

**NATURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN NG'OMBE COMPOUND  
OF LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**BY**

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**NATURE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN NG'OMBE COMPOUND OF LUSAKA,  
ZAMBIA**

**By**

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**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of the  
Degree of Master of Science in Counselling of the University of Zambia in Collaboration  
with Zimbabwe Open University**

**2017**

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## DECLARATION

I, **MAIMBOLWA SITUMBEKO MATALE**, do hereby solemnly declare that this dissertation represents my own hard work and dedication and do hereby state that it has not previously been submitted by anyone for a degree at this or any other institution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged. I further declare that the views and opinions contained in this report do not in any way represent those of the University of Zambia (IDE) in collaboration with Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU).

Signature.....

Date.....

## CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

This dissertation of **MAIMBOLWA SITUMBEKO MATALE** is approved as fulfilling the partial requirement for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Counselling at the University of Zambia.

Examiner: Signed.....Date .....

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## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to my husband for supporting me during the time of my studies, my children for the encouragement and belief that I was more than able to get a master's degree, my entire family for the words of encouragement and to the memory of my late mother and father, Mr and Mrs Siyauya Situmbeko for allowing me the opportunity to go to school when I was a child during which time most parents denied the girl child the chance to go to school. Above all, I want to thank my Father in heaven for His unfailing love and favour that lasts a lifetime.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The present study sought to establish perceptions of parents and pupils on the nature of child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka District in Zambia and use the findings to come up with measures to mitigate the vice..

A case study design was used and sample size of 41 (made up of 20 parents, 20 pupils and 1 VSU officer) was engaged and data was collected using qualitative method. An interview guide was used for the pupils and the VSU officer while a FGD guide was used with parents. The discussions were recorded using an audio recorder. Notes from the interview guide were read through, organised across strata to get the emerging themes. The recorded tapes were transcribed first, then cleaned and eventually organised thematically in line with the objectives.

The findings were that CSA was a real problem which affects mainly the girl child and usually took the form of penetrative sex. The perpetrators were said to be usually people known to the child or family and neighbours. Cases involving family members were rarely reported to the police as families chose to settle them at home. On the other hand, it was observed that some victims do not report the abuse to their parents for fear of being blame and accused of being responsible for the abuse. The other reason for not informing the parents was that the perpetrators usually threatened to kill the victim and her/his parents if ever she/he revealed the abuse.

On the question of what contributes to CSA in the area, the findings were that it was perpetuated by the belief that sex with a minor cures AIDS without infecting the minor and that sex with a minor made one's business to flourish. The other findings were that use of alcohol which impairs judgement put children at high risk of being abused. Lack of privacy for the girls whose families live in small houses was also seen as a cause as it tended to put the girls at risk, the dress code of minis and tight fits on the part of girls gave the impression

to the men that the girls were dressing in such a manner to attract them. Other factors were lust and lack of self-control on the part of men and poverty which caused parents to send their girl children to go and exchange sex for money at night. On the other hand it was said that some girls engaged in transactional sex in order to buy the latest fashion and other necessities. On the question of measures to reduce the vice, the suggestions were that the penalty for CSA must be made stiffer and the custodial sentences longer, that all cases must be reported to law enforcers and anyone that tries to settle the case outside the law should face prosecution. In addition, communities must be educated on the dangers of CSA on the victim and that CSA must be incorporated in the school curriculum from Grade 1 to 12.

Blaming the victim for the abuse is deepening the secrecy surrounding CSA. Abuse involving family members is traumatic to the victim who is supposed to be protected by the same people that are abusing him/her. The study recommended that there was need to discuss CSA in homes and communities in order to sensitise stakeholders and overcome negative and erroneous perceptions. CSA affects both the victim and his/her family, therefore, there is need to implement measures aimed at reducing the scourge.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome
AMREF	African Medical Research Foundation
ANNPPCAN	African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
NSPCC	National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children
HIV	Human immunodeficiency Virus
ISPCAN	International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect
NGO's	Non-Governmental Organisations
WHO	World Health Organisation
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
VSU	Victim Support Unit
Camfed	Campaign for Female Education
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
MRC	Medical Research Council

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Overview**

In this chapter, the researcher provides background information, objectives, research questions, significance of the study, limitations, delimitation, conceptual framework and ends with the definition of key terms of the study.

### **1.1 Background**

#### **1.1.1 Global Perspective**

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) has been in existence since time immemorial. It occurs in all societies as well as all social structures (Chomba, 2012). It has been a universal problem with grave life-long outcomes and significantly on the increase in all human societies (Mohanjeet, Parsekar and Nair, 2014).

A 2014 research done by International Business Times, United Kingdom, provided official statistics and reports on some of the countries with the highest rates of child sexual abuse. Amongst these countries were the United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), India, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The report revealed, for instance that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau Report on Child Maltreatment 2010 found that 16% of young people aged 14 to 17 years had been sexually victimized in that year, and over the course of their lifetime, 28 percent of the young people in the U.S. aged 14 to 17 years had been sexually victimised.

The study further revealed that in 2012 there were 18,915 sexual crimes against children under the age of 16 recorded in England and Wales according to the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC). Included in the figure were 4,171 offences of sexual assault on a female child under 13 years and 1,267 offences of sexual assault on under

13 male children. In the United Kingdom, the report stated that one in 20 children (4.8%) have experienced contact sexual abuse and over 90 percent of children who experienced sexual abuse were abused by someone they know (NSPCC).

A quarter of a million Britons – more than one in every 200 adults are paedophiles, according to figures released by Scotland Yard, the Telegraph reported in 2000. This is too big a number of offenders which puts a huge number of children at high risk of being sexually abused.

In its 2013 report, India's Hell Holes: Child Sexual Assault in Juvenile Justices Homes, the Asian Centre for Human Rights said that sexual offences against children in India had reached pandemic proportions. This report stated that more than 48,000 child rape cases were recorded from 2001 to 2011 and that India saw an increase of 336% of child rape cases from 2001 (2,113 cases) to 2011 (7,112 cases).

*“Child sexual abuse is rampant, indiscriminate and cuts across class, geography, culture and religion. It happens in cities and villages by fathers, brothers, relatives, neighbours, teachers, strangers.”* (Nishita Jha, and Revati Laul, Tehelka Blog).

According to a 2001 study by the Indian government of nearly 12,500 children from across India 53% of the children, boys and girls equally, were victims of sexual abuse.

