# THE INFLUENCE OF PRINT MEDIA CAMPAIGNS ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DEFILEMENT OF THE GIRL CHILD
## A CASE STUDY OF THE DAILY MONITOR

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## DECLARATION

I, MURIUKI ESTHER WANGUI, declare that the work presented in this report is my own and has never been presented in any university or institution for the award of degree or its equivalent.

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**Date** : 18th Dec, 2009.

## APPROVAL FOR SUBMISSION

This work has been under my supervision as a university supervisor and submitted with my approval.

**SUPERVISOR Mr. Simon Peter Ongodia**

**SIGNED** _____

**DATE** 18th December 2009

## DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my mum Charity Wanjiru Muriuki and all my family and friends. You are a great inspiration to my life and I thank God for you all.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1. IMR-Infant Mortality Rate
2. HIV-Human Immunodeficiency Virus
3. GoU-Government of Uganda
4. ART-Anti-Retroviral Therapy
5. CAA-Children and AIDS
6. WHO-World health organization
7. P1/p7-Primary one/seven
8. LRA-Lord's Resistance Army
9. Loco Parentis-A person taking upon him/herself the duty of a parent of a child to provide for that child.
10. Burden of proof-An obligation to prove a fact or facts. This involves adducing evidence in an attempt to prove the facts.

## ABSTRACT

In Uganda the child is held in high esteem as a source of pride and prestige, wealth from the girl child's dowry, security from old age and domestic labor. At the same time, children are seen as property of the family and clearly subordinated to their families and clans/ child upbringing emphasizes parental power, obedience and long hours of work. There is discrimination against children based on gender and birth older, and many parents, teachers and others in charge of children are ignorant about children's right. In societies weakened by poverty and social fragmentation, these authoritarian relationships can be the basis for abuse and neglect. Children have no voice and keep quiet when their rights are infringed upon. They are powerless because of their dependency on adults.

Te integrity of the unit is under considerable pressure from high levels of poverty, HIV/AIDS, social and political insecurity. Such factors have resulted into, among other things, reduction in the quality of care given to children by parents, teachers and other actors involved in children's welfare. Because of this, cases of child abuse, defilement, child labor and child neglect have increased.

The study focuses on defilement as one form of child abuse. Literature shows that various ages are being defiled. From the various newspaper reports in Uganda between 1993-1997 the youngest victim is 9 months while the oldest is 17 years of age.

In most reports, the offenders are usually those who are in close contact with victims. Fro instance, The Monitor Newspaper reports many defilement cases committed by teachers, neighbors, close relatives, fathers and house boys.

Although defilement has always been a criminal and moral offence, causes of defilement have increased and subsequently defilement cases have greatly increased. These include poverty, HIV/AIDS, drugs and alcohol abuse and break down of culture and negative cultural practices (Mutiti Alfred Stuart, 1997)

Poverty and loss of parents have been identified as some of the major causes of defilement. In such situations, the girl child has come to recognize that consent to sex could be an effective survival tool in economic hardships. Often relationships involving girls under 18 and older men are underscored by the subtle understanding over the issue of financial support from the young girl.
In a school environment, sexual relationships with teachers can mean support in paying school fees, escape from punishments or even other favors linked with academic work. (The world's Women 1970-1990)

A survey on defilement in Mukono District shows that due to poverty of parents most families live ion one roomed houses, with very little privacy, which in turn has exposed children to experiments in early sex (Mutiti Alfred Stuart 1997)

Economic pressures and poverty have also added a new angle to the problem of defilement. Many girls might be encouraged or persuaded to go into marriage fro pecuniary benefits or even forced into it at a very tender age by parents expecting dowry. Indeed bride price in one of the forces that has encouraged this. It was recorded in 1969 that the average age at first marriage for female was 17.7 (Compendium of statistics, 1986). Although this figure is not current, there is no evidence showing n increase in the age of marriage. On the contrary, it might have even lowered to 13 years. The figure especially reflects the situation in the rural areas where it must be remembered, most Ugandans live. Thus early marriages largely motivated by economic reasons have led to increased vulnerability of the girl child.

It has been discovered that older men are increasingly approaching young school girls for free and safe sex in the belief that they are HIV/AIDS free. Reports from places like Masaka and Rakai shows that men pursue girls as young as 10 years. Some of these actions come from scene of desperation. Faced with the magnitude and severity of the disease, some men have been known to become completely irrationally, resorting to desperate measures as mentioned here (World Vision Reports 1993)

Lack of knowledge about sex is yet another problem. Traditionally matters of sex, sex information and discussion have always been rather sensitive and even a taboo in Uganda. In most African societies, the responsibility of passing such information was relegated to other members of the family, especially the female relatives of the girl's mother, other than the parents themselves (Ntozi 1992)

Among the Lugbara of northern Uganda, divorced women and older males are the ones responsible for giving instructions regarding sexual intercourse (Ntozi). This clearly shows that children are not talked to about matters of sex by their parents.

This background information testifies to the need to study the problem of sexual abuse of the girl child in depth, in order to determine appropriate social, educational and other corrective programs to reduce its occurrence in Uganda.

# CHAPTER ONE:

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

### 1.1 Background to the Study

In many countries, childhood acts as a crucial site for the maintenance of nationalism. People talk of bequeathing the nation to their children; they use metaphors of inheritance to argue for everything from environmental and cultural conservation to radical economic change. In Uganda, the national youth anthem refers to children as "the pillars of tomorrow's Uganda,"

Since independence in 1962, Uganda has gone through six changes of government, all of which have been violent. Inequalities that had grown during the colonial period were exacerbated upon independence by the absence of an integrated economy, lack of indigenous property owners, and no ruling class with the ability to ensure social stability (Kasozi, 1994: 48). President Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) came to power in 1986 on a platform of respect for human rights and freedom from the despotism of former leaders.

President Museveni's success in maintaining a modicum of peace and stability has been attributed by many Ugandans to the NRA's respect for basic freedoms, decentralization of economic resources, an aggressive AIDS prevention campaign, the encouragement of free enterprise and a free press, and courting of international donors. Part of that courtship entailed becoming more involved in international diplomacy through the United Nations, the World Bank, and an onslaught of non-governmental development activity in the 1990s. By becoming a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Ugandan government adopted a more Western-based children's rights credo overseen by the Ministry of Social Welfare UNICEF country office. A new constitution was fashioned in 1995 by a widely-representative Constitutional Assembly, and the government instituted a national development program that has become the canon of citizenship.

Several studies examine how children serve as subjects of nationalism. Few studies, however, focus on how children might interpret and respond to nationalist discourse in active and constructive ways. Children are often assumed to be under the direction of adults and adult-

controlled social forces rather than being considered, as James & Prout have claimed, "active in the construction and determination of their own social lives, the lives of those around them, and the societies in which they live" (James et al., 1998: 4) Such new paradigms in the study of childhood suggest that children engage with adults and other children in mutual processes of socialization, and that childhood must therefore be seen as a significant variable of social analysis, intertwined with others such as class, gender, or ethnicity.

**1.2 Conceptual frame work**

Conceptual frame work comes from the Decision Theory. Decision theory is the formal study of the making of decisions. Real-life studies, which use surveys and experimentation, are called descriptive decision theory. Studies of rational decision making, which employ logic and statistics, are called prescriptive decision theory.

Such studies grow progressively more complex when more than one person is involved, when outcomes of various options are not known with certainty, and when even the probabilities of outcomes are unknown. This theory will help as once the society are aware of what effects there are in neglecting the girl child's welfare. they can help fight for her rights.

**1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Gender inequality is an issue faced by all cultures in all parts of the world. The injustice begins before a girl child is born due to attitudes and patterns in behavior passed down through generations. In all societies girls are treated differently than boys, facing greater discrimination. fewer opportunities and little or poor education, healthcare and nutrition. The practice of female feticide (the termination of a female foetus before birth) has led to large gender imbalances and millions of girls who should be alive today are missing. Without gender equality six of the eight Millennium Development Goals are impossible to achieve.

