

# **CONTRIBUTIONS OF COVID-19 TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN MPIGI TOWN COUNCIL, MPIGI DISTRICT**

**JULY, 2023**

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, scope of the study, and significance of the study.

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

According to WHO (2019), it states that globally, 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by any perpetrator in their lifetime. Most of this is intimate partner violence. Violence against women tends to increase during every type of emergency, including epidemics. Women who are displaced, refugees, and living in conflict-affected areas are particularly vulnerable. While data

are scarce, reports from China, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other countries suggest an increase in domestic violence cases since the COVID-19 outbreak. This surge in domestic violence also has a direct impact on women victims. As noted by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), the pandemic deepened gender inequalities because “the burden of caring for children at home and sick or elderly family members falls disproportionately on women”.

Globally, In March 2020, Covid-19, a disease caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), was declared a global pandemic. Faced with the pandemic, several countries, including Uganda, adopted social isolation measures as a way to control the spread of the disease, the novel coronavirus commonly referred to as Covid-19 spread rapidly around the globe, resulting in unprecedented physical, mental, social, and economic impacts. This measure had repercussions on the socioeconomic dynamics of countless families, raising concerns about an increase in domestic violence, mainly against women.

In Africa, One social and public health implication of Covid-19 is seen in the

impacts on domestic violence (DV), defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as “physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). As a pandemic with a high contagion level, necessary social distancing measures have been put in place across the world to slow transmission and protect medical services.

In Africa, the introduction of lockdown measures affected service offers, reducing work activities. The fear of being exposed to the virus and the constant presence of the abuser at home have also become part of the daily life of women victims of violence, affecting both the offer and demand for help respectively.

In Uganda, Both Covid-19 and its result in question which is domestic violence affects people of all statuses, religions, ages, genders, sexualities, cultures, economic statuses as well as ethnicities. Uganda is a multi-diversity society with religions ranging from Islam to Christianity and Protestantism amongst others, tribes ranging from Baganda to Bakiga, Basoga amongst others. This is in addition to many other identities like class, educational levels and

income levels. This implies that such violence is not only tailored to women but also children and men as well. In the country like U.K. for example, it is reported that about 1.6 million women experienced domestic violence in the year ending March 2019. It was said that to a large extent, women were more vulnerable to such violence than men. The worst case is that such women are more likely to be killed at the hands of abusive partners or ex-partners, with at least 114 women losing their lives in Britain in 2019.

According to the Health Policy Watch (2020), it has been reported that In Eastern Uganda, where so far no child has been infected with COVID-19, lockdowns have led to an uptick in reports of child abuse, exploitation, and violence. In Mayuge district, 59 cases of defilement – or the sexual abuse of a child have been reported since the national lockdown began two months ago, according to a qualitative study led by local non-profit Community Concerns Uganda. Some 58 cases have been recorded in Jinja district. “Many girls have entered cross-generational relationships to access basic supplies like pads and soap, which has contributed to early pregnancies,” Brenda Doreen Nakirya, managing director of Community Concerns Uganda, a local

NGO in Uganda told Health Policy Watch. Because parents, working as casual labourers or owners of small businesses, have lost their source of income since lockdowns began, many families are unable to feed their children regularly.

As cited by Luwemba (2021), "it's reported that, Frank Tumwebaze, minister of Gender, Labor and Social Development told reporters on 2.4.2020 here that there has been an increase in gender based violence (GBV) as the country is under lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Some of these cases have already claimed lives of Ugandans even before COVID-19 does so,"

Tumwebaze said, noting that between March 30 and April 28, a total of 3,280 cases of GBV were reported to police. This is in addition to 283 cases of Violence against Children, according to the ministry. Tumwebaze said those found guilty would face the law. These acts of violence degrade the dignity of humanity and are therefore unacceptable".

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

According to Daily Monitor dated 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (online) showed that during the Corona Virus Lockdown there has been high rate of domestic violence among children.

Although the Government of Uganda and its officials, community leaders has tried to curb this through different ways but it was not successfully done and if is not addressed many children will drop out which will increase street children.

Amidst the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda, cases of domestic abuse, as children and spouses are forced to shelter-in-place with their abusers (who have been parents, relatives or even the maids), have spiked. According to the Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020, one in four children under 5 lives with a mother who suffers from intimate partner violence. Nearly 75% of toddlers age 2-4 regularly suffered physical punishment and or psychological violence at the hands of caregivers and parents. There are a number of reports showing an increase in child marriage. These cases involved underage girls being sold off into marriage in exchange for money and other commodities.

Despite the Government of Uganda having always noted with the concern the increasing cases of teenage pregnancies in communities across the country, in some of these cases, both the girl and boy are underage. Domestic violence persisted regardless of measures that were employed to reduce

COVID-19. One wonders whether COVID-19 has any contribution towards increased domestic violence among families.

