

Risk Factors and Child Sexual Abuse among High School Pupils in Lusaka District, Zambia

by

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ABSTRACT

Child sexual abuse is a universal problem that affects both boys and girls. In Zambia, like many other African countries, there are certain conditions and circumstances that put children at risk of sexual abuse. However, these risk factors remain explored (Chiroro *et al.*, 2006). This study, therefore, was aimed at investigating risk factors and exploring child sexual abuse in Lusaka District. Specifically, it focused on identifying the forms of sexual abuse; examine the factors that put children at risk for sexual abuse; find out the grooming tactics used by sexual abusers; find out the disclosure rate for child sexual abuse cases; examine the abuser-victim relationships; and make recommendations for child sexual abuse prevention. Participants were 200 secondary school pupils (86 males and 114 females), who were randomly selected. Their ages ranged from sixteen to twenty-one years. Data was collected using a structured self-report questionnaire and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Data analysis was done using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

The results show an overall prevalence rate of child sexual abuse to be 43.5 per cent (n=87). Of the 87 victims, 41.1 per cent (n=36) were males and 58.6 per cent (n=51) were females. Among the forms of sexual abuse, sexual touch/arousal had the highest frequency (n=54, 62.1%). Most of the subjects (75.6%, n=19) did not disclose their sexual experiences, whereas only 24.4 per cent (n=19) did. Most abusers were found to be family members (n=39, 44%).

Six risk factors for sexual abuse were examined, and the most powerful one was parental absence (n=63, 73.3%); having punitive parents (n=57, 68.7%); alcohol intake by a parent or other guardian (n=30, 34.5%); poor parent-child relationship (n=20, 23.7%); parental conflict (n=19, 22.4%); and presence of a stepparent (n=13, 13.1%).

Furthermore, the results obtained from the FGDs show that the most frequently used trick for sexual abuse is the offer of money and/other gifts (n=21, 67.8%). Fifty-six (69%) of the victims lacked knowledge to know that the grooming they experienced would result into sexual abuse. The study tested two hypotheses:

- (a) alcohol intake by the parent or guardian is not a significant risk factor for child sexual abuse;
- (b) in Lusaka District, children and adolescents that are sexually abused have adequate knowledge of the grooming tactics used by abusers.

The results showed that:

- (a) there is a significant relationship ($p=0.004$) between child sexual abuse and parental or guardian intake of alcohol;
- (b) there is a significant relationship ($p=0.000$) between child sexual abuse and children's lack of knowledge of the grooming tactics used by sexual abusers.

Recommendations made include:

- (a) teacher training in the area of child sexual abuse;
- (b) encouragement of research culture among Zambian scholars in the area of child sexual abuse; and
- (c) active involvement of children, parents, teachers and the government in the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Background to the Study

Child sexual abuse is a global problem that affects all children, regardless of their socioeconomic, cultural, racial and religious background. In sub-Saharan Africa, literature from countries surrounding Zambia documents the existence of a child sexual abuse epidemic in the region (Chomba *et al.*, 2010). Prevalence studies rely on cross-sectional study design, most often surveying school children about their experiences of sexual abuse. These prevalence studies, however, cannot easily be quantified due to lack of adequate data (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, 2001).

Although studies on child sexual abuse are emerging, the process is slow and inconsistent. In sub-Saharan Africa, research into child sexual abuse is largely confined to the Republic of South Africa (Lalor, 2004). Two major reasons have been attributed to this. First, there is a widespread belief that it is a recent phenomenon which can be attributed to the harmful forces of modernity, foreign influences and rapid social change. Because of this, it is deemed un-African, unnatural and very rare. Secondly, it is because of the competing social problems affecting children such as war, disease, poverty and homelessness. Furthermore, the scarcity of research is due to lack of resources, the overshadowing of child protection by political and economic problems, and lack of research culture and research experience (Ibid).

In Zambia, the prevalence of child sexual abuse continues to be a problem due to issues such as HIV and AIDS, among others (World Health Organisation, 2002). While prenatal transmission accounts for the majority of new pediatric HIV infections, in Zambia where the HIV prevalence is high, sexual abuse remains an important risk factor in children in the post-weaning period (Chomba *et al.*, 2010).