Children must negotiate their identities in areas where they experience tensions between disparate identity construction of ideal children and childhood. They often find themselves caught between the contradictory notions of the child subject position. their actual experiences as

children and the kinds of claims that people are making on them. As children's rights discourses are rapidly proliferating through the Ugandan school system and government and NGO awareness campaigns .children were still targets of crime on a daily basis, for example, defilement, abuse, and neglect and these campaigns only heighten their awareness of their own perilous position in society. Others suffered from a lack of resources and security that prevented them from going to school or separated them from their families as a result of armed conflict.

### 1.4 General Objective of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of print media in fighting defilement of the girl child and providing a wider view of representations of children in the media.

### 1.4.1 Specific objectives of the study

(i). To discover to what extent children's defilement cases are covered in the Daily Monitor.

(ii). To examine how they are covered and whether the information provided about the girl child's defilement is accurate.

(iii). To find out how the cases are handled by the children that are abused

(iv). To find out the people's attitude towards the offence of defilement.

### 1.5 Research questions

(i). What role has the media house played in exposing the sexual abuse of the girl child?

(ii). What efforts has the media house put in ensuring the community has been sensitized on the cases of defilement?

(iii). How has the selected media as a platform for action reflected the situation and fundamental rights of the girl child particularly in Uganda?

(iv). What are the measures that can be put in place to promote and protect the fundamental rights of girls and eradicate inequality and discrimination?

### 1.6 Scope of the study

The study will be carried out in The Daily Monitor print media house which is within Kampala in the industrial area. It will focus on the plight of the girl child whose rights have been immensely abused in most African countries but the focus this time round being Uganda.

## 1.7 Significance of the Study

Generally every child has aright to their childhood-a hopeful existence free of exploitation, violence, neglect and extreme poverty. Children need education, health services, consistent support systems as well as love, hope and encouragement, all these things and more are required in order to experience childhood to the fullest. The effects of negligence of the girl child is that they are denied their right to a full and harmonious development of their personality which usually happens if the child grows up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. The study will help in creating the spirit of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity which are the desired components of a girl child's life.

This study will also point out the media campaigns that have been run by Daily Monitor media that has brought to light the sufferings that the girl child goes through.

From the Daily Monitor's campaigns on fighting for the rights of the girl child, this research study will help bring attention to the government and policy makers because it will contribute to the already existing applicable policies and laws on protection of the rights of the girl child.

The research study will also create awareness amongst the people of Uganda on the effects that neglecting the welfare of the girl child can have on their society. They will get to not only listen to the media campaigns but follow practical action given by the print media on what they must do in order to maintain a stable environment for the normal and healthy survival of the girl child.

It will also help the non governmental organization in that the research study will point out some crucial matters pertaining to the major reasons as to why the rights of the girl child are so much abused and thus the non governmental organizations who would want to extend a helping hand to the Ugandan country can have a base on where to start with their programmes.

The study will also help the local government officials to come up with clearly defined policies to combat abuse of children's rights and come with ways of dealing with the offenders.

The research will also get to broaden my perspective as a researcher and improve on my knowledge on the related topic. It can also be used as a tool for future reference and help in other researchers.

# CHAPTER TWO:
# 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1 Introduction

This chapter shows the literature review got for the research study. It has shown the definition of key concept. Who a child is, the human rights at issue, the forms of the child sexual abuse and neglect, factors influencing the abuse and the constraints to law enforcement.

The media plays a vital role in influencing public opinion on important issues. It has certainly played a big role in highlighting the problem of child abuse in Uganda over recent years. This useful information which is in various print media has been collected organized and is reproduced in a systematic situation analysis covering the year 2006 and 2007.

## 2.2 Definition of Key Concepts

### 2.2.1Who is a child?

The CRC Article 1 defines the holder of rights as 'every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the, child majority is attained earlier' .The convention clearly specifies the upper age limit for childhood as 18 years, but recognizes that majority may be obtained at an earlier age under laws applicable to the child. The article thus, accommodates the concept of an advancement of majority at an earlier age, either according to the federal or state laws of a country, or personal laws within that country. However the upper limit on childhood is specified as an age of childhood rather than 'majority', recognizing that in most legal systems a child can acquire full legal capacity with regard to various matters at different ages.

## 2.3What are the human Rights of Children?

Human Rights are universal and civil political, economic, social and cultural rights that belong to all human beings. Including children and young people. Children and youth also enjoy certain human rights specifically linked to their status as minors and to their need for special care and protection .Girl-children are particularly vulnerable to certain human rights violations and therefore require additional protections.

The human rights of children and the girl child are explicitly set out in the convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. They are also contained in other human rights documents including the Universal Declaration, the covenants, CEDAW and other widely adhered to international human rights treaties and Declarations.

### 2.3.1 The Human Rights at Issue

The human rights of children and the girl- child include the following indivisible, interdependent and interrelated human rights.

- The human right to freedom from discrimination based on gender, age, race, color, language, religion, ethnicity, or any other status, or on the status of the child's parents.
- The human right to a standard of living adequate for a child's intellectual, physical, moral, and spiritual development.
- The human right to a healthy and safe environment.
- The human right to the highest possible standard of health and to equal access to health care.
- The human right to equal access to food and nutrition.
- The human right to life and to freedom from prenatal sex selection.
- The human right to freedom from cultural practices, customs and traditions harmful to the child, including female genital mutilation.
- The human right to education -- to free and compulsory elementary education, to equal access to readily available forms of secondary and higher education and to freedom from all types of discrimination at all levels of education.
- The human right to information about health, sexuality and reproduction.
- The human right to protection from all physical or mental abuse.
- The human right to protection from economic and sexual exploitation, prostitution, and trafficking.
- The human right to freedom from forced or early marriage.
- The human right to equal rights to inheritance.
- The human right to express an opinion about plans or decisions affecting the child's life.

## 2.4Child abuse and neglect

Child abuse is any act of omission or commission which involves of maltreatment of children either by directly hurting them(abuse)or by failing to provide for their needs(neglect)thus depriving them of their rights. The analysis reveals that all forms of child abuse take place in Uganda. Namely Physical, psychological and social abuse of all types(ANPPCAN 1998:3)

## 2.5 Sexual abuse

In a study including a sample of 120 copies of one English Newspaper in 1992 and 70 copies of the same in 1993, Nyonyintono and Yiga (1994) found that most child sexual abusers are not strangers. of he 33 defilement cases, 3were by relatives 11by neighbors, 3 by teachers,1 by a pastor. Only 4 abusers had no relationship to the child while 11did not state what the relationship to the child defilers were. In other words, 22 out of 33 or 67% of the defilers were people who were known to the defiled child. This is a serious warning to all of us.

The same study revealed that children as young as 3 years and as old 13 years were abused by men who were much older, some of them as old as 60 years. In some other cases, the age difference between the child and the abuser was as big as 57 years. This puts the child in a vulnerable position in terms of knowledge strength and awareness of what is happening to her. The present analysis yield similar findings.

Most cases involved in child care takers, neighbors and very close relatives. Due to these close relationship the abusers take advantage of the vulnerable situation of the child due to ease of access, haplessness and ignorance of sexual matters. The abusers use tricks of different natures to have the child convenient place for their sexual attack. Children are sent on errands where they are then followed or way-laid on their way from various chores and even while playing games like "hide and seek."

The situation has not changed much as the present analysis shows although both adults and children are reporting to authorities and some are refusing to settle out of court. Most cases are resolved by traditional fines which are petty. compensate parents but have no provision for justice to the victim e.g. fining a defiler a pot of alcohol.

The most common cases of child abuse reported took the form of defilement, sexual assault, incest or child marriages and to a lesser extent child prostitution. Children were exposed and are involved in pornographic activities for commercial gain.

While many cases were hand over to the authorities, most cases were not adequately handled. Of the 9 cases handed over to the police, only 2 received a relatively just sentence of 2-6 years of jail term, two (2) cases were mishandled and another 2 were given very lenient penalties.