Therefore, this study seeks to establish the contribution of covid-19 to increased domestic violence in Mpigi District.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

#### **General objective**

To examine the contribution of Covid-19 to increased domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, Mpigi District

#### **1.4 Specific Objectives**

- i. To investigate the socio-economic factors that contributes to domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, Mpigi District
- ii. To find out the different forms of domestic violence during covid 19 in mpigi town council
- iii. To design possible strategies that can reduce domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, Mpigi District

#### **1.5 Research questions**

- i. What are the socio-economic factors that contribute to domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, Mpigi District?

- ii. What are the different forms of domestic violence during Covid 19 in Mpigi town council?
- iii. What are the possible strategies that can reduce domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, Mpigi District?

#### **1.6 Scope of the study.**

This explains the extent to which the research area will be explored in the work and specifies the parameters within the study will be operating .Basically this means that you will have to define what the study is going to cover and what is focusing on.

#### **Content scope**

The study intends investigate economic impact of COVID-19 towards increased domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, different forms of domestic violence during Covid 19 in Mpigi town council and socio-economic factors that contribute to domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, Mpigi District, the study will also solicit for possible strategies that can reduce domestic violence in Mpigi Town Council, Mpigi District

#### **Geographical scope**

The study will be conducted with in Mpigi town council which is located off Masaka

Kampala road, in Mpigi district along Butambala Road.

### **Time scope**

The study will cover information of three years that is starting from 2020 up to 2023, this is because this is when the pandemic of covid-19 happened and 2022 is inclusive because that's when post COVID effects were revealed.

The study will be conducted with in a period of six months that is being effective from April, 2023 and ends in September, 2023.

### **1.7 Significance of the study**

The study may help to know the current factors contributing to domestic violence .That is by relating past researched factors and my current research.

The research may help researcher to develop ability of thinking and gain experience in research designing

The findings may be forwarded to the government of Uganda. This may help governments to check and work out on the issues/problem of domestic violence to overcome the existing challenges or causes of domestic violence in Uganda

The researcher may also forward the findings to the members of case study that is

mpigi town council, Mpigi district in Uganda. This may help the leaders to come out with policies that can solve the problem of domestic violence.

This research may assist the government and family heads to get solution to the factors contributing to domestic violence.

The study will help the researcher to attain a partial fulfillment for the award of a bachelor's degree in social work social administration at Muteesa I Royal University.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter entails the description of how the research is to be carried out. It represents research design, area of study, study population, sampling procedures, sample size, sampling techniques, data sources, data collection methods and instruments, quality control, validity, reliability, measurement of variables, data analysis, ethical considerations and limitations of the study.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

A research design is a plan or a framework for guiding a study. The design connects the

questions or objectives of the study to the data gathered. Marshall (1996) defines a case study research method as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context; when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident; and in which multiple sources of evidence are used. This will be appropriate for gathering information, summarizing, presenting and interpreting it for the purpose of clarifying on the variables. The rationale for selecting the research design will be to enable a deeper understanding and knowledge of the effect of COVID-19 on domestic violence. The study will employ this research design as a qualitative analysis which involves careful and in-depth investigation of a particular unit or event under study for purposes of generalization. The design is appropriate for qualitative studies of this nature which will seek to investigate deeply into the phenomenon under study.

### **3.2 Study population**

Population refers to an entire group of individual, events or objects having common observable characteristics (**Kothari, 2004**). This will be comprised of .

The study population will comprise of female victims, social workers, community

based organization (NGOS) and police officers will be inclusive and the study will be conducted in Mpigi town council, Mpigi district because of the good number of respondents who provided the reliable information prior to the study. Besides the area its self is a victim to domestic violence among homes which will help the researcher to minimize the transport expenses, respondents in this area will be selected basing on their age and sex. The study population will be 140 respondents

### **3.3 Sampling Procedures**

#### **3.3.1 Sample size**

Sample size is the number of items involved in the study as the respondents in the study. Sampling procedure on the other hand is the scientific process through which the sample elements are selected (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). This research will use stratified random sampling procedure to select a sample to represent the entire population.

According to Morgan and Krejcie (1970) the study will use a sample of 103 respondents that will be selected from male victims, social workers, community based organisation (NGOS) and police officers will be inclusive.

**Table showing sample size of the study**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Target population</b>	<b>Number of Samples</b>
Female & children victims	110	90
Social workers	10	4
Community based organization (NGOS)	5	2
Police officers	10	5
LCI Chairperson	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>103</b>

**3.4 Data sources.**

**3.3.2 Sampling Techniques**

Sampling is the process of selecting a random subset of individual observation for the purposes of making projections based on statistical inferences Amin (2005). The researcher will use a stratified sampling technique to all population groups of the study. Stratified sampling means that the research partitions the population into sub populations with their common characteristics that can be easily sampled. This technique allows the researcher to have required information basing on the set objectives of the study according to Mugenda and Mugenda (2009). This sampling procedure allows an equal chance for respondents to be selected as samples of the study.