Problem Statement

Although Zambia has been declared a Christian nation, and by inference accepting the Biblical prescription, dreadful events like child sexual abuse have found fertile ground (YWCA, 1999). In addition, although several attempts have been made by concerned bodies leading to stiffer punishment for such crimes in the courts, and despite moral condemnation of such practices, child sexual abuse seems to be on the rise (Ibid).

Child sexual abuse leaves the survivors with diverse psychological and physical effects. Psychological effects include traumatic sexualisation, stigmatisation, betrayal

and powerlessness. Other possible psychological effects are Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression and substance abuse problems. The physical effects include body damage, HIV and AIDS infection and contracting other sexually transmitted diseases (Vale, 1996). Child sexual abuse may even lead to death (Rose, 1986). Survivors of sexual abuse may also exhibit behavioral problems such as nightmares and difficulty in school (Cohen *et al.*, 2006). It would therefore be justifiable to argue that child sexual abuse affects its victims negatively.

Despite this, few studies have been done in Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa to investigate risk factors. Of the studies done, most of them are conducted in South Africa. However, results from some of their findings cannot be generalised because they are based on unrepresentative samples (Lalor, 2004). In addition, research findings show that there are certain conditions and circumstances that put children and adolescents at risk for sexual abuse. However, in Zambia, like in many other African countries, the risk factors that expose children to sexual abuse remain unexplored (Chiroro *et al.*, 2006).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Instruments for Data Collection

To collect data, questionnaires and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were used respectively. The questionnaire was anonymous and self-administered. It contained both closed and open-ended questions to which the participants responded based on the sexual experiences that they had before the age of sixteen years. The questionnaire was used to collect data on the demographic information, forms of sexual activities in which the victims were engaged, risk factors for sexual abuse and grooming tactics. Since sexual abuse is a sensitive area, it was felt that participants would be more comfortable to answer the questions in the questionnaire than talking about it due to problems such as victimisation and shame. The focus group discussion, on the other hand, was only used to collect data on the grooming tactics but in much detail.

An abbreviated and modified form of the Child Maltreatment Interview Schedule, (Bierre, 1993), questions from Benedict and Zautra (1993); the study by Chiroro *et al.* (2006), Finkelhor's (1979) Risk Factor Checklist used by Bergner *et al.* (1994), and Hopper (2009), were used to come up with the items that were included in the questionnaire and questions for the focus group discussion. Items adapted from Chiroro *et al.* (2006), were used to construct questions on the forms of sexual abuse; items from Bierre (1993) and Benedict and Zautra (1993), were used to come up with questions on the demographic information; and whereas Hopper (2009) and Finkelhor's Checklist was used to construct questions on the risk factors. Literature by Hopper (2009) was used to come up with questions on the grooming tactics and behaviors used by abusers for sexual abuse. Adaption of the items was achieved by picking out the items from the various instruments that were relevant to the study and incorporating them in the final instruments that were used to collect the data.

It should be stated that none of the instruments from which the items had been adapted have been used in the Zambian context before. With the exception of the

instrument used by Chiroro *et al.* (2006), which was used in Zimbabwe, the rest have only been used in Western countries. However, these instruments have been tested for validity and reliability. Chiroro *et al.*'s instrument, as assessed by computing Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient, was acceptable ($\alpha=.92$). In addition, with Benedict and Zautra's instrument, Cronbach's Alpha Internal Consistency reliability was found to be $\alpha=.82$. According to Briere (1993), there are no studies known regarding the overall reliability or validity of the Child Maltreatment Interview Schedule-Short Form. This is partly due to the fact that all the items in this instrument simply ask about potential maltreatment experiences, and are not summed to form scales. In addition, the author argues that the instrument can be used by various researchers in different ways according to their interests.

Despite the researcher doing everything possible to ensure that the study was carried out effectively, one major limitation was anticipated, which was that since the questionnaire was self-report, child sexual abuse could have been under-reported due to the participants' fear of being victimised and ashamed, despite being assured of confidentiality and anonymity.

Research Design

Both the quantitative and qualitative techniques, that is, questionnaires and a focus group discussion were used respectively. The focus group discussion was used in order to gather information that could not sufficiently be elicited from the questionnaires, that is, the grooming tactics that abusers in the Zambian context use.