Children who are sexually abused did not often receive justice because relatives especially the male relatives are overtaken by the desire for money and cases are thus settled for petty forms of compensation. Many times the local authorities and police were ill-informed, powerless or opportunistic mishandle the cases. The legal process itself is cumbersome and threatening due to the complicated procedures for preserving evidence and the process of law and redress. Victims often lost heart and opted to settle out of court.

**2.5.1Types of sexual abuses**

**Defilement**

The definition of defilement applies to a girl below eighteen years of age .According to section 123 of the penal code; any person who has unlawful sexual intercourse with such a girl commits an offence termed as defilement. The finding of this study revealed that this offence is on the increase. However ,most cases are not reported and the few that are reported do not succeed when prosecuted in court. Several issues have arisen concerning defilement

Studies revealed that pre-marital sex is a cultural practice in certain societies. The issue of age does not arise in such circumstances. For proof of victim's age, it was noted that birth certificates are important for proof of age in court. However, most parents do not register their children at birth and the state has not seriously enforced the law requiring registration of births

**Incest**

Incest occurs when sexual intercourse takes place between persons who are within the prohibited degrees of affinity. The offence is meant to protect family members from sexual exploitation,

and to conserve morals within the family. Loopholes were noted in the law relating to incest. These include the fact that an adoptive relationship is not covered, yet this dealt with in other legislation such as the children statute, which specifies that an adopted child should be treated as a natural one. Further more, the law does not cover persons in loco parentis, for example, foster parents.

**Rape**

This is forced sexual acts on a person which include violence against the person, injury, infection, pregnancy, trauma and violation of the person's body .The study indicated that rape occurs in all societies in Uganda but it is not readily reported for fear of stigmatization. It is mostly committed by men, although research has indicated that it is also committed by women. the findings further indicate that the legal definition of rape focuses on penile penetration of the sexual organ of a woman or girl without her consent. It was noted that this definition excludes penetration of any other organ of the body such as the mouth or anus by the male sexual organ or any other object.

**2.6Precipitating factors influencing sexual offences.**

Several factors have led to the persistent commission of sexual offences, particularly rape and defilement.

**Pornography**

The findings of the study indicated that children have unlimited access to pornographic material such as videos, Films, blue movies, magazines, TV and radio programmes. This access was largely considered as contributory to the increase in rape, defilement and incest cases. The commission noted that the current law is robust but lacks enforcement.

**Culture**

Customs such as the Bagisu pre and post-circumcision ceremonies which create a conducive environment for the commission of the offense ,for example, provocative dances and encouraging sexual relations after surgery as a form of cleansing and a demonstration of manhood. have led to the increased cases of rape and defilement. Other customs include

elongation of the private parts, incestuous acts between fathers in law and their newly wed daughters -in- law: abduction as a form of marriage and the culture of parents referring to their granddaughters as wives in some societies.

**Economic factors**

Due to the relatively high levels of poverty in most communities, some parents cannot afford to buy their daughters basic necessities. The girls are thus easily lured by the more affluent men into sexual relations resulting into defilement. Related factors include sharing of one room by a family resulting into children hearing and seeing their parents having sexual intercourse and later experimenting o themselves. trade in child marriages due to poverty was also identified as a major factor in rural areas.

**Social factors**

Modernization of society has brought with it ,the evils of drug abuse ,alcoholism ,pornography and indecent dressing, among others, which encourage children to engage in early sex. Extended families in the urban areas which are o the increase as a result of a search for better opportunities such as jobs and education have contributed to an increase I incest. All these factors result into an increased incidence of rape, defilement and incest.

**Political factors**

This relates specifically to insecurity in areas under civil strife. Rebels and soldiers have been accused of engaging in acts of rape and defilement during insurgency and anti-rebel operations .it was also revealed that children are defiled within the protected villages and shelters

**Health**

Psychological and health problems contribute to the commission of sexual offences. For instance, high libido, lack of confidence and fear of contracting HIV/AIDS from older women cause men to look for young girls for sexual gratification.

## 2.7Consequences of the offences

Findings show that the victim and his/her family as well as the community an which they live suffer adverse consequences, the most prominent being outlined below.

### Victim and family

According to the study findings, adverse social consequences including shame and loss of respect by the community towards the victim and her family arise from defilement, incest or rape incidents. In cases of married couples, the husband may suspend the sexual relationship with his wife. Girls who are regarded as a source of wealth accruing from bride price are considered worthless once they are defiled. The girl and her family shunned by society.

### Offender and Family

The consequences of sexual offences on offender and his/her family vary, depending on culture and prevailing circumstances .where the culture condones the act of defilement ,for example, during a circumcision dance or abduction for marriage the community does not view it as an actionable offence.

However, if the victim is a relative or young girl, or the offender is suspected to be HIV? AIDS positive, the community's attitude can be very severe. The offender may become a social outcast. His//her family may suffer the same humiliation and condemnation as that suffered by the victim's family. The relationship between the two families is usually destroyed and enmity leading to a desire to revenge often results.

### The community

Significant consequences include a sense of insecurity created within the community. The members of the community live in constant fear that the offender may strike again. the act puts families against one another and creates enmity in society. Depending on the attitude in the community, the act may or may not be condoned.

## 2.8Constraints to Law Enforcement

**Fear**

Victims fail to report cases for fear of the consequences of being identified as the girl or woman for the victim. This is mostly done because of the stigma attached to it.

**Community Interference**

This is a situation where other parties reach a settlement or compromise on the case without regard for the victim. This is mostly done by the LCs and other persons in influential positions.

**Negative Customary Practices**

This is related to the argument on fear. In some cultures, a defiled girl is exposed to cleansing rites, which exposes her further ridicule and embracement. This result in the fear to report cases of abuse.

**Ignorance of the Law**

Ignorance of the law and procedures of redress when one is wronged results in persons not taking up cases to court, giving lee way to the community to settle them amicably. It was discovered that it is almost only the law enforcement officials that knows the law.

**Lack of Resources**

Like other types of cases, sexual offence cases tend to drag on in the system due to lack of resources and facilities, and justice is hardly seen to be done. The solution to this would be the provision of logistics to speed up investigations and trial of offenders.

**Lengthy Procedures**

The study reveals that complaints are discouraged from following up cases from the time of investigation to giving testimony in court because of the bureaucratic red tape within the system. Files take too long to move from one office to the next. Investigations are completed after a long time and witnesses cannot easily be traced.

# CHAPTER THREE:
# 3.0 METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Introduction

This study gives Daily Monitor as the selected area for the study. This chapter represents a detailed description of the methodology that I used in my study so as to accomplish the stated objectives of the study It portrays the plan, structure, strategy and the research design.

## 3.2 Research Design

The research used explanatory and analytical research design in establishing the impact of the print media in fighting defilement of the girl child. This is because the study was based on documentary review.

This study also followed a descriptive research design of the Daily Monitor. Both qualitative and quantitative methods have been used to assess the role of print media in the fight for the defilement of the girl child.

The quantitative techniques according to Marshal Ross Man (1995) are appropriate for research that deals in depth with complexities and processes such as the respondent's experiences, attitudes and benefits that are normative and sensitive in nature.

Case study research design has been used: Case study research design comprises of the background, development, current conditions and environmental interactions of one or more individuals, groups, communities, businesses or institutions is observed, recorded and analyzed for stages of patterns in relation to internal and external influences.

Case study research design has been used as its effective in studying variables of interest in a sample of subjects, They are assayed once and the relationships between them are determined. In the studies, variables are assayed at the start of a study then after a period of time the outcomes are determined.

### 3.5 Data Collection.

During the field research various methods were used by the researcher to collect data. They included primary and secondary data. Also included were research instruments that included interviews and use of questionnaire.

#### 3.5.1 Interviews

The researcher used interview method to get information from the reporters and editor in working in the media house. Interviewing ensured that the information that could not be captured by the questionnaire as captured in the questionnaires. The editor was interviewed including two of those involved in the gathering of the reports and the media campaign, The questions were open ended and closed ended.

#### 3.5.4 Questionnaire

The researcher used several questionnaire formats to gather information and data from The Daily Monitor workers. Open ended questions were used to allow for free response from the respondents. It was also used to allow for greater depth of response. Close-ended questions were used where the respondents will be required to give a yes or no answer.

