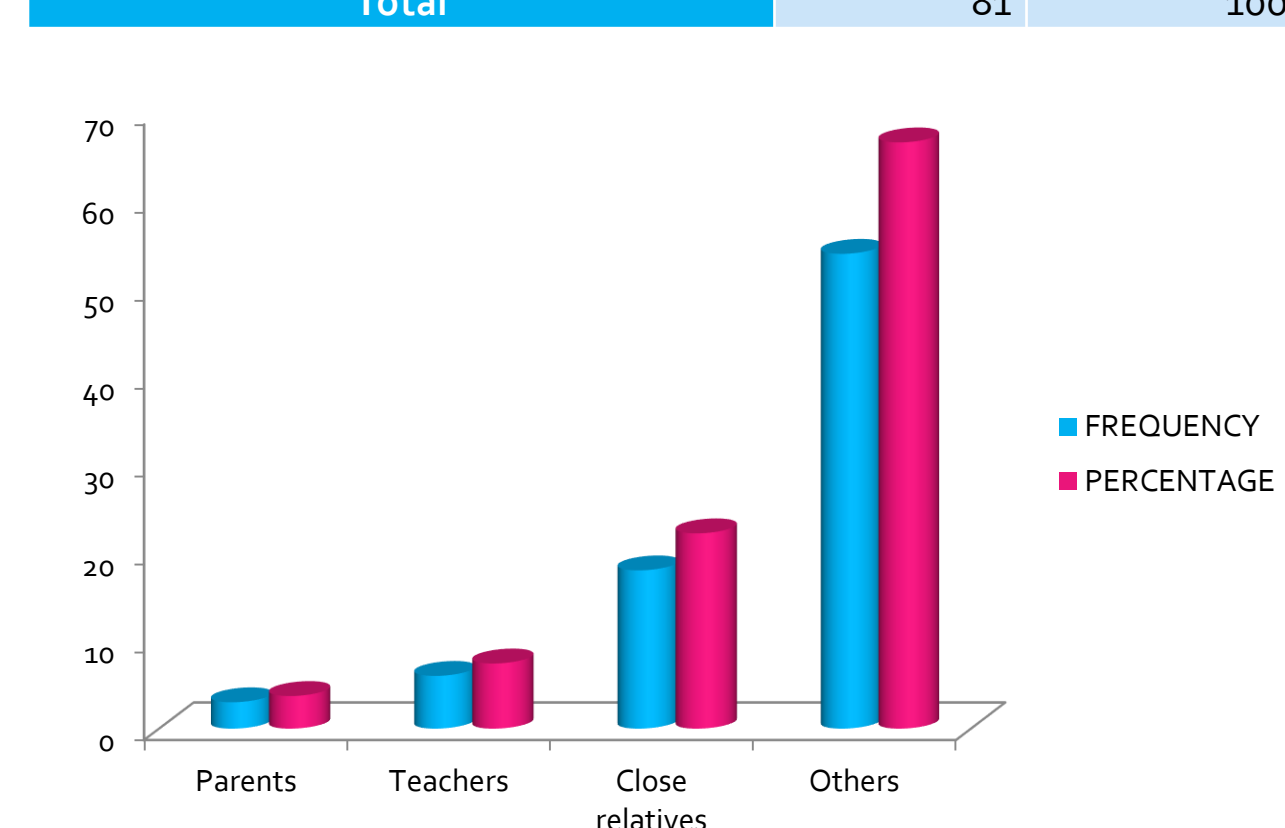
Results shown that 79.58% of the respondents involved in the study had experienced violence either at home or in school environment. The leading form of violence was found to be sexual and physical violence. Out of 81 respondents who confessed to experience Sexual violence, 35 of them were victim of rape where three of them were raped by their fathers. More details on sexual violence experienced by the respondents were illustrated in table 2 below.

It was realized that, this form of violence is less common in school environment, although 7.41% of school teacher was an indicator that this form of violence was recently growing in school settings. The study revealed that when the girls were out of school, their safety was in question. Both close relatives and others (Motorists (boda boda & bajaj), fellow students and sugar daddies) are the main perpetrators of violence and hence put the destiny of school girls at risk. Fig. 2 below can describe the situation clearly.

S/N	FORMS OF VIOLENCE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Sexual Violence	81	42.41
2	Physical Violence	82	42.71
3	Psychological Violence	69	36.13
4	Economical Violence	40	20.94
5	Digital Violence	54	28.27



S/N	Perpetrators	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Parents	3	3.71
2	Teachers	6	7.41
3	Close relatives	18	22.21
4	Others (motorist, male students & sugar daddies)	54	66.67
Total		81	100



S/N	Perpetrators	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	Parents	22	26.83
2	Teachers	37	45.12
3	Close relatives	8	9.76
4	Others (motorist, male students & sugar daddies)	15	18.29
Total		82	100

Conclusions

This study revealed that, violence against girls exists in different settings (at home, schools and streets). Physical violence and Psychological violence are much more experienced in both school and home settings while Digital and economical violence are much more experienced in streets and home respectively. The community offers a great contribution in influencing violence against girls. All forms of violence affect the psychology of victims (Secondary school Girls). The results of violence are frustration and isolation which leads to failure of girls in schools. However, both violence done at home and school has significant negative effects to girls.

With respect to the results of this study, the national attention and commitment is highly needed for the development of strong policies at every level of the Government leadership (ie from household level to the national level). This can be well achieved if all key stakeholders, such as, Social welfare officers, Police, NGOs, Educational officers, Teachers, Government local leaders, Parents, and students are involved. Further studies are still needed especially on consequences and possible intervention to the problem.

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