Sampling

An anonymous sample of 200 pupils was recruited in the study. These were drawn from five high schools (two single sex schools and three co-sex high schools) in Lusaka District. Before recruiting the pupils in the study, the researcher visited the various schools that would participate in the study days before it was conducted. This was done in order to introduce herself to the school authorities and make a schedule for the study, seek for permission to conduct the study in their schools and provide them with prior information about the study, that is, the purpose, procedures and methods. Then on the scheduled dates and time, and with the help of the Guidance and Counseling teacher, the researcher visited the participating schools to collect data. Class registers were used as a technique for selecting the participants. Forty pupils from each school were selected for participation in the study, whether or not they were victims of child sexual abuse. Information on whether or not the participants were victims of child sexual abuse would be obtained from their responses given to the questions contained in the questionnaire.

However, despite the researcher making an effort to have an equal number of male and female participants in the study, more females than males were recruited. This was because in all the co-sex schools where the study was done, there were more female pupils in the class registers compared to the males. Of the total number of the participants that were recruited, 114 were females while eighty-six were males.

The choice of such a sample was on the basis of three main considerations. Firstly, it would facilitate the possibility of administering the questionnaire to a lot of participants at the same time, thus making data collection quicker and cheaper since the group of participants was localised. Secondly, since the wording of the questionnaire was in English, it was thought that the school would be a convenient place for conducting the study. This was done with the thought that most high school pupils know how to read and write, and would therefore have less difficulty responding to the items in the questionnaire. Thirdly, the chances of finding participants that were sixteen years and older in the school were higher than elsewhere and the memories of their childhood experiences are not very old.

Data Analysis

The results were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Using this tool, descriptive statistics namely frequencies and cross-tabs were used for the analysis. Frequencies were mainly used to show the percentages, while crosstabs were used to make comparisons between responses given by male and female participants. In addition, among the non-parametric tests, Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses. This was done for the purpose of finding out the degrees of freedom and the levels of significance which would help determine whether the results obtained were due to chance or some other factors.

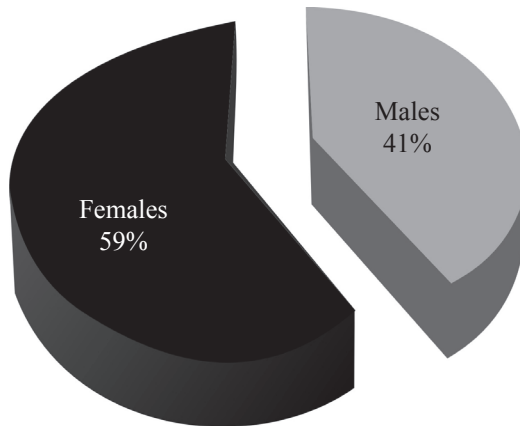
Results from all the three FGDs were analysed together and analysis involved two steps. *Step 1* involved the analysis of individual transcripts. During this process, information from the individual transcripts was recorded in the coded transcript for all the three FGDs. Code words were used to categorise the responses. For example, under 'Offer of Gifts' as a trick used to coax children and adolescents into sexual activities, the code word 'OG' was used. Therefore, all the responses given by the participants involving the offer of gifts was recorded under this code word. Several code words were used.

Step 2 involved the use of a log book. This simply entailed using a logbook to enter every response under each coded word. Tallies were used to separate the responses for each FGD. Ultimately, information from the logbook was used to analyse the data.

RESULTS

Response Rate

Of the 200 participants that were recruited in the study, eighty-seven reported having experienced child sexual abuse. Fifty-nine per cent (59%) were females, whereas 36 per cent (41%) were males. The results are therefore based on the eighty-seven participants who reported having experienced sexual abuse during their childhood.

Chart 1: Analysis of Child Sexual Experiences by Gender

Source: Field Data, 2012

The results in the figure above show that of the eighty-seven participants, there were more females ($n=51$), compared to the males ($n=36$) who experienced child sexual abuse. This represents 59 per cent for the females and 41 per cent for the males.