### 3.6 Data collection instruments

#### 3.6.2 Interview guide

**For the reporter**

- Which District was the child living?
- What age was the child?
- What was the relation of the abuser to the abused child?
- What age was the child abuser?
- What was the status of the abuser?
- What action was taken after the case was exposed?

**For the editor**

- What was the attitude towards and reason for the child`s abuse?
- How did authorities handle the case of the child abuse?
- How did this media house handle the case?

- Which professional support was given to the abused children?
- Have you tried to get help from the central government to address the problem?
- Media efforts done?
- What measures do you think can be undertaken to solve the problem of defilement?

### 3.6.3 Questionnaires check list

- Questions to reflect on the study objectives
- Question not to be bias
- Questions should not revoke unwanted emotions like anger
- Be less structured

### 3.7Reliability and validity of data

The precision with which you measure things also had a major impact on the research: Precision is expressed as validity and reliability. Validity represents how well a variable measures what it is supposed to. Validity is important in descriptive studies: if the validity of the main variables is poor more subjects will be needed. Reliability tells you how reproducible your measures are on a retest, so it impacts experimental studies: the more reliable a measure, the fewer subjects you need to see a small change in the measure. For example, a controlled trial with 2 years was sufficient to characterize even a small effect, because the measure was highly reliable.

### 3.8Data processing and analysis

Data was processed and analyzed by making references to the available literature in order to compare and contrast opinions presented by different authors. The **intervention** exposed gaps in the existing literature upon which recommendations were based. Data was analyzed by use of different statistical techniques. This is to say, there was use of tables and graphs. It was analyzed for accuracy, relevancy with consistency in hand.

### 3.9Presentation of findings

Findings are presented in a report form and have been based on the available literature as authorized by different scholars. plus the information got from different respondents has been presented in qualitative form.

## CHAPTER FOUR:

## 4.0 PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH FINDING

This Chapter presents the research findings on the impacts of Daily Monitor's campaigns in fighting for defilement of the girl child and the actions which have been taken to address the problem of defilement of the girl child.

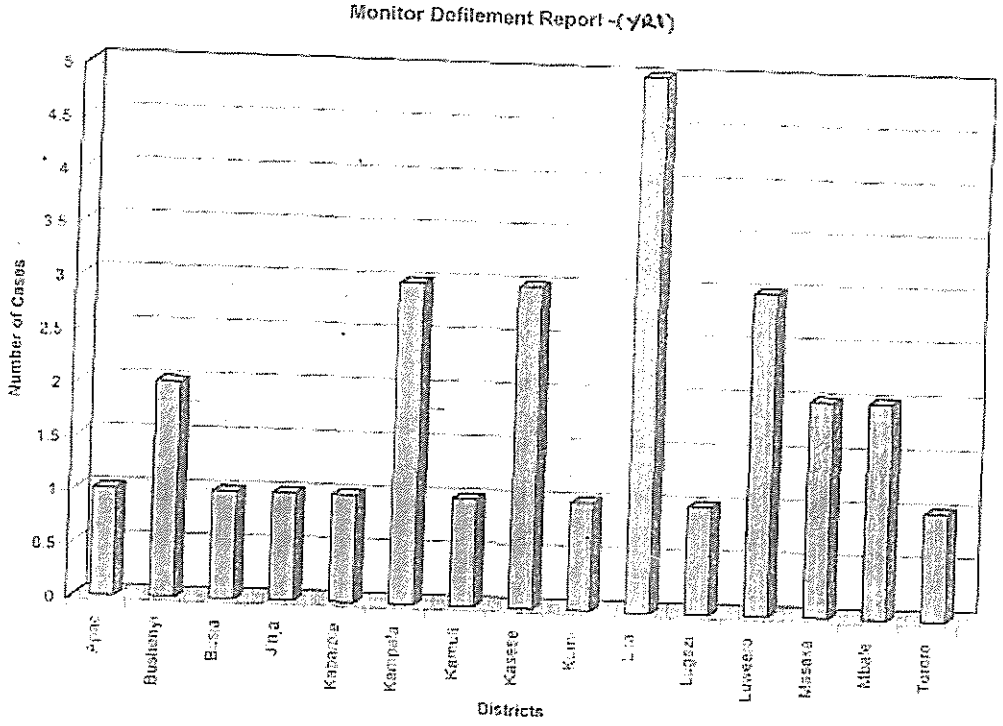
### 4.1 Introduction

A newspaper review of the Daily monitor was done to compile statistics of defilement reports in the Daily Monitor in a span of two years. The findings from the review show that defilement is a problem all over Uganda and that child of all ages but most especially those within the 4 to 15 age bracket are the most vulnerable to defilement. The age bracket of most offenders is between 15 and 40 and the districts of Kampala and Lira have the highest reported cases.

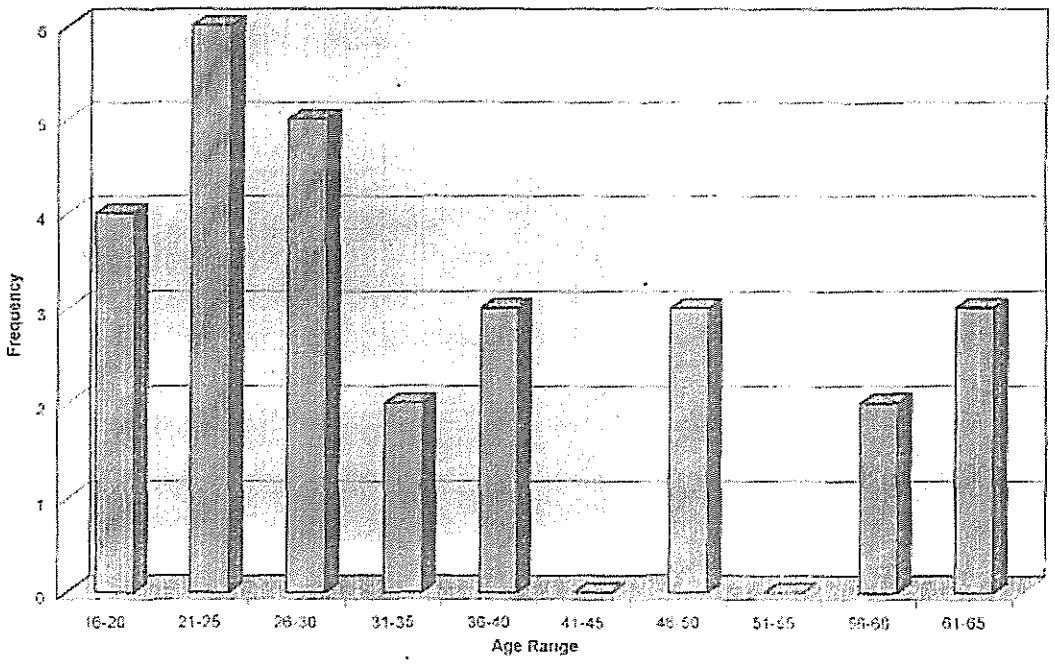
Following are the tables and graphs depicting the above information.