### **1.1.2 African Perspective**

Africa is not spared from the vice of child sexual abuse and available statistics vary from country to country. One child is raped in South Africa every three minutes, according to a 2009 report by the Trade Union Solidarity Helping Hand. In addition to this, more than 67,000 cases of rape and sexual assault against children were reported in 2000, (Telegraph). Some of the victims were as young as six months old, a number of whom died from their injuries, while others contracted HIV. A 2009 survey by the country's Medical Research

Council ( MRC) found that one in four men admitted to raping someone, 62% of boys over 11years believed forcing someone to have sex was not an act of violence and a third believed that girls enjoyed rape, The Independent reported. Many people in South Africa believe that sex with a virgin can heal someone of HIV/AIDS. ‘The idea that having sex with a virgin cleanses you of AIDS does exist and there have been reported cases of this as the motivating factor for child rape. But evidence suggest that this is infrequently the case,’ Dr Rachel Jewkes, Director of MRC’s Gender and Health Research Group told Humanitarian News and Analysis Service in 2002.

In Zimbabwe Police Spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner, Charity Charamba said in 2012 that rape cases against children continued to increase country wide (News De Zimbabwe). In 2011, there were 3,172 rape cases of juveniles recorded countrywide, an increase from 2010 when 2,883 cases were reported. ‘Evidence from our investigations is the fact that relatives commit most juvenile rape cases,’ said Charamba.

A clinic in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe said it had treated nearly 30,000 girls and boys who had been abused in the previous four years (Guardian, 2009).

Studies indicate that around the world, 20 percent of girls and 5 to 10 percent of boys experience sexual abuse. *‘There are substantial consequences not only for the affected persons but also for society as a whole and these can no longer be ignored’* (ISPCAN Report, June 2013). The prevalence of child sexual abuse is difficult to determine because it is often not reported. Experts agree that the incidence is far greater than is reported to authorities (National Centre for Victims of Crime)

The XIXth International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect of September, 2012 (ISPCAN) noted that there is a lot of data from certain countries on child sexual abuse, mainly the high income countries but much less from others. It was pointed out that for many countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, there is simply no good data on child maltreatment. Hence there is need for more epidemiological data from such countries.

### **1.1.3 Zambian Perspective**

It has been difficult to quantify the magnitude of child sexual abuse globally including Zambia as most cases go unreported due to the sensitive nature of the matter. In Zambia, epidemiological data for the prevalence of child sexual abuse is not available (Chomba et al, 2012). However, the One-Stop Centre at the University Teaching Hospital and the Police Victim Support Unit do provide some information on child sexual abuse. For instance, in an interview, the Police Victim Support Unit National Coordinator, Mr Tresford Kasale said the Unit recorded 692 cases of defilement in the first quarter of 2015 out of which 661 cases were involved girls and 31 cases of boys, most of which were recorded in Lusaka Province.

During the same period, Copperbelt Province recorded 83 cases, Central recorded 64, Southern 53, Eastern 48, Muchinga 25, Northern 8, Luapula 12 and 7 cases were recorded in North Western Province (Zambia Daily Mail, 2015). In 2014 VSU recorded 541 cases of child defilement in the same period. According to statistics from VSU, 2,759 cases of defilement were recorded in 2015, 2,752 involving girls and 7 cases of boys. These statistics indicate that child sexual abuse is a real problem in Zambia and Lusaka in particular. Hence, there is need to carry out a survey on the perceptions held by parents and pupils on the nature of child sexual abuse in selected parts of Lusaka, Zambia.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is a universal problem with grave life-long outcomes (Mohanjeet Singh, Parsekar and Nair, 2014). Here in Zambia, reported cases of child sexual abuse have continued to rise in various parts of the country. The Zambia Daily Mail of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015, for example, reported that incidences of defilement had continued to rise with the Child Sexual Abuse One-Stop Centre at the University Teaching Hospital recording 146 cases in September, 2015 compared to 108 cases recorded the previous year in September. The year 2014 recorded a total of 1,244 cases of defilement (Zambia Daily Mail, 2015). This figure was supported by the Police Victim Support Unit Report of January 2016 which put 1,529 cases in Northern, Copperbelt and Eastern Provinces of Zambia put together.

Child sexual abuse may be the worst form of child abuse and possibly leaving the deepest scars on the victim (Stairway Foundation, 2017). It is a public health problem which requires medical as well as social intervention (Chomba, 2011). Little, is, however, known on the perception of the nature of child sexual abuse in the selected township in Lusaka, Zambia. The present study is, therefore, an attempt to establish the perceptions on the nature of child abuse in the selected townships in Lusaka, Zambia.

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to establish perceptions of parents and pupils on the nature of child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka that might have characterized in Zambia and to use the information to come up with measures to mitigate the vice.

## **1.4 Study Objectives**

- i. To establish perceptions held by parents and pupils on the nature of child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka.
- ii. To explore factors that contributed to child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka.

- iii. To identify measures to lower child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka.

### **1.5 Study Questions**

- i. What is the perception held by parents and pupils of the nature of child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka?
- ii. What are the perceived contributors to child sexual abuse in the selected area of Lusaka?
- iii. What measures should be taken to reduce cases of child sexual abuse in the selected area of Lusaka?

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

It is hoped that the findings would give a clear picture of the community's perceptions of the nature of child sexual abuse which in turn could be used by government and NGO's to work out measures to reduce cases of child sexual abuse. It is also believed that information generated would be of value to parents, hospital personnel, child counsellors, guidance teachers, policy makers, Zambia Police Victim Support Unit and the Government in general in their efforts to educate children on child sexual abuse. Furthermore, it is hoped that specific Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) involved in girl-child education and health would find the information helpful in their operations.

### **1.7 Delimitation**

This study was confined to one high density areas of Lusaka. This areas has been selected because it is within Lusaka where there has been increasing reports of child sexual abuse (Zambia Daily Mail, May 27 2001).Parents and pupils were the main participants in the present study.

## **1.8 Limitation**

The study results might not be generalized due to a small sample size and limited coverage area of the study. Additionally, in this qualitative study, the findings could be subjected to other interpretations, hence difficult to generalise.

## **1.9 Theoretical Framework**

This study was guided by Finkelhor's (1984) four precondition model of child sexual abuse. The theory states that there are four preconditions that need to be present for sexual abuse to occur.

- i. An offender needs to have some motivation to abuse a child sexually. This is usually a combination of having some particular emotional need that the child fulfils (Labelled Emotional Congnierce) acquiring the ability to be sexually aroused to that child, and the blockage of their ability to get their sexual needs met in more conventional ways, with peers or without the use of force.
- ii. The potential offender has to overcome internal inhibitions against committing sexual abuse, i.e. their moral scruples or fears of getting caught; alcohol and rationalizations that minimize the seriousness of the actions, also play a role here in undermining inhibitions.
- iii. The potential offender has to overcome external inhibitors against gaining access to the child and completing acts of sexual abuse: these include the supervision and protection of the child by other adults.
- iv. The potential offender has to overcome the resistance of the child, that is, the child's suspicion or discomfort with the activity or their attempt to escape. Many of the risk factors such as quantity and quality of adult supervision that the children receive and conditions which can create emotional deprivation for the children, work to undermine these external inhibitors and the ability for the child to resist.