Table 1: Forms of Child Sexual Experience

Form of Sexual Abuse	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sexual Touch/Arousal	54	62.1
Attempted vaginal/penile intercourse	45	51.7
Victim forcibly kissed	39	45.9
Abuser exposing their genitals to the victim	31	36.5
Actual vaginal/penile intercourse	28	32.2
Abuser rubbing their genitals against the victim's body	23	27.4
Victim exposed to adults having sex	20	28.5
Abuser touching the victim's genitals with their mouth	13	15.1
Attempted anal intercourse	12	14
Abuser masturbating in front of the victim	12	14
Victim made to touch the abuser's genitals with their mouth	8	9.2
Actual anal intercourse	3	3.5

Source: Field Data, 2012

The table above shows the items to which the participants responded 'YES' to, if they experienced a form or forms of child sexual abuse, and 'NO', if they did not. The results show that among the forms of sexual abuse, sexual touch had the highest frequency. This was reported by fifty-four participants, accounting for 62.1 per cent. The lowest was actual anal intercourse, which was reported by three participants, and accounted for 3.5 per cent.

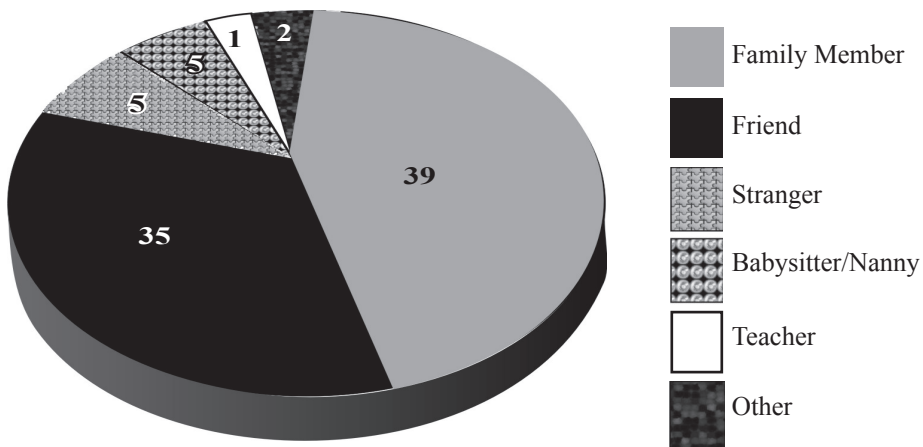
Table 2: Frequencies for Responses on the Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse Experiences by the Victims

	Response	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes		21.8	24.4	24.4
	No		67.8	75.6	100.0
	Total		89.7	100	
Missing	0		10.3		
Total		87	100.0		

Source: Field Data, 2012

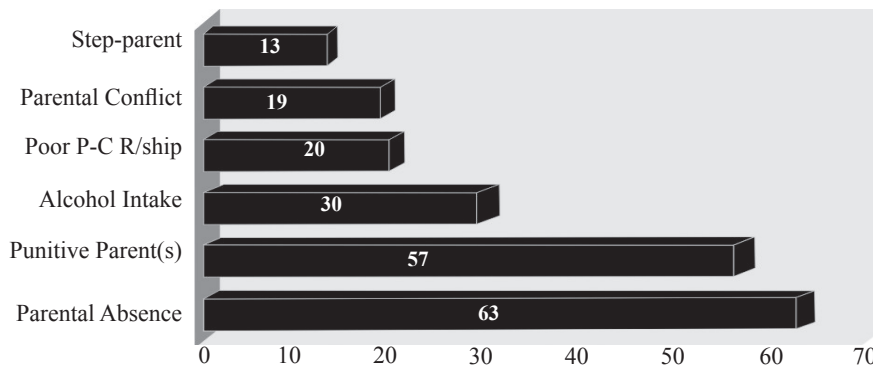
The table above shows that out of the total number of eighty-seven participants, seventy-eight responded to this question, whereas nine did not. Of the seventy-eight, nineteen per cent (24.4%) reported that they disclosed or reported their sexual experience; while a total of fifty-nine per cent (75.6%) did not.

Chart 2: Analysis of Abusers



Source: Field Data, 2012

The chart above shows that thirty-nine victims representing 44.8 per cent (44.8%) were abused by a family member; closely followed by friends (thirty-five, 40.2%). These could have either been family friends or friends to the victims. Five participants representing 5.7 per cent (5.7%) were abused by strangers. Only one participant representing 1 per cent (1.1%) was abused by a teacher; babysitters/nannies accounted for 5.7 per cent (5.7%) (n=5); while other abusers accounted for 2 per cent (2%) of the abusers.