**MONITOR REPORT-Yr 1** **DEFILEMENT**

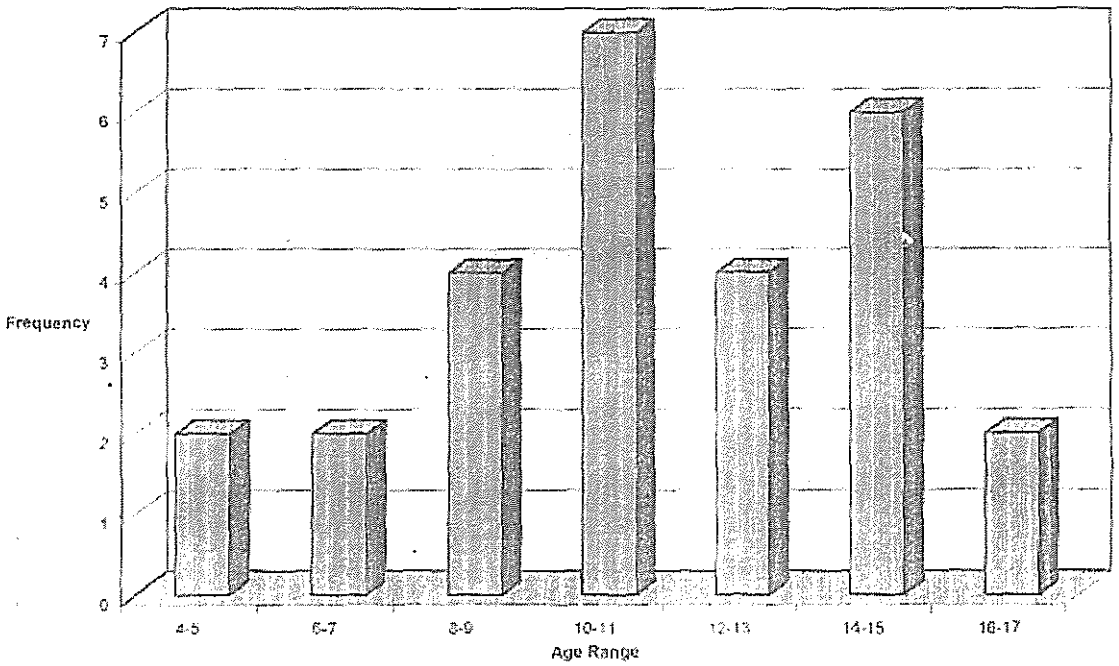
| Date | Age of defiler | Age of victim | District | Status | Action Taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8-Mar | 60 | 14 | Lira | Farmer | Fined |
| 15-Mar | 29 | 10 | Tororo | teacher | Fined |
| 29-May | 57 | 7 | Lira | Cultivator | imprisoned |
| 31-May | 50 | 15 | Kumi | Hawker | Fined |
| 10-Jun | 36 | 12 | Kamuli | Farmer | Arrested |
| 19-Jul | 61 | 4 | Lira | Cultivator | Remanded |
| 19-Jul | 40 | 12 | Kasese | DeputyH/M | |
| 16-Aug | 30 | 8 | Lugazi | | released |
| 21-Aug | 21 | 9 | Kampala | Casual labourer | Arrested |
| 23-Aug | 50 | 10 | Kampala | | Arrested |
| 25-Aug | 35 | 11 | Mbale | teacher | |
| 6-Sep | 20 | 8 | Mbale | Houseboy | |
| 6-Sep | 23 | 12 | Apac | Farmer | Remanded |
| 9-Sep | 63 | 14 | Kasese | Cultivator | Arrested |
| 9-Sep | 23 | 9 | Luweero | Pastor | Fined |
| 13-Sep | 26 | 16 | Masaka | teacher | Fined |
| 18-Sep | 21 | 14 | Kasese | teacher | reported to police |
| 25-Sep | 20 | 16 | Kabarole | Farmer | Arrested |
| 7-Oct | 32 | 14 | Luweero | Farmer | |
| 14-Oct | 20 | 10 | Luweero | teacher | Fined |
| 14-Oct | 50 | 10 | Busia | Businessman | Arrested |
| 30-Oct | 40 | 14 | Lira | Businessman | Arrested |
| 21-Nov | 30 | 10 | Kampala | Veteran | Arrested |
| 25-Nov | 65 | 11 | Masaka | Farmer | Arrested |
| 26-Nov | 25 | 12 | Jinja | teacher | Arrested |
| 30-Nov | 23 | 6 | Bushenyi | Lorry driver | Arrested |
| 18-Dec | 30 | 4 | Lira | teacher | Arrested |
| 21-Dec | 19 | 8 | Bushenyi | teacher | Arrested |


Monitor Defilement Report -(YR1)
Number of Cases
0
0.5
1
1.5
2
2.5
3
3.5
4
4.5
5
Bushenyi
Busia
Jinja
Kabarole
Kampala
Kamuli
Kasese
Lira
Luwero
Masaka
Mbale
Tororo
Districts

Age Range of Defiler (Monitoring)

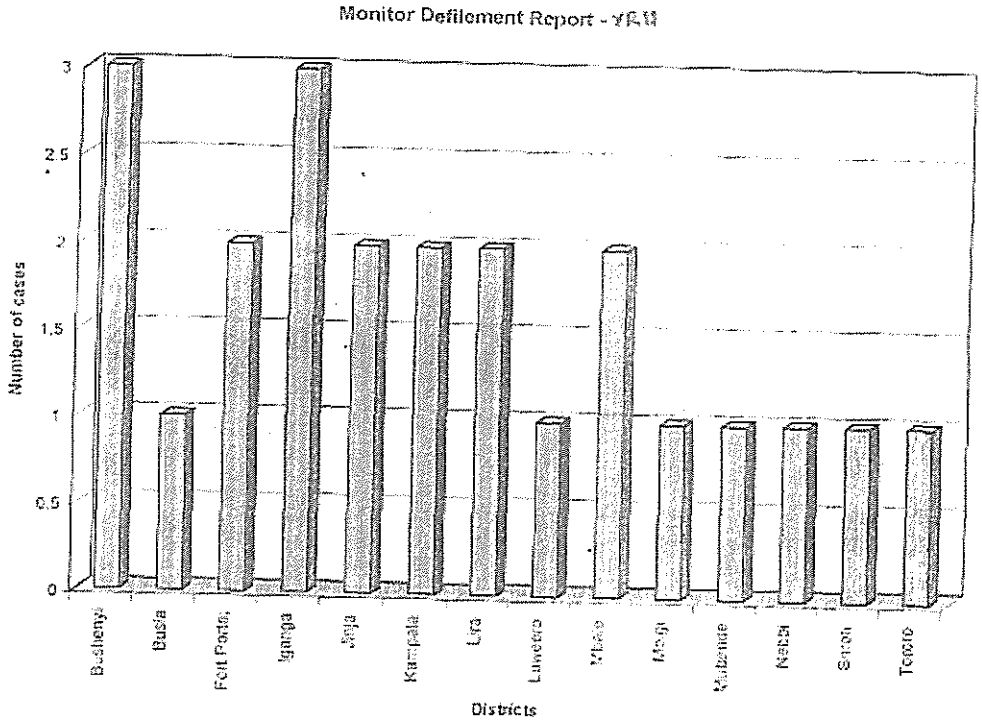


Age Range of Defiled (Monitor 92)