The theoretical framework selected was seen to be more relevant to guide this kind of study.

### **1.10 Definition of Terms**

**Child** –The Anti- Gender Based Violence Act of 2011 defines a child as person aged 16 years and below i.e. 0 to 16 years (Article 1 of 2011).

**Child Sexual Abuse** – Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is:

*‘the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society’* (WHO, 1999: 6)

**Perception** – An idea, a belief or an image one has as a result of how one sees or understands something (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.). In other words perception means the way something is regarded, understood or interpreted.

### **1.11 Summary**

Child sexual abuse is a problem that affects all societies. It has grave life-long consequences and the problem seems to be increasing across the globe and Zambia is no exception. This study aimed at exploring Ng’ombe community perceptions on the nature of child sexual abuse and use these to come up with measures to mitigate the vice. The study was guided by Finkelhor’s Four Precondition Model of child sexual abuse.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Overview**

This chapter reviewed relevant literature on Child sexual Abuse. It included literature on the global picture, Europe, East Africa, South Africa and Zambia.

Child sexual abuse is evidenced by an activity between a child and an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person (WHO, 1999).

According to Chomba (2012) sexual act with a child can be divided into penetrative and non-penetrative sex and this may include but not limited to the following:

- The actual or attempted penetrative sexual intercourse or oral sex with a child.
- Non-penetrative sexual activity such as rubbing the penis between the child's thighs and genitals.
- Fondling of a child's sexual parts like genitals, breasts, buttocks etc.
- Masturbation between child and adult.
- A person displaying or exposing his or her genitals to a child (exhibitionism).
- The exploitative use of a child in prostitution or any other unlawful sexual practice.
- Exploitative use of children in pornographic performances and materials (WHO 1999).
- Forced early marriage.
- Peeping on a child when he/she is bathing or undressed for the purpose of sexual gratification.
- The inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity.
- Anal sexual intercourse with a child (sodomy).

Sexual violence against children is a gross violation of children's rights. Yet is a global reality across all countries and social groups. It can take the form of sexual abuse, harassment, rape or sexual exploitation in prostitution and pornography. It can happen in homes, institutions, schools, in travel and tourism facilities and within communities (UNICEF).

## **2.1 Prevalence and Nature of Child Sexual Abuse Worldwide**

In 2002, the World Health Organisation estimated that at least 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 years experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual violence involving physical contact at global level (WHO, 2004).

The 2014 UNICEF study, *Hidden in Plain Sight*, estimated that around 120 million girls under the age of 20 years (about 1 in 10) have been subjected to forced sexual acts at some point in their lives. Boys also report some experiences of sexual violence, but they do so to a lesser extent than girls.

The true magnitude of sexual violence against boys is unknown. Accurate data concerning child sexual abuse is difficult to collect due to the differing legal definitions of abuse and issues of underreporting. It is estimated that less than 50 percent of all assaults on children are reported to the police (Florin, MaryLee, and Broyles, 2012).

## **2.2 European Perspective**

In a study, *Overview of the Nature and Extent of Child Sexual Abuse in Europe*, Lalor and McElvaney (2010), state that sexual abuse and exploitation occurs in all Council of Europe member countries. They highlight selected studies indicating the range and nature of child sexual abuse in Europe. For instance, Finkelhor (1994) states that epidemiological studies in

19 countries produced findings similar to North America research (including rates ranging from 7 percent to 36 percent for women and 3 percent to 29 percent for men).

Lalor and McElvaney (2010) also cited Lampe (2002) who reviewed 24 European studies conducted in Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, France, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Spain found overall prevalence rates of 6 percent to 36 percent in girls and 1 percent to 15 percent in boys under the age 16 years. May – Chahal and Herczog (2003) cited in Lalor and McElvaney (2010) examined a number of European prevalence studies and reported rates of 0.9 percent for females and 0.6 percent for males. When broader definitions of child sexual abuse were used the rates were 50 percent for females and 25 percent for males.

Pereda et al (2009) cited in Lalor and McElvaney (2010) conducted a meta-analysis of 65 child sexual prevalence studies in 22 countries. The analysis showed that 7.9 percent of men and 19.7 percent of women had suffered some form of sexual abuse prior to the age 18 years. Overall the highest prevalence rates of child sexual abuse (34.4%) were reported in Africa (Morocco, Tanzania and South Africa). Europe showed the lowest prevalence rates (9.2%). America, Asia and Oceania had prevalence rates between 10.1 percent and 23.9 percent. The authors pointed out that these were much generalised conclusions based on studies with varying methodologies and sample sizes. They made the following comments about child sexual abuse in Europe; the majority of cases are not known about by official agencies in European countries; differing definitions and methodologies make it difficult to draw conclusions; reliable figures on trafficking are difficult to obtain and exploitation of minors through prostitution is widespread although accurate data on its nature and extent is not available. It can be seen from the given comments that the study focused on the prevalence of child sexual abuse in certain European countries whose extent was difficult to estimate

accurately due to the reasons given above. The study did not in any way attempt to establish perceptions on the nature of child sexual abuse nor did it examine factors that could contribute to child sexual abuse, making the present study necessary.

### **2.3 Tanzanian Perspective**

Lalor.(2004) examined child sexual abuse in Tanzania and Kenya. He posits that a range of research initiatives have examined child sexual abuse in the region. However, such research generally does not appear in peer-reviewed literature. He points out that few studies have directly examined the sexual abuse of children in Tanzania. Information is typically anecdotal, attitudinal, based on sample groups and has little external validation outside selected groups such as street children or juvenile prostitutes. However, some studies do offer insight into the nature and incidence of child sexual abuse.

Dungy and Mhagama (2000) cited in Lalor. (2004) interviewed children in selected villages and community leaders (police, health personnel, village leaders, and parents and guardians) regarding child sexual abuse. In addition community fora were held in a number of villages, involving between 30 and 50 villages to give feedback and receive further information on abuse. The general discussion among villagers indicated that child sexual abuse by fathers or other close male relatives does occur and is generally dealt with within the family. The authors conclude that from the discussion it was clear that child sexual abuse was on the increase especially with little boys and girls who were lured by people with money including businessmen and truck drivers.