Chart 3: Analysis of Abusers

Source: Field Data, 2012

Six risk factors for child sexual abuse were examined, namely the presence of a step-parent in the household; parental conflict; poor parent-child relationship; alcohol intake by a parent or guardian; having punitive parents; and parental absence. The bar chart above shows the responses given on each of the items. The number in each of the bars represents the number of participants who reported each of the items as being a factor that put them at risk for sexual abuse.

The results show that the most frequently reported risk factor for child sexual abuse was parental absence. This was reported by sixty-three participants representing 73.3 per cent (73.3%). This was followed by having punitive parents (n=57; 69%). Alcohol intake by a parent/guardian was a risk factor among thirty participants, which represents 34.5 per cent (34.5). Poor parent-child relationships were reported by twenty participants (26%). Next was parental conflict, which was reported by nineteen participants and represented 22.4 per cent (22.4%). The presence of a step-parent in a home as a risk factor for sexual abuse was reported by thirteen participants (n=13; 15.5%). In addition to this, the risk factor with the lowest frequency was physical disability which was reported only by six participants and represented 7 per cent (7%) of the total number of cases.

Table 3: Analysis of the Results on the Grooming Tactics and Behaviours used by Perpetrators before Sexually Abusing Children and Adolescents

	Grooming Behaviours/Tricks	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	showing love and care to the target	55	63.2
2	buying gifts and giving money to the target	12	13.8
3	exposing the target to pornographic materials	13	14.9
4	spending a lot of time with the target e.g., doing school work, taking walks	10	11.5
5	favouritism	6	7
6	playing sexual games with the target e.g. tickling, hugging, kissing	11	12.6

Source: Field Data, 2012

The table above outlines the statements to which the participants responded 'YES' or 'NO', when they were asked questions on the tactics that abusers use before they abuse their victims, the results reveal that showing the child love and care had the highest frequency (n=55), which represented 63.2 per cent (63.2%) of the total number of cases. This was followed by reading and watching pornographic materials with the child (n=13), representing 14.9 per cent (14.9%). Buying gifts and giving the child money was accounted for by twelve participants who represented 13.8 per cent (13.8%). Next came playing games with the child (n=11) which represented 12.6 per cent (12.6%). Spending a lot of time with the child, such as taking walks and doing school work was next with ten participants (n=10), representing 11.5 per cent (11.5%) of ten participants for the total number of cases cited. The least was the tactic grooming mentioned by six participants (n=6, 7%) by favouritism and complimenting the child.

Results from the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

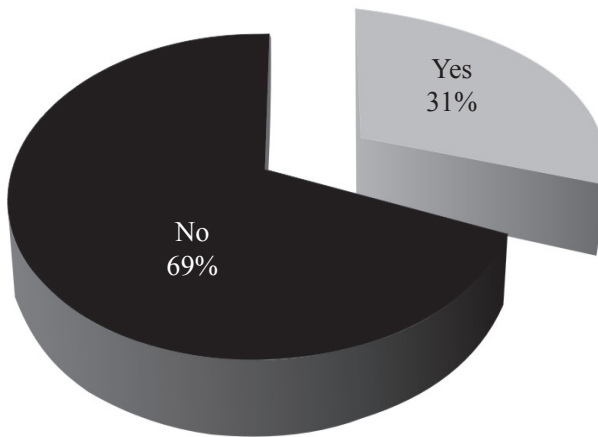
A total of three focus group discussions were conducted at three different schools, each comprising a total number of ten (6 males; 4 females) twelve (5 males; 7 females); and nine (3 males; 6 females) participants respectively. This means that the total number of pupils that participated was thirty-one. Of the thirty-one, seventeen (54.8%) were females, while the males were fourteen (45.2%). Their ages ranged from sixteen to twenty years old.

The main aim of conducting the focus group discussions was to find out what grooming tactics are used by sexual abusers to coax children and adolescents into the sexual relationship. The results obtained showed that the most frequently used tactic among the participants was the offer of gifts. This was reported by twenty-one (67.8%) of both the male and female participants. Furthermore, the results were also examined in terms of the participants' gender. The results showed that the most frequently reported tactic among the males was the exposure to pornography (n=7; 50%). Among the females, the offer of gifts such as money had the highest frequency and was reported by all the female participants (n=17; 100%).