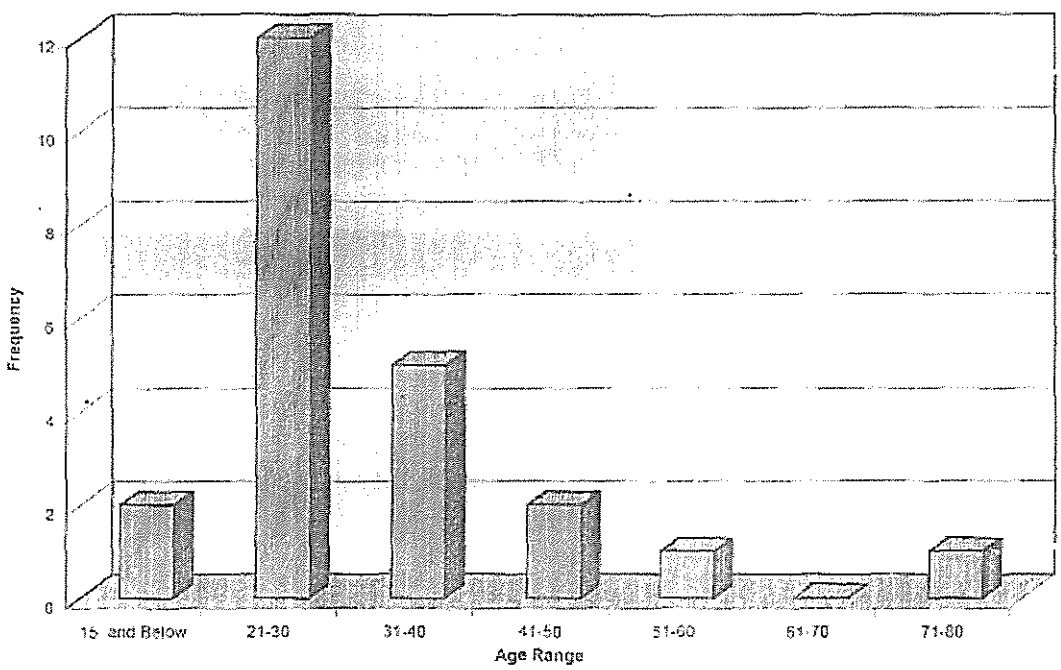


**MONITOR DEFILEMENT REPORT-YR 2**

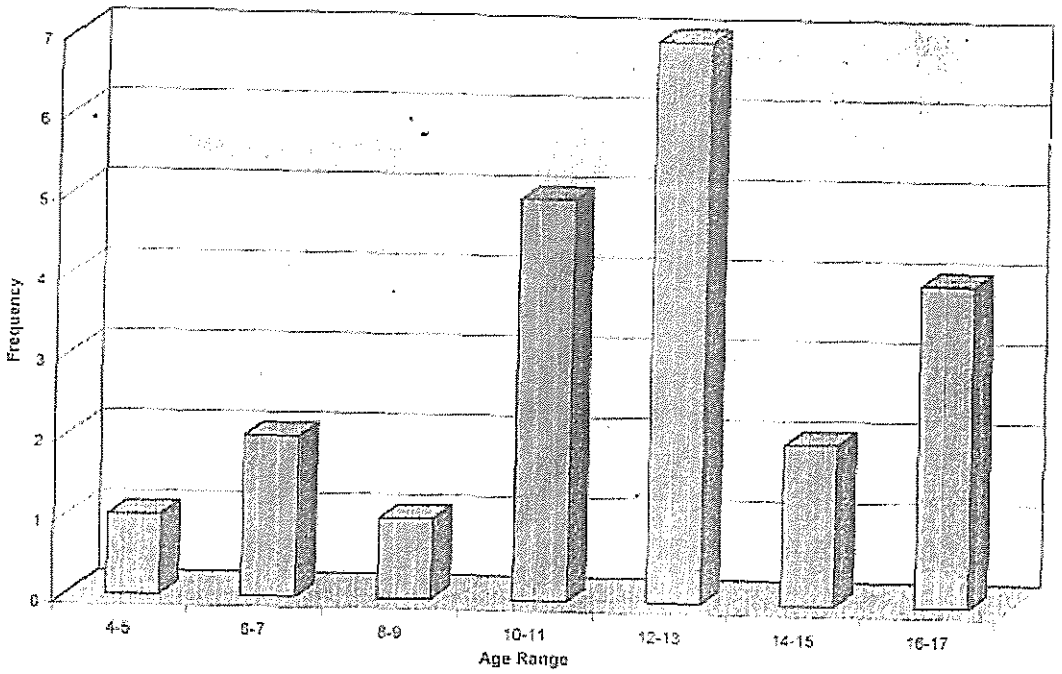
| DATE | AGE OF DEFILER | AGE OF VICTIM | DISTRICT | STATUS | ACTION TAKEN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3-Jan | 37 | 12 | Iganga | Drug dealer | |
| 5-Jan | 28 | 17 | Mpigi | Teacher | Fined |
| 7-Jan | 40 | 7 | Bushenyi | Hotel worker | Arrested |
| 13-Feb | 25 | 13 | Tororo | LC chairman | Charged |
| 1-Mar | 75 | 12 | Lira | farmer | Taken to court |
| 10-Mar | 29 | 11 | Fort portal | security guard | Arrested |
| 27-Mar | 37 | 11 | Luweero | Deputy H/M | Arrested |
| 27-Mar | 24 | 5 | Jinja | farmer | Arrested |
| 4-Apr | 24 | 14 | Jinja | Teacher | Arrested |
| 13-Apr | 28 | 12 | Fort portal | Businessman | Imprisoned |
| 21-Apr | 38 | 15 | Nebbi | Headmaster | Arrested |
| 28-Apr | 25 | 9 | Mubende | Student | Arrested |
| 16-Jun | 30 | 16 | Lira | Policeman | Arrested |
| 25-Jun | 15 | 15 | Iganga | Businessman | Remanded |
| 31-Jun | 56 | 9 | Mbale | LC official | Arrested |
| 21-Jun | 45 | 16 | Soroti | Deputy H/M | |
| 22-Aug | 45 | 8 | Bushenyi | KCC goalie | Arrested |
| 31-Aug | 30 | 12 | Busia | Teacher | Arrested |


Monitor Defilement Report - YEAR
Number of cases
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
Bushenyi
Busia
Fort Portal
Iganga
Jinja
Kampala
Lira
Luwero
Mbale
Mbarara
Nebbi
Soroti
Tororo
Districts

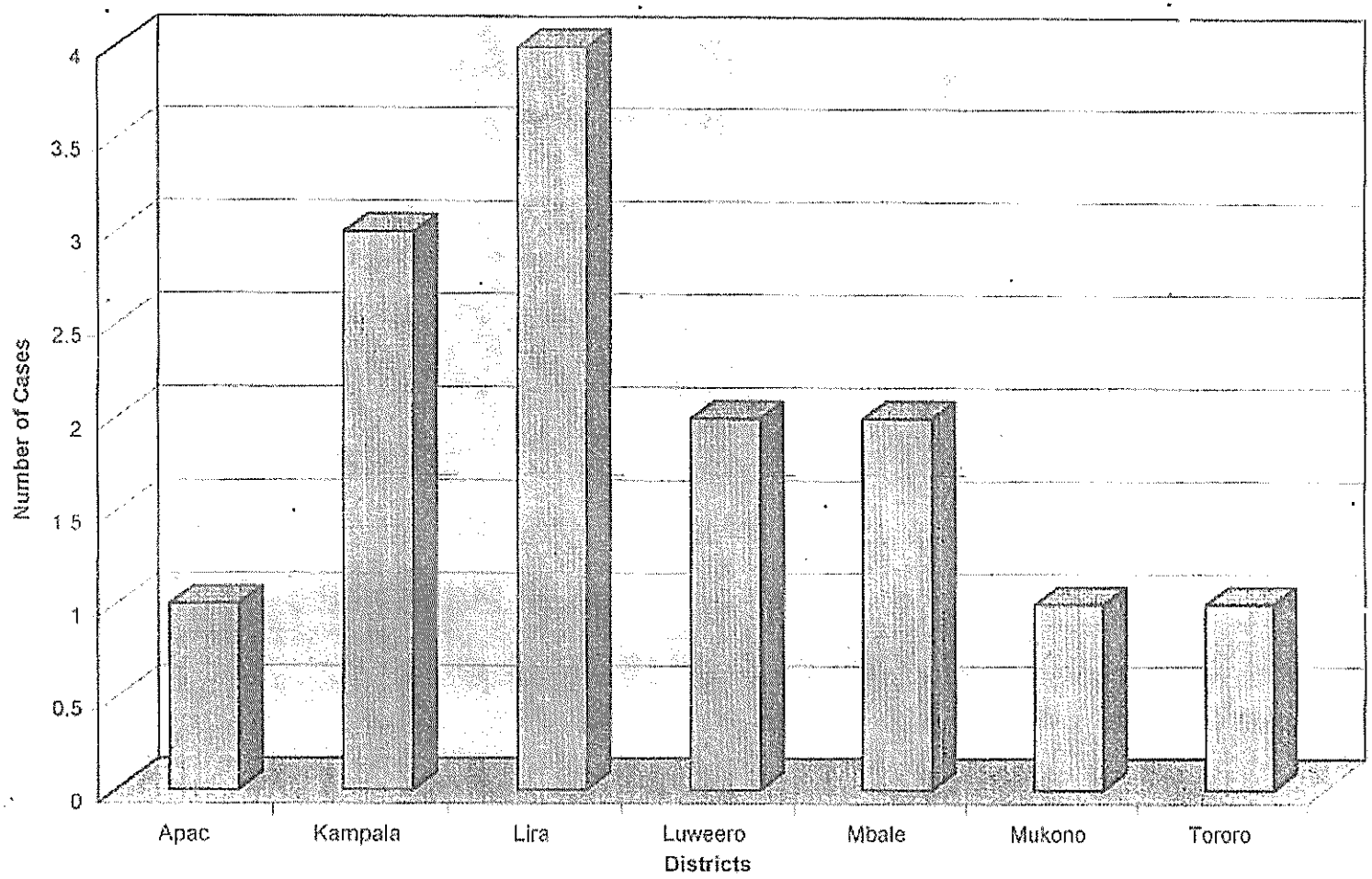
Age Range of Defiler (Monitoring)