**3.4.1 Primary sources**

This is the research that is collected firsthand and is original to the person using it. **Driscoll, Dana Lynn (2010)**. This is the original research that is obtained through first-hand investigation. This includes information collected from interviews, experiments, surveys, questionnaires, and so many others. Data will be collected through the use of questionnaires.

**3.4.2 Secondary sources**

This comprises the review of textbooks, journals, newspaper articles, internet and earlier researches on the effect of covid-19 on domestic violence (Schutt, (2006))

**3.5 Data Collection Methods and Instruments**

**3.5.1 Data Collection Methods**

Data collection is a means by which information is obtained from selected subjects of an investigation.

### **3.5.1.1 Questionnaire Method**

The researcher will adopt the use of questionnaire as a method of data collection to the identified set of respondents. Questionnaire is useful because it is efficient use of time that is information can be collected from a large number of people and the questions can be easily analyzed, anonymity is possible and everyone gets the same questions that is, it is standardized. The study will use the questionnaire method. This is because the mentioned method will be cheap in the collection of data and will also provide a wide range of data (Crewell, 2003).

### **3.5.2 Data Collection Tools/Instruments**

The instruments of data collection are tools used to collect both primary and secondary data. Suitable, usable and adequate data for the study will be collected through administering questionnaires.

#### **3.5.2.1 Questionnaire**

Questionnaire is a tool for data collection in which respondents provide written answers

to written questions. According to Abuja (2001), a questionnaire is a document that contains a set of questions, answers to which are to be provided personally by the respondents. The questionnaires will be designed in strategic way comprising of statements to be agreed on by the respondents. Questionnaires will be chosen because the sampled population is literate and they are able to read interpret and write. Closed ended questionnaire will be preferred because it will enable the researcher to get feedback according to the research objectives. The questionnaires will be physically dropped to the selected respondents and picked after two weeks to give them more time to understand and answer the questions.

### **3.6 Quality control**

This section will be important in ensuring the validity and reliability of the instruments and thus controlling data that will be generated from questionnaires and interviews.

#### **3.6.1 Validity**

Validity has to do with how accurately the data that will be obtained in the study represents the variables of the study. If such data will be a true reflection of the variable,

then inferences based on such data will be accurate and meaningful (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). To ensure validity of the questionnaire, the researcher will seek the expert opinion of the supervisors before going to the field to collect data. The content validity of the research instruments will be ensured through expert judgment provided by my supervisor.

### **3.6.2 Reliability**

Reliability is a measure of the degree to which research instrument yield consistent results or data after repeated trials (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Reliability will be based on the extent to which the items in an instrument generate consistent responses over several trials with different audiences in the same setting or circumstances. Reliability will be considered reliable when measured at least 0.9 (90%). The reliability of the instruments and data will be established following a pre-tested procedure of the instruments before their use with actual research respondents. The most popular internal reliability estimate will be given by Cronbach's Alpha and the accepted index should be equal to or above 0.7 (Creswell, 2003).

### **3.7 Measurement of variables**

The variables will be measured using a Likert-scale. A scale consists of a number of statements which express either favorable or unfavorable attitude towards the given object to which the respondents are asked to respond. Each response is given a numerical score, indicating its favorableness or unfavorableness and the scores are totaled to measure the respondents' attitudes. The scale of 1-5 will be used to help the researcher measure the extent to which research objectives are achieved whereby 1 will represent strong agreement, 2= Agree with the statement, 3= undecided, 4= Disagree and 5= strongly disagree (Denscombe, 2000). T

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

The collected data will be analyzed by descriptive statistics involving weighted average and percentages. The researcher will use MS Excel to aid in data analysis. Quantitative data will be analysed through descriptive and inferential means. Descriptive means will include use of frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations. This kind of data will be presented using frequency tables, pictograms and graphs or pie charts.

Data collected from respondents will be presented, deduced and analyzed through

descriptive narration, graphs, tables and pie charts. Data collected will be organized into a common data pool. It will be transcribed, synchronized and grouped into themes. During analysis, themes will be generated from the responses and categories. Checking will be done to minimize errors of double selection and other forms of repetition.

### **3.9 Ethical consideration**

Ethics in this study will be adhered to by the following processes;

- The researcher will attain an introductory letter from the university to be used for accessing different targeted respondents.
- The researcher will also obtain informed consent of the respondents on the arrival at the data collection sites.
- The researcher will observe and respect the privacy, confidentiality and anonymity of all the participants and respondents in this study.
- The researcher will try his level best not to be biased by any information provided and avoid doubting information. This will enable the researcher to get balanced information from the respondents.

### **3.10 Limitations of the study**

- Financial constraints in carrying out research. The study requires a lot of funds like transport and general welfare.
- The researcher also expects non-response of some questions especially where the respondents selected have little knowledge about particular questions.
- The threat to validity due to bias from respondents.
- The researcher will also experience time constraints in data collection due to the delay of respondents, analyzing of data and in the final presentation of the report which will take a lot of time.
- Lack of access to related literature necessary such as books, journals, and newspapers among others that may not be readily available.

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