Lalor. (2004) points out that perhaps the most extensive study of children in Tanzania in recent times was the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report on Children in Need

of Special Protection Measures (UNICEF 1999). The researchers, however, elected not to examine the issue of child sexual abuse. Nonetheless they do note the dearth of data in this area and the methodological difficulties in researching child sexual abuse. A retrospective study of 102 alleged rape cases between June 1993 and January 1996, carried out by doctors from Muhimbiri Medical Centre in Dar es Salaam was noted in the UNICEF report. It was found that 21 percent were children below 4 years of age and over half the cases were children aged between 4 and 14 years. In 61 percent of the cases, the rapist was either a relative or a person well known to the child such as a co-tenant or neighbour. Police statistics referring to the period 1991 to 1995 show 756 cases of defilement and sodomy on children aged 14 years and under, with a steady rise in reported cases (UNICEF, 1999).

### **2.3.1 Factors that Contribute to Child Sexual Abuse**

Lalor (2004) stated that a feature of the debate on child sexual abuse in Tanzania is the consensus that this is a novel phenomenon caused by perpetrators' efforts to cure themselves of HIV/AIDS, the breakdown of the community child care system, the influence of 'foreign culture,' widespread poverty and the powerless position of girls and women in society. The author points out that these explanations are common throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Lalor. (2004) concluded that that much as child sexual abuse is receiving attention in Tanzania, there is, however, no empirical database. In the absence of a comprehensive database certain explanations are difficult to refute or support.

## **2.4 Kenyan Perspective**

In relation to Tanzania, more research has been done in Kenya. However it is still the case that most of the research relating to child sexual abuse in Kenya is in the form of unpublished reports (Lalor, 2004). He, however, examined the studies below.

The African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN, 2000) surveyed 501 children in both rural and urban areas, regarding child abuse and children's rights. A total of 7.5 percent of children were reported as having been 'sexually abused'. However, there is no further discussion on children's actual experiences to establish motives behind the act. Sexual abuse is not defined, nor is there any account of the perpetrators or the children's ages when abused.

Lalor, (2004) cites another study, the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF, 1993) which surveyed over 10 000 adolescent females regarding health and sexuality. While the majority (66%) had not had sexual intercourse, the mean age at first coitus among those who had had sexual intercourse was 14.8 years. 6 percent (of those who had had intercourse) had their first coitus below the age of 10 (204 of the 10 000 girls surveyed). Given their young age it is possible that this group may have been coerced/forced into the first coitus. Unfortunately, no further information is reported on this sub-sample to explain the behaviour of adults towards the children. The author concludes that none of these studies examined child sexual abuse specifically. Where data do exist it is primarily quantitative. Few qualitative, descriptive analyses of the nature and occurrence of child sexual abuse in Kenya have been conducted.

## **2.5 South African Perspective**

In South Africa, the Optimus Study Foundation funded a study which was carried out by University of Cape Town and the Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention in 2015. The study was designed to estimate the annual incidence and lifetime prevalence of child sexual abuse and maltreatment in South Africa and was conducted with a sample of 15 – 17 year old adolescents recruited nationally from school (4 086 participants) as well as households (5 631 participants). The report was released in June 2016. Prior to this study, no nationally representative data on the extent and impact of child sexual abuse existed. The study provides data on the extent and impact of CSA and other forms of maltreatment in South Africa and the findings show that CSA is more wide spread than previously estimated. The study also covered the nature of child sexual abuse and some factors that contribute to CSA in South Africa. The aim of the study was to reduce the number of victims of sexual violence by first establishing the extent of various forms of sexual abuse and their specific circumstances along with risk factors. On this basis, child protection efforts could then be improved. The present study was also aimed at lowering the rate of child sexual abuse in the study area in Lusaka District of Zambia after establishing perceptions on the nature of CSA and factors that could be contributing to child sexual abuse.

The South African study results have revealed that of the young people interviewed in schools, 35.4 percent – one in every three young people had experienced some form of sexual abuse at some point in their lives. Figures from the household portion of the survey are slightly lower, but confirm that the rates are high; in household, 26.3 percent - more than a quarter of young people interviewed reported having experienced some form of sexual abuse. The researchers aver that since rates of reporting in the school portion of the study are generally higher, indicating that disclosure of these very difficult experiences may have been

easier in that context, they base their estimates on that sample. This means that a total of at least 784 967 young people in South Africa have been victims of sexual abuse by the age 17 years. A total of 351 214 cases of sexual abuse had occurred among 15 -17 year olds in 2015 alone.

The researchers point out that the difference between males' and females' reported rates of abuse were not as stark in this South African study as they had been in other studies. In the school survey boys (36.8%) were found to be slightly more likely than girls (33.9%) to report some form of abuse. Previous research has almost unfailingly underscored the particular vulnerability of young girls to sexual abuse. The findings from this study from this national prevalence study indicate that boys and girls are equally vulnerable to some form of sexual abuse over the course of their lifetime, although those forms tend to be different for boys and for girls.

The study revealed that the mean age at which girls' first experienced sexual abuse was 14, while boys typically reported their first experience to be at the age of 15. The study also revealed that one in ten (11.3%) young people had experienced unwanted sexual by a known or unknown adult in their lifetime, based on reporting rates from the school survey. Based on reporting rates from the school survey, 9.4 percent of young people had been made to do sexual things against their will by another child or teen. 11.7 percent had experienced someone trying to force them to have sex; 12.9 percent had experienced exposure abuse; and 15.7 percent had had a sexual experience with someone 18 or older (some of which had been consensual). The researchers concluded that the findings illustrate that while sexual abuse is slightly more likely to occur once in a young person's lifetime, in 40 percent of those cases, it occurs two or more times.

### **2.5.1 Factors that Contribute to Child Sexual Abuse**

A 2009 survey by the country's Medical Research Council found that one in four men admits to raping someone, 62% of boys over the age of 11 believe forcing someone to have sex is not an act of violence and a third believe girls enjoy rape, the Independent reported.

Many people in South Africa believe that sex with a virgin can heal someone of HIV/AIDS.

*'The idea that having sex with a virgin cleanses you of AIDS does exist and there have been reported cases of this as a motivating factor for child rape. But evidence suggests that this is infrequently the case,'* Dr Rachel Jewkes, director of Medical Research Council's Gender and Health Research Group told Humanitarian news and analysis service in 2002.

### **2.6 Zambian Perspective**

In Zambia, child sexual abuse is a real problem as shown by the number of cases reported to Police Victim Support Unit and the UNICEF supported One-Stop Centre at the University teaching whose figures of reported cases of child sexual abuse keep rising. Liberty and humanity.com reported on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015 that the figures of child sexual abuse reported to the University Teaching Hospital One-Stop Centre were as follows. According to Dr Lalick Banda, the Centre treated 116 cases in August, 146 cases in September and 162 in October, 2015. A number of studies have been carried out on child abuse. For instance, in a Camfed study on the Extent of Child Abuse in Zambian Schools (2011), the survey identified the types of abuse in Zambian schools as child labour, corporal punishment and sexual abuse.