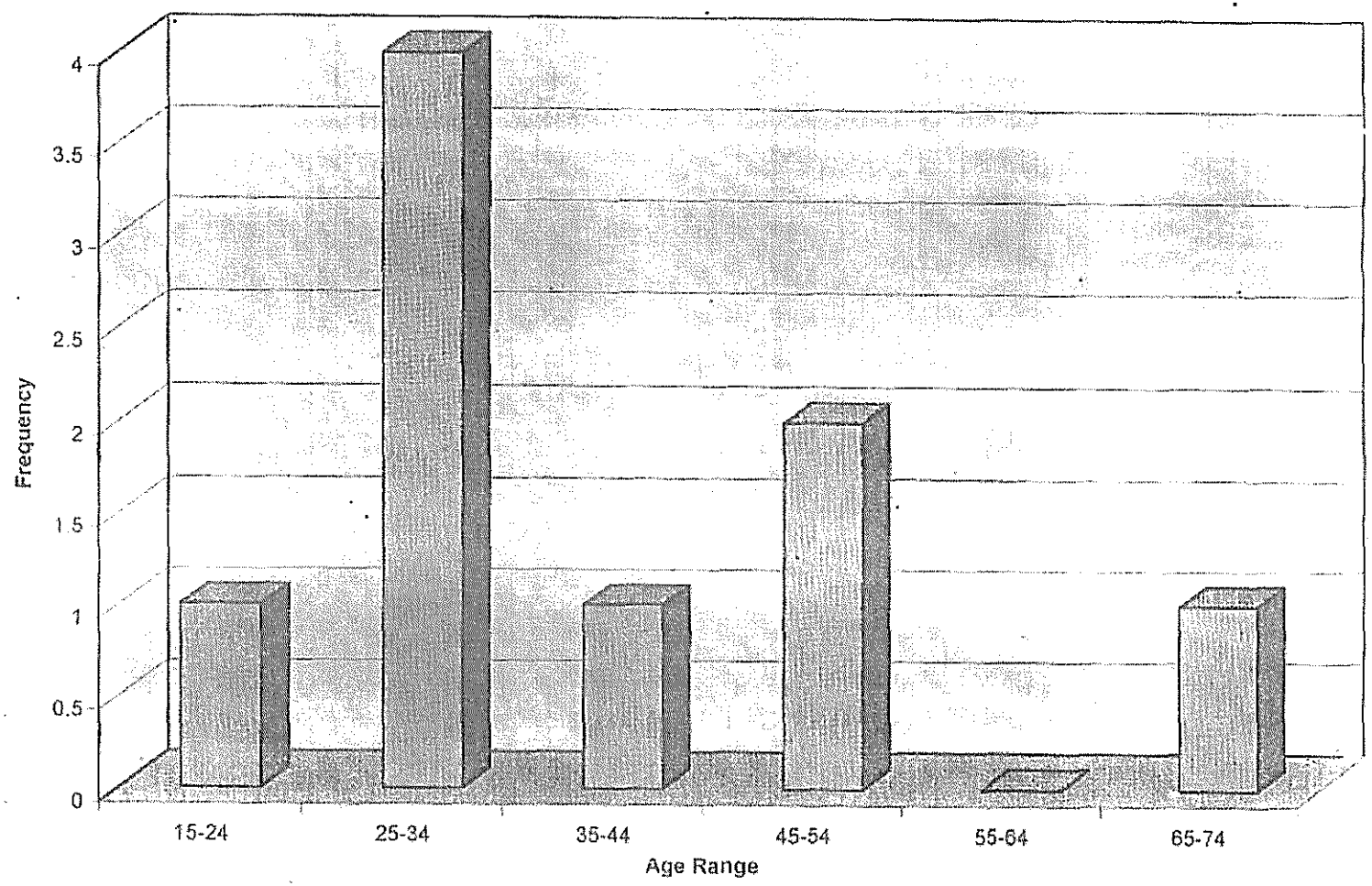
Age Range of Defiled (Monitoring)



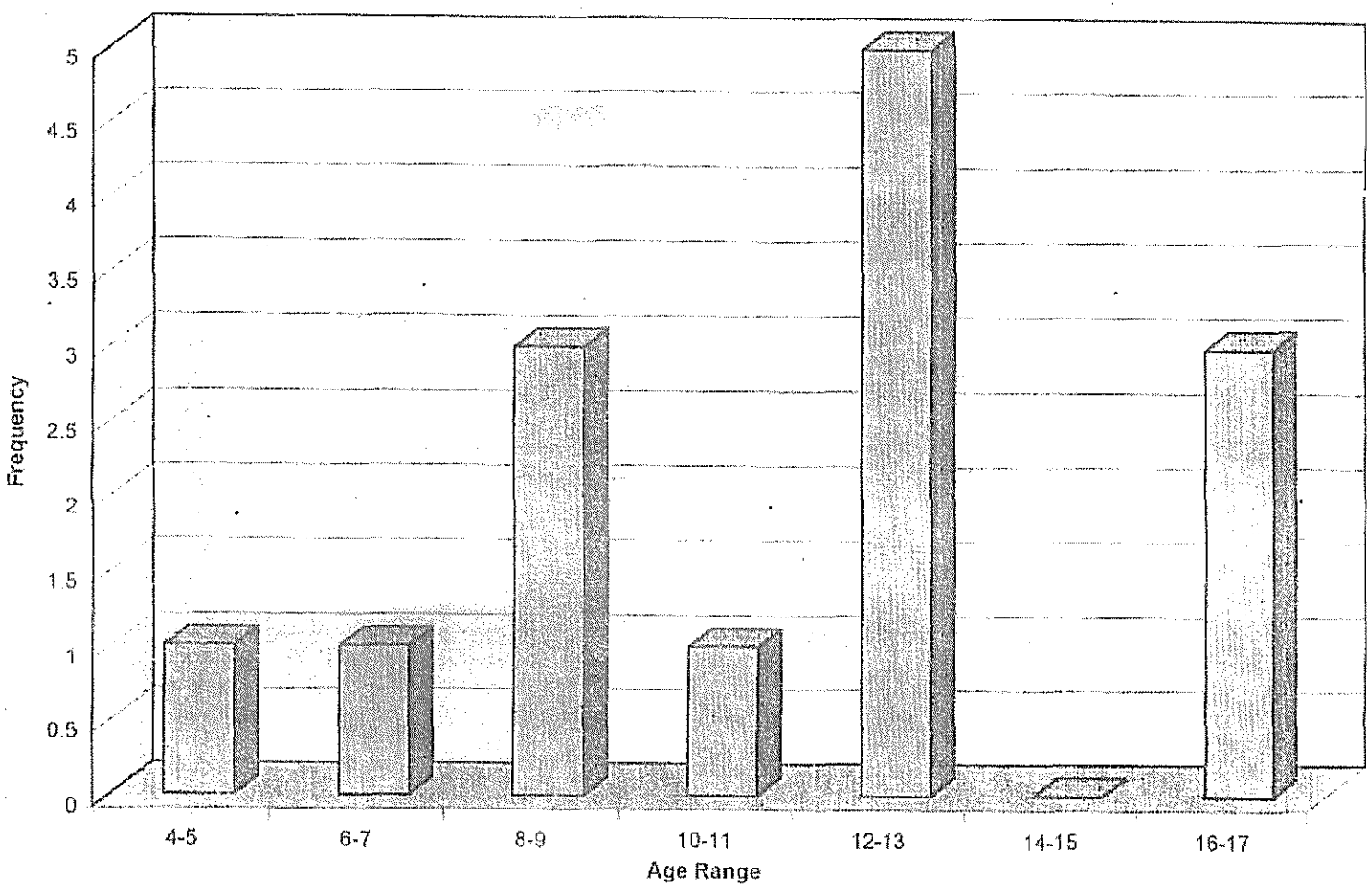
Graph of Defilement Cases per District( YEAR I & YEAR II)



Age Range of Defiler ( YEAR I & YEAR II )



Age Range of Defilement Victim (YEAR I & YEAR II)



**4.2What was the attitude towards and reason for the child's abuse?**

The victim and his/her family suffer very adverse reactions from the community and inter-personal relationships deteriorate. However, the reaction towards the offender and his/her family vary .If the offender is a man, he may be hailed as having done the right thing or shunned for having deflowered a child.