Participants' Knowledge of the Grooming Tactics Used by Sexual Abusers

The participants were also asked a question on whether or not they were aware that the grooming behaviours that the perpetrators used would result into sexual abuse. The responses to this question are shown in the chart below.

Chart 2: Summary of the Responses on Participants' Awareness of the Abusers' Grooming Tactics



Source: Field Data, 2012

The results in the chart above show that twenty-six (31%) of the participants reported that they were aware that the behaviour exhibited by the abuser would result into sexual abuse. Fifty-eight participants (69%) said they did not know.

Hypotheses Testing

The study tested two hypotheses that: (a) alcohol in-take by the parent or guardian is not a significant risk factor for child sexual abuse; (b) in Lusaka District, children and adolescents that are sexually abused have adequate knowledge of the grooming tactics used by abusers. When these were tested using Chi-square, the results obtained were as follows:

Table 4: Chi-square Results for Hypotheses

	Did your parent(s)/guardians take alcohol or other drugs?	Did you know that this kind of behaviour exhibited would result into sexual abuse?
Chi-Square	8.379a	12.190b
df	1	1
asympt. Sig.	.004	.000

Source: Field Data, 2012

From the above table, the Chi-squared results show that:

1. There is a relationship between child sexual abuse and parental in-take of alcohol. In the results, the significance test is reported because the Significance level was found to be less than five ($n=30$) = 8.379, $p=0.004$. $P < 0.05$. This means that the results were significant at a significance level of $p= 0.004$, and therefore cannot be attributed to chance. This means that the hypothesis, that

alcohol in-take by a parent is not a significant risk factor has been rejected. An alternative hypothesis therefore has been provided, that alcohol in-take by a parent is a significant risk factor for child sexual abuse.

2. There is a relationship between child sexual abuse and inadequate knowledge of the grooming tactics used by perpetrators. In the results, the significance level was found to be $p = 0.000$, $p < 0.05$. This means that the results cannot be attributed to chance. Therefore, the hypothesis that in Lusaka District children and adolescents that are sexually abused have knowledge of the tactics used by the abusers was rejected. The alternative hypothesis that children that are sexually abused lack knowledge of the grooming tactics used by perpetrators was adopted.

DISCUSSION

The study found that most of the participants who were sexually abused were abused by their family members ($n=39$; 44.8%). This means that most of the cases were incestuous in nature. This finding is also documented by World Health Organisation (2002), who in their study found that the vast majority of child sexual abusers were usually people that a child knew and trusted. Family members are the abusers in most of the cases because they have adequate information about the victims (HRW, 2002; YWCA, 1999).

It was also found that most of the victims did not disclose their sexual experiences to anyone ($n=59$; 75.6%). This could be the case because children who are subjected to sexual abuse are often afraid to report due to shame and fear of stigmatisation of themselves and their families (Global Action for Children, 2005). Secondly, in most cases, abusers use direct threats of physical harm to children or their families (HRW, 2002) and YWCA, 1999) also found that the disclosure of sexual abuse cases either by the victims themselves or their families is a challenge in most of the time because most of the abusers are related to the children and may even be their parents or guardians.

Parental absence was found to be the most powerful risk factor for child sexual abuse ($n=63$; 73.3%). Specifically, maternal employment and illness of one or both parents are greatly associated with increased likelihood of having a sexual abuse experience. The explanation is that parental absence may lead to the creation of certain environments that are conducive for child sexual abuse. Children may also be at increased risk because of the absence of parental supervision needed to protect them from exploitative adults (Finkelhor & Baron, 1986). Parental absence also lead to decreased parental opportunities to meet children's emotional needs and children with poor emotional adjustment, a high need for attention and affection are more likely to respond to other attentives and available adults (Finkelhor & Baron, 1986; Gruber & Jones, 1983; Benedict & Zautra, 1993).

Physical discipline as a risk factor was reported by ($n=59$; 68.7%) of the participants. According to World Health Organisation (2002), children who are physically abused develop low self-esteem. Low self-esteem is one of the characteristics of children

and adolescents who are vulnerable to sexual abuse (Dam, 2000). Therefore, when a perpetrator notices a child with low self-esteem they take advantage and such children become targets for abuse.