#### **2.6.1 Factors that Contribute to Child Sexual Abuse**

The study showed that power, patriarchy and economics drive sexual abuse in schools communities and family. Reports from high schools in particular indicate that teachers

sometimes entice girls to have sex with them for better grades and small sums of money to purchase soap and other essentials.

The two Zambian studies cited above provide some information on the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Zambia. However no recent study has focused specifically on community perceptions on child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka. Hence there is need to carry out a survey on perceptions on the nature of child of and contributors to sexual abuse in this high density area of Lusaka.

## **2.7 Summary**

The literature from across the globe indicates that child sexual abuse is a real problem and statistics of the prevalence keep rising. Most of these studies have focused on the prevalence of the vice. Consequently there is need to focus on the perceptions of society on child sexual abuse and what contributes to it in order to come up with mitigating measures as this problem calls for both medical and social intervention.

## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Overview**

This chapter will cover aspects of the methodology which include research design, population, sample size, sampling technique, research instruments, data collection, processing and analysis.

### **3.1 Research Design**

A case study design was used in this study because the phenomenon under investigation is a real life situation and the researcher wanted to explore the underlying causes of the problem.

In addition to this, the sample size also fits into case study design.

The qualitative method was used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons, opinions and motivations of child sexual abuse. The method provided insight into the problem.

### **3.2 Study Population**

The target population were parents, pupils and a Police Victim support Unit Officer resident in Ng'ombe Compound in Lusaka District of Zambia. Pupils were included because they are part of the young population that are victims of child sexual abuse. Parents are affected when their child is sexually abused. These two groups are directly and indirectly affected by child sexual abuse respectively. A Police Victim Support Unit Officer was included in the study population because the Police are the first stop where CSA cases are reported and their view are cardinal in the establishing the existence of the problem of child sexual abuse in the community.

### **3.3 Sample Size**

The sample consisted of 41 respondents broken down into 20 parents, 20 pupils, and 1 Victim Support Unit Officer. They were all drawn from the study site. A small sample size was chosen because of the secretive nature of the phenomenon under investigation which many people were not willing to discuss. The other reason was limited time available for the research to be carried out.

### **3.4 Sampling Technique**

Purposive sampling was used in this study to select the victim support unit officer. However snowball was used to select parents because of the nature of the sensitive nature of the phenomenon under investigation. Therefore it was more appropriate to use the few participants approached to bring along other participants. Haphazard or convenient sampling was used to select the pupils because it was during end of term and the pupils available to the researcher were those who were not writing examinations. These sampling techniques were seen to be more relevant to the study.

### **3.5 Research Instruments**

In collecting data for this research, the researcher used Interview Schedule Guide for the pupils and the victim support unit officer and Focus Group Discussion Guides with the parents. These were seen to be more relevant to the theme of the study.

### **3.6 Data Collection Procedure**

To obtain data from the pupils, the researcher first went to the school which is a parent-teacher association school and obtained permission from the school management. The researcher explained to each of the pupils the nature of the study and what it was all about and

informed them that they were at liberty to opt in or out. Those that were not willing were allowed to leave. Confidentiality was assured and no pupil gave personal details except the age. The interviews were carried out in a classroom that provided some privacy. Interview guides were used to obtain information from the pupils and the VSO officer, while Focus Group Discussion Guide was used to obtain information from parents.

To obtain data from the parents, both male and female, few were approached to participate in the study and these were asked to bring in other parents who were willing to take part in the discussions. An appointment was made to meet on a particular date and at a particular time. The researcher first explained the nature of the study and asked them to feel free to leave or to participate. Permission was also sought to record the discussion. To maintain anonymity, the participants were not asked to for personal details except their age range.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

In this study, the data from the interview guide and focus group discussion was analysed using thematic analysis and grouping the merging themes in line with the study objectives. These were then used descriptively in the presentation of the findings.

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

In this study, the research took time to explain the nature of the study and that it was a research for academic purposes to which they had the right to decline participation. All the participants did so voluntarily and knowingly. They were also assured of anonymity, confidentiality and privacy which were all observed by the researcher. The researcher ensured that the participants could not be linked with personal responses. Prior to this, the researcher obtained permission from the School administration to carry out the interviews with the pupils in the school.

### **3.9 Summary**

A Case Study design which is a qualitative method was used to suit the sample size of 41 and the nature of the phenomenon being investigated. The sampling technique, snowball, was used to select the parents while haphazard (convenience) sampling fitted in since the researcher was given the pupil who were available at the time. An interview guide was used with the pupils while a Focus Group Discussion Guide was used for the parents. Thematic analysis of the data was done in line with the objectives. Findings were presented descriptively.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS**

### **4.0 Overview**

This chapter presents the research findings obtained using the methodology explained in the previous chapter. The participants were made up of parents, pupils from Ng'ombe School and one police officer from Ng'ombe Police Station, under the Victim Support Unit (VSU). The researcher used Focus Group discussion to obtain the views of the parents on child sexual abuse while an interview schedule was used to get the view of the pupils and those of VSU Officer. A voice recorder was used to record the focus group discussions. The researcher wrote down the pupils' answers to the interview questions. The findings have been presented according to the three research questions which are the reflection of the three objectives that guided the research. The three research questions were:

1. What are the perceptions held by parents and pupils on the nature of child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka?
2. What are the perceived contributors to child sexual abuse in the selected area of Lusaka?
3. What measures should be taken to reduce cases of child sexual abuse in the selected area of Lusaka?

The chapter is divided into three subheadings which are the three research questions and under each subheading are given two sub-sections, one reflecting the views of the parents and the other, those of the pupils. The chapter ends with a chapter summary.

## **4.1 Question 1 – What are the Perceptions Held by Parents and Pupils on the Nature of Child Sexual Abuse in Ng’ombe Compound of Lusaka?**

### **4.1.1 Views of Parents**

The existence of child sexual abuse in the compound was acknowledged by both male and female parent participants. Below is what was said about child sexual abuse in their area. One woman said the following in Nyanja:

*‘Problem iyi yo gona ana ang’ono ima chitika kambiri.’*

This statement translates to mean that *‘child sexual abuse happens a lot in the community’*. The parents stated that child sexual abuse is something that happens on a daily basis. They also pointed out that child sexual abuse affects both girls and boys though the majority of the cases involved the girl child. Few female parents were not aware that child sexual abuse does affect boys as well and thought it was a problem for the girl child only. The parents said while some cases are reported to the police, others are not, especially if they involve a perpetrator who is a family member, the breadwinner or someone who is able to pay money to the victim’s parents or guardians in exchange for being reported to the police.