Some respondents were of the view that it the law on defilement was too complicated and only benefited the rich. The age of consent was also considered too high for an African society where early marriage is encouraged. However, there was also an alternative view that awareness about sexual offences had been created by this stringent law, which was in fact acting as a deterrent and protecting young girls. Responses on the punishment where the offender is a child varied .while some respondents thought that the punishment was too harsh and should be substituted by caning, others were comfortable with the law as it is.

On compensation, respondents agreed that it would help cover some of the expenses incurred by the victim and her family. However, they cautioned that this is a short-term solution the money may not directly benefits the victim, and the provision may encourage
Families to opt settle the matter out of court.

**4.3How children view abuse and neglect**

Most children do not view abuse and neglect as seriously as they should because they have been born in a system where it is so common .This could partly be due to the fact that those who are adults/guardians today were born in the 1960's and 1970's when social and political systems were broken down. They have lived to accept abuse and violence as an inevitable part of life.

**4.4Handling of child of abuse and neglect cases**

The state is committed to the improvement of the well being of the Ugandan child through the various child laws and the constitution. Not many of the child abuse and neglect cases reach the authorities .Those that do aren't well handled.LC and other local administrative structures which are closest to the people and would be the very initial lives of action are crippled by lack of skills

and other resources for handling child abuse. Cases continue to be settled quietly while some are not perceived as "child abuse" due to cultural attitudes and other social factors.

## CHAPTER FIVE:
## 5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

The media has been commended for its role in bringing cases of child abuse to public attention. By doing so, they have joined hands with child rights advocates to raise awareness about the problem and also the type of help available to the abused child.

Unfortunately the level of reporting is still low and some information officers in many districts have not yet raised up to this challenge , ANPPCAN and all child rights agencies would like to encourage the media to expand coverage and improve on reporting on all relevant details.

This analysis is going to be discussed with a cross section of stake holders including the media and we hope that we shall come up with a mutually beneficial format for media reporting and advocacy for prevention and protection and protection against defilement of the girl child.

The findings indicate wide spread levels and types of sexual child abuse by both strangers and people who are very close to the girl child. There is high degree of defilement by parents. This is cause for very serious concern and calls for immediate action to protect the children but also to "nip" the diseases of child abuse "in the bud". Children who are abused often grow up to be child abusers. What we face now is entrenchment of defilement I Uganda unless action is taken to break the vicious circle with the present generation of children.

A study of the details the role of culture, health, economic, legal, social and political factors in influencing defilement of the girl child. Again we all need to think of all these two areas through carefully and in an honest attitude of mind to sift harmful practices from the positive practices and to uphold humanitarian principles even during adverse or crisis situations

Enforcement of the law relating to these offences is a major task ahead but it is also an uphill one in view of the cherished cultures and traditions that induce to these offences. Through methods such as legal education and sensitization programmes, it is hoped that society will eventually

learn to uphold the dignity and welfare of vulnerable persons. This will be realized by preventing the commission of crimes and ensuring access to redress by the victims.

## 5.2 Recommendations

A number of suggestions ought to be made basing o the findings of the study,so as to to help the girl child speak out against defilement and other acts of sexual abuse.

### 5.2.1 Community Participation

Community policing programmes should be strengthened and expanded to cover the whole country in order to prevent the community from tampering with the evidence and to encourage them to report sexual offences.

Positive religious, social, and cultural virtues which encourage children to delay sexual relations should also be promoted in the community. Cultures that promote and have a bearing on the incidence of rape, defilement and other sexual offences should be abolished.

Circumcision dances which are often unsupervised and nocturnal are prohibited. Circumcision dances should only take place during day time to avoid sexual immorality and the incidence of rape and defilement. Ordinances or by-laws should be enacted by the LCs to regulate the hours of the dances.

Another way the community can participate is discouraging grandparents to call their granddaughters wives as this promotes defilement and measures should be taken to discourage it..

Marrying off children who have been defiled should also be discouraged as this practice contradicts the constitution and promotes recurrence of the offence. The parents and guardians of the child that is married off should be penalized. a penalty of two years is proposed.

### 5.2.2 Defining clear roles of relevant agencies in the fight against defilement

The ministry of Gender, labor and social development should address the problem of poverty and its role in promotion of and its role in the promotion and/or concealment of sexual offences.

All the responsible ministries and institutions should seriously address the problem of poor remuneration of the law enforcement officials.

Government should introduce or re-enforce sex education in schools. This should form part of the school curriculum and syllabus.

Prosecution should continue to be handled by state attorneys in the DPP"s office. Considerations should be made of the proposed "Lay Prosecutors" by including an extensive and intensive

programme on sexual offence laws besides the art o prosecution. If properly trained, the Lay prosecutors could be assessed with a view to taking over prosecution of these cases.

### 5.2.3 Supporting strategic planning and follow up implementation

To remove the apathy within the community, implementation of the law should be seriously addressed and monitored and data on reported cases, convictions and sentences should be collected and published periodically.

A sexual offence case be tried within a period of three months from the commission of the offence.However.failure to try the case within that time does not mean that the case should be withdrawn or dismissed.

Co-ordination with local NGO's should be encouraged to provide supportive activities functions and structures to supplement the work of the Government in this area.

There is need to look only at ways of enforcing the law against the offender but helping the victim overcome the trauma associated with defilement. These include stressing counseling for the victim and other victim's support services.

### 5.2.4 Developing financing schemes

Resources should be provided to address the constraints to successful conclusion of the cases. Human and material resources by government to the districts in order to enable cases of defilement to be handled quickly and efficiently. These include training of existing law enforcement officers within districts and increasing staffing and equipment in offices like probation and welfare.

### 5.2.5 Raising awareness to the public and children

There is need to raise awareness about children's rights generally as well as the laws of defilement especially among children. This will enable children become aware of their rights and defend themselves against such abuses as defilement.

There is need for sensitization about the special problems and needs of the girl child in order to help communities understand them and they in turn protect the girl child. they should be sensitized on the effects of defilement, rape, and other sexual offences with a view of changing people's attitudes towards victims and the victim's family. Information should be provided on existing structures, court procedures and institutions responsible for handling the offenders, victims and witnesses.

Further more, proper feasibility studies ought to be carried out by organizations and agencies intending to find solutions to sexual abuse of the girl child so as to identify the real needs of the beneficiaries. This should aim at finding ways of supporting victims in casers where the offenders are the sole providers so as to encourage her report the case.

There is also need for publicity through the media both (electronic and print) ,posters, plays and songs country wide because people are not very much aware that defilement or any other form of sexual abuse is a crime and punishable even where there was consent.

### 5.3 Suggestions for further research

This study was limited to establishing the magnitude of defilement and the contribution that print media has had in fighting it. It should be noted that defilement and other forms of sexual abuse have become topical issues especially with non governmental organizations dealing with children and also the government at large and have been found to be on the increase. Therefore, more information is required on this area.

The following are suggestions for further research:

1. The coping mechanisms of girl children who are victims of sexual abuses/defilement.
2. Reasons accounting for low reportage of defilement cases.
3. The viability of creating victim friendly courts.