Alcohol in-take by a parent or guardian increases the chances of being sexually abused (Ferguson, Lynsky & Horwood, 1996). The possible explanation is that children whose parents or guardians take alcohol and/or other drugs may lack supervision because their parents or guardians are usually not there to ensure that their welfare is taken care of. In addition, such parents or guardians may even themselves abuse their own children when they are under the influence of alcohol (Lehrer & Oyarzun, 2007). Despite this being true, other research findings such as the one by Finkelhor *et al.* (1997), show that there is no association between child sexual abuse and having a parent or guardian who takes alcohol. Despite variations in the findings, results collected in the study show that alcoholism in the family is a risk factor for child sexual abuse. Therefore, the hypothesis that alcohol in-take by a parent or guardian is not a significant risk factor for child sexual abuse was rejected. An alternative hypothesis that alcohol in-take by a parent or guardian is a significant risk factor for child sexual abuse was adopted.

A poor parent-child relationship as a risk factor for child sexual abuse was found in 23.7 per cent (23.7%) of the victims (n=20). Poor parent-child relationship had a similar score with parental conflict (n=19; 22.4%). The connection between the two risk factors is that, a child who witnesses parental conflict is likely to have impaired attachment with either one or both parents. This is consistent with the findings of Ferguson *et al.* (1996), who also found out that marital conflicts are a risk factor for child sexual abuse in their study.

The presence of a step-parent, especially a step-father, also seems to increase the risk for sexual abuse. In the study, (n=13) participants representing 13.1 per cent (13.1%), lived in a home where there was a step-parent. The explanation could be that a step-parent, especially a father, could he himself be an abuser. Madu and Peltzer (2000) also found out that step parenting was a risk factor for child sexual abuse.

Most of the participants, (n=56, 69%), reported that they were not aware that certain behaviours exhibited by their abusers would result into sexual abuse. This is because sexual abuse perpetrators assimilate themselves into a child's life and create a trusting relationship with the child and sometimes with the child's family. Therefore, due to the trusting relationship that is created, a child fails to recognise that the grooming tactics are a means to get to them. Furthermore, many abusers go out of their way to be charming, nice and helpful to the children so that they divert the attention of the child from their deeper motive. Sometimes, children's tender age also prevent them from being able to know that certain adult behaviours towards them may result into sexual abuse (Sanderson, 2004).

CONCLUSION

Child sexual abuse has been and continues to be a problem that exploits, degrades children and adolescents throughout the globe. It is not a problem that only affects girls; this research has shown that boys are also at risk.

It has been established that most of the sexual abuse offences are committed by people that are known and trusted by the child, that is, family members and friends to the child. In addition, the study has identified the conditions and circumstances that put children and adolescents at risk to sexual abuse. It has also investigated the forms of sexual abuse activities, as well as some of the tactics that abusers use to groom or lure children to sexual abuse. Unfortunately, most children are not aware that such behaviours can lead to sexual abuse. Therefore, since it is now known that child sexual abuse prevention is a collective and individual responsibility, it is important for schools, particularly teachers, parents and children to put in place mechanisms for effective prevention of child sexual abuse.

Furthermore, several ways of child sexual abuse prevention have been identified. These include education for children and their parents or guardians, the role of the teachers, and the general community. It has also been found out that policy makers can contribute significantly to the prevention of sexual abuse and therefore, it has been suggested that at policy level, child sexual abuse topics should be incorporated into the school curricula so that pupils are able to acquire sexual abuse information in the classroom setting just like they do with the other subjects. In order for this to be effective, there is need for teachers to be provided with adequate training in the area of child sexual abuse while at college so that they become knowledgeable thereby enabling them to impart child sexual abuse information and knowledge in their pupils. Furthermore, research culture in the area of child sexual abuse should be encouraged among the Zambian scholars.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings made in the study show that child sexual abuse is still a challenge in Zambia. The following recommendations are therefore made:

1. Child sexual abuse topics should be incorporated in the school curricula so that pupils are able to acquire sexual abuse information in the classroom setting, just like they do with the other subjects.
2. Teachers should be provided with adequate training in the area of child sexual abuse while at college so that they become knowledgeable of the problem, enable them to impart child sexual abuse information and knowledge in their pupils.
3. Research culture in the area of child sexual abuse should be encouraged among Zambian scholars.
4. Child sexual abuse prevention in Zambia should not be the sole responsibility of the child but requires the efforts of the teachers, parents, government and the general community in order for it to be effective.

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