In answer to the question, ‘What is the nature of child sexual abuse?’ there was a general belief that child sexual abuse involve an adult engaging in sex with a child between 0 to 19 years. The female parents said it mainly involved penetrative sex though sometimes it involved a male adult asking a girl child to fondle their genitals or the male adult fondling the female child’s genitals. The male parents stated that child sexual abuse mainly took the form of penetrative vaginal sex and anal sex in the case of sodomy. The men further stated that child sexual abuse also happened in the form of fondling the girl child, kissing, touching sexual sensitive parts such as breasts, embracing a girl child against her will and engaging a child in sexualised talk. One female parent described child sexual abuse as,

*'ku gona mwana ya mukakamizo'*

This translates to mean that *'the child is forced into sexual intercourse against their will and that the child is not a willing participant in the sexual act'*. Parent –participants further said that child sexual abuse happened more in the home/family than outside the home/family where the perpetrators are the fathers, uncles, brothers, cousins and the people tasked to help around the home. One parent pointed out that girl children were always abused by men and never by women while the boys were abused by men and women. However, the majority of the parents said that women rarely abused boys who were family members but could be abusive to those who were not family members.

#### **4.1.2 Views of Pupils**

On the whole, the finding on the pupils' views on the nature of child sexual abuse were that child sexual abuse does occur sometimes but not all the time. A small number of pupils said it rarely happened and none denied its existence. The pupils pointed out that child sexual abuse affected both the girl and boy child though the majority of the cases involved the girl child. Few pupils, however, were not aware that it did affect boys as well. They said that they thought it was a problem for the girl child only. The pupil-participants reported that some cases were reported to the police while others were not for various reasons. The pupils said that child sexual abuse took the form of penetrative sex which was sometimes followed by killing the child. They also said it sometimes involved intimate kissing. All the pupil-participants pointed out that this was done against the child's will, meaning that the child was forced or coerced into the sexual act by an adult person. Pupils also said that child sexual abuse was mainly carried out by someone known to the child although the act was sometimes carried out by a stranger who found a child in a lonely and isolated place within the environment where the child lived. Furthermore, some pupil-participants said that some

abused girls did not report the incidents to their parents for fear of being blamed and/or beaten by their mothers who accused them of being responsible for what had happened to them while others kept quiet because the abuser had threatened to kill them and their parents if they revealed the abuse to anyone. On the whole, both parents and pupil-participants acknowledged the existence of child sexual abuse and that it often took many forms.

#### **4.1.3 Views of VSU Officer**

The VSU officer defined child sexual abuse as having sex with a child with or without the child's consent because *'what matters is the age of the child, 16 years and below'*. The officer pointed out that CSA affected both boys and girls and that perpetrators were both males and females.

### **4.2 Question 2 – What are the Perceived Contributors to Child Sexual Abuse in the**

#### **Selected Area of Lusaka?**

##### **4.2.1 Views of Parents**

The respondents were asked on possible factors leading to child sexual abuse. Their responses were that a number of factors could be contributing to child sexual abuse. Both male and female parents stated that the sexual abuse of children was partly a result of two myths; the first one being that sex with a virgin can cure the defiler of AIDS. The second myth is that if one engages in sexual intercourse with a child then their business will prosper and more and more customers will be attracted to the business. One woman said in Nyanja,

*'Chimene chi lengesa problem iyi ni Ng'anga zi mene zi uza antu kuti, uka gona na mwana mung'ono HIV izasila . Mwana sizatenga HIV koma hiv yanu izasila.'*

This translates to mean that *'if one who is HIV positive has sex with a minor, the infected adult will be healed of AIDS but the minor will not contract the virus'*.

The parent-participants also said that the other factor that contributed to child sexual abuse included lack of privacy for the girl child in particular because of the small size of the houses in which the families lived. In such homes, the only dividing line between the girl's 'bedroom' and that of the boys was a curtain which made it possible for the girls to become vulnerable. It was also pointed out that the use and abuse of drugs such as alcohol, marijuana and sex boosters led to irrational thinking and uncontrolled sexual feelings which resulted in forcing the nearest girl around into sexual intercourse. Some parents (both male and female), in addition, stated that certain types of dress such as short and tight skirts and dresses, put adolescent girls at risk of being sexually abuse as some men thought that this type of dress code was meant to attract the men to oneself as was observed by one parent who said,

*'Kavalidwe ka ana ena anakazi ko onesa bibelo ndiye ka lengesa kuti amuna aba gwire.'*

This translates to mean that *'the dress code of some young girls such as short dressed and skirts which expose their thighs leads men to want to have sex with them.'*

In addition, some parents said that the patronising of bars by adolescent girls put them at high risk of being abused as they are mistaken for commercial sex workers. Also, it was said that sending the girl children on errands in the evening and at night put them at high risk of being sexually abused. Furthermore, they said that lust on the part of some men was contributing to child sexually abuse. This was pointed out by female parents who said,

*'Ena amuna ama kumbwila chabe ana asikana.'*

This translates to mean, *'some men simply lust for the teenage girls and look for an opportunity to sexually abuse them.'* Furthermore some female parents said that the fact that some cases of child sexual abuse were not reported to the police or were settled at home put the children at high risk of sexual abuse because the perpetrators of the vice were aware that they could get away with the crime and this encouraged would be offenders. One woman said

that if abuse was committed by a husband's relative, the woman of the home would not report the crime to the police and chose to settle it at home for fear of offending her husband and ultimately to protect her marriage.

*'Akazi ena amayopa ku peleka mulandu ku police ngati wa mene a gwira mwana ni bululu wa mwamuna. Ba chita izi ku chingiliza chikwati chao'.*

This translates to mean that certain women fear to report cases of child sexual abuse if the perpetrator is a relative to her husband for fear of offending the husband and consequently losing their marriage.

Another woman added to say if the man of the house was the offender, the wife would not report the matter to the police for fear that if the bread winner was arrested, the family would suffer as they would have no source of income. Some male parents said that poverty was one factor that led girls to give in to sexual advances by men in order to 'earn' a little money for the latest fashion and other necessities that the parents cannot afford to provide.

*'Some girls from poor families opt to have sex with men so that they can earn themselves a bit of money for the latest fashion and other necessities that their parents or guardians cannot afford to buy for them,'* said one male parent.

Still on the issue of poverty, some women said that certain parents opted to get compensated by an offender instead of reporting child sexual abuse to the police for the law to take its course. They saw this as an opportunity to earn money for themselves and sort out their problems without any regard to the harm that had been done to the abused child. Parents observed that the compensation made the perpetrator to continue abusing the child, hence, preferred that such offenders be reported to law enforcement so that stiff punish is meted out to them.

#### **4.2.2 Views of Pupils**

The pupils pointed out the following as some of the factors that contributed to child sexual abuse in the community. They said that the girls' dress code of minis and tight clothes put them at risk of being defiled. Pupils also said the other factor was the use of drugs such as alcohol and marijuana which affects the user's judgement and causes him to have sex with a minor. One male pupil said that the watching of pornographic movies on phones aroused men and made them pounce on any girl child available. The pupils also said some men targeted children who would even settle for sweets in exchange for sex unlike commercial sex workers who demand for a lot of money. The pupils pointed out that when wives denied their husbands sex, the men found girls to be an easy target for their sexual desires. Other factors pointed out by the pupils were high libido, lack of boundaries and lack of self-control. One female pupil said that flirtatious behaviour also put girls at risk of being sexually abused. In line with flirtatious behaviour, one pupils said that there were parents who forced their girl children to go out at night to raise money from men in exchange for sex which is tantamount to sexual exploitation of a child.

#### **4.2.3 Views of VSU Officer**

The VSU Officer pointed out that most of the children especially those between the ages of 10 and 16 years exposed themselves to vices that led to them being sexually abused. However she did not state what these vices were. She also said that some girls exchanged sex for money and other material things.

### **4.3 Question 3 – What Measures Should be Taken to Reduce Cases of Child Sexual**

#### **Abuse in the Selected Area of Lusaka?**

##### **4.3.1 Views of Parents**

All the participants said that there was need to stiffen the laws and met out severe punishments to the offenders so that it served as a deterrent to the would-be offender. Another suggestion was that all cases must be reported to the police for the law to take its course and that no cases should be settled at home. No one should encourage settling the cases of child sexual abuse at home and that doing so should attract a penalty on the families involved. Additionally, it was pointed out that girls should be discouraged from wearing short dresses and skirts and tight fitting clothes that outlined the body curvature. The need to sensitize the parents and children on the dangers of child sexual abuse was highly emphasised. Additionally, it was suggested that child sexual abuse should be made part of the school curriculum from grade one to grade twelve so that children are made aware of it and what they should do to prevent it or to protect themselves. Furthermore, it was proposed that parents should discuss child sexual abuse with their households. It was also suggested by the parents that the government should empower women with income generating activities to that they become economically independent and stop looking at their abused child as an opportunity to fund raise for their needs and men or marriage as a source of livelihood.

##### **4.3.2 Views of Pupils**

When asked what needed to be done to reduce on the cases of child sexual abuse the pupils said that severe punishment like life imprisonment should be meted out on the offenders. Also, girl children should not be let out of the home in the evening or at night. In addition they felt that the girl child should avoid wearing short and tight fits. One pupil pointed out that there is need for poverty alleviation so that parents do not force their children into

prostitution at night. Furthermore, pupils said that parents should be taught how to protect their children and educate the parents and all adults on the dangers of child sexual abuse. Children should also be taught the dangers of child sexual abuse and how to protect themselves. It was also strongly felt that all cases of child sexual abuse must be reported to the police. Government should also limit alcohol and drug intake. Also, it was said that children should be taught not to accept gift from strangers and also to let their parents know whenever they are given any gifts by family member irrespective of who it is. The pupils felt that girl children should be taught how to conduct themselves when dealing with adults and should avoid playing touch with the opposite sex and keep away from adults persons of the opposite sex.

#### **4.3.3 Views of VSU Officer**

The VSU officer was of the view that in order to lower the rate of Child sexual abuse, there was need to teach the girl child in particular to be assertive and to believe in themselves. She went on to state that it was important to make the children understand the need to accept their social status and not to desire things that were beyond the reach of their parents.

#### **4.4 Summary**

The chapter acknowledged that child sexual abuse was there in the selected study area and that a child means a person from zero to twenty year. It also point out that the nature of the abuse was mainly penetrative sex. Myths about sex with a minor curing AIDS and causing a business to grow are pointed out. In addition, certain dress codes are given as a reason for abuse. Suggestion given on what must be done to mitigate the vice included: Sensitization on child sexual abuse and its impact on the child was suggested. In addition it was suggested that all cases be reported to law enforcement officers and that punishment for the offence of child sexual abuse be stiffer than was the practice in the area.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS**

### **5.0 Overview**

The preceding chapter pointed out the research findings. In this chapter, the researcher discusses the main findings in relation to the study objectives. The objectives were:

1. To establish perceptions held by parents and pupils on the nature of child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka District in Zambia.
2. To explore factors that might have contributed to child sexual abuse in the selected area.
3. To suggest measures directed at lowering child sexual abuse in the study area of Lusaka.

These findings have been compared and contrasted with the literature available as a way of justifying the outcome of the present study.

### **5.1 Perceptions on the Nature of Child Sexual Abuse**

The study established views on the nature of child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka. The scholarly understanding of child sexual abuse (CSA) is:

*'the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society. It is evidenced by this activity between a child and an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person.'* (WHO, 1999)

The findings on nature of child sexual abuse is that it is a real problem in the community and that it affects both girls and boys though more girls than boys are affected .This is in

agreement with the 2002 World Health Organisation estimates which showed that more girls than boys were victims of child sexual abuse worldwide (WHO, 2004). Another finding of the study is that child sexual abuse takes mainly the form of penetrative sex i.e. vaginal and anal, and other non-penetrative forms such as fondling, kissing, touching of sexually sensitive parts such as breasts and genitals and exposing children to pornographic materials. This finding is in agreement with the definition of child sexual abuse that is given in the literature review. The definition of a child used in the study is the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act of 2011 which defines a child as *a person aged 16 years and below i.e. 0-16years (Article 1 of 2011)*. However the findings in the study are that a child is a person aged 19 years and below. When we look at the average age of completing school in the area concerned, most children complete grade 12 at the age of 19 or 20 years. Therefore, a person who is still in secondary school is considered a child, hence the used definition of a child given in the findings which is 19 years and below to conform to the average age at which a child completes school.

The study also established that not all cases were reported especially those involving perpetrators who are family members. This is similar to the findings in the Camfed (2011) study. This study goes further to give reasons why family abuse is rarely reported. It established that if the abuser is the breadwinner or the man of the house, or his relative, the woman would not want to report such an offender for fear that this might offend the man of the house who might choose to get rid of her. Therefore, to protect her marriage, the woman and mother of the abuse child would choose to settle the matter at home. The study also established that the perpetrators are mainly people that are known to the child such as neighbours, family members such as fathers, uncles, brothers and cousin. This is in agreement with Lalor (2004) who carried out a study in Tanzania using focus group discussion which revealed that the close family members such as fathers and uncles were the perpetrators of child sexual abuse.

Another finding on the perceived nature of child sexual abuse in the study area is that usually the victims did not report the abuse to their parents for fear of being blamed and beaten for being responsible for causing the abuse. This is in agreement with the findings in the South African study on Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents. This is a significant revelation which needs to be highlighted in that it contributes greatly to the silence surrounding child sexual abuse. Parents should be made to understand that a child is a minor who should never be blamed for the abuse. The other reason for not reporting to the parents is that the abusers usually threaten to kill the victim and their parents if ever they disclosed the abuse to anyone. Some studies have mentioned that abusers do threaten to kill the child if they reveals to anyone. In this study, it has been established that the perpetrator does not only threaten to kill the child but his/her parents as well. The threat to the parents who the child loves forces the child not to disclose at all, increasing the secrecy and in turn increasing the rate of the scourge because the perpetrator knows that the chances of being discovered are slim.

The abuse carried out by family members such as fathers, uncles and brothers is very traumatic to the victim as these same people are the ones who are supposed protect the child instead of abusing him or her. If the child lives with the abuser, it goes without saying that the child lives in perpetual fear of being abused and this leads to serious emotional and psychological trauma.

## **5.2 Factors Contributing to Child Sexual Abuse**

On the question of what contributes to child sexual abuse in Ng'ombe Compound of Lusaka, the study established a number of reasons. One of the contributors to child sexual abuse is that the myth that sex with a minor cures one of AIDS without passing the infection to the minor and the myth that having sex with a minor makes ones business to grow or bring good luck. This is in agreement with the findings in the Camfed (2011) study on Child Abuse in Zambian

Schools which established the two factors. There is, however a new dimension that has been added to the myth that sex with a minor heals the perpetrator of AIDS. This is the belief that the abused child will not get infected with HIV.

The finding that use of alcohol and other drugs is a contributing factor to child sexual abuse agrees with Finkelhor's Theoretical framework (1984) which gives the four preconditions that need to be present for child sexual abuse to take place. One precondition states that the potential offender has to overcome internal inhibitions against committing sexual abuse. Alcohol and drugs impair judgement and reasoning, thereby minimising the seriousness of the action and overcoming internal inhibitions.

The other finding in the study was that one of the factors that contribute to child sexual abuse was the desire for fashionable clothes by girls, which their parents cannot afford. This leads them to exchange sex for money so that they can buy the latest fashion. In addition to this, the study also established that parents who did not have steady income do send their girl children into the streets at night to go and make money for the family. The first point was in agreement with the Camfed (2011) study, the Extent of Child Abuse in Zambian School. The study showed that economics drive sexual abuse in schools. High school reports indicated that teachers sometimes entice to have sex with them for a small amount of money to purchase soap and other essentials. The sending of girls into the street was compounding the problem of child sexual abuse because the involvement of parents made the problem look like a practice that was acceptable. The other contributing factors which the study established were lust, lack of self-control and lack of boundaries. These points were not mentioned in the literature reviewed. However, these were important and must be considered when coming up with measures to reduce the problem of child sexual abuse. The study also established that sending girls on errands in the evening or at night puts them at high risk of being abused.

Therefore, parents should understand the risk involved and take responsibility over the safety of their children.

The study further revealed that watching pornographic movies in the home aroused the men and boys in the home and caused them to sexually abuse the defenceless girls in the home. This was done usually when the parents are away and at times even the children were made to watch such movies so as to make them think that what they were seeing were normal human activities and hence they become less resistance to the sexual advances of the perpetrators. This is an important revelation to parents which should be taken note of and discussed with the people who they live with.

The wearing of minis and tight fits was pointed out to be one of the contributing factors to cases of child sexual abuse. There was a mistaken belief that the girls wear minis and tight fitting clothes to attract men. Since men hold such a view it is important to make the girls aware of it so that they are not caught in the web of lust and lack of boundaries and self-control. This point was not raised in the literature that was reviewed although it might be there in what the researcher may not have come across. The other finding that children between the ages of 10 to 16 years exposed themselves to vices that led to their being sexually abused calls for teaching this age group the risks involved in some of their activities.

### **5.3 Measures to Lower Child Sexual Abuse**

The study established the following measures to lower cases of child sexual abuse. It was suggested that all cases of child sexual abuse must be reported to law enforcement officers and anyone who advocates for settling the issue at home must be made to face the law. The other suggestion from the study was that the punishment for child sexual abuse must be made stiffer and longer so that the culprits are locked away from society. These measures should be publicised that the public is made aware and deterred from going contrary to the law. It was

also suggested that parents and children should be sensitised and educated on the dangers of child sexual abuse. Such education would make the parents to be more protective of their children and would not blame them if they suffered abuse. The other suggestion which was made was that child sexual abuse should be made part of the school curriculum from Grade 1 to Grade 12 so that the children are made to understand what it is and what to do when threatened. In addition, it was suggested that parents should discuss issues of CSA with the children at home. It was also suggested that children should be discouraged from getting gifts from strangers and inform their parents whenever someone gives them a gift no matter how small. This will enable parents to monitor anyone who is trying to win the child's favour through gift and approach such a one and make him know that they are aware of the trend. It was also proposed that girls should be encouraged to wear clothes that cover their thighs and those that not show the body curvatures and also keep away from men. In addition, it was proposed that girls in particular should be taught to be assertive and to believe in themselves in order to be able to resist sexual advances from men who want them to exchange sex for money.

## **CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.0 Overview**

The preceding chapter discussed findings of the study in relation to the study objectives. In this chapter, the researcher presents the conclusion drawn and the recommendations made as a result of the findings obtained in the study, and the suggestions made for future research.

### **6.1 Conclusion**

The findings of the study were that child sexual abuse which mainly took the form of penetrative vaginal or annul sex was a real problem in the study area. The findings showed that that more girls than boys were subjected to child sexual abuse and that there was abuse in the homes carried out by close family members. The findings on what contributes to the vice, such as dress code, alcohol and threats of killing the victim if he/she disclosed the abuse to anyone were clearly spelt out by the participants.

### **6.2 Recommendations**

In view of the outcome of the study, the researcher recommends that:

- i. Stiffer the punishment be met out to offenders and give longer custodial sentences to keep them away from society.
- ii. All cases of CSA must be reported to the police so that the law takes its course and anyone who tries to settle the matter outside the court should be prosecuted and sentenced too.
- iii. Sensitise parents and children on the dangers of CSA to the victim.
- iv. Make CSA a part of the curriculum from Grade 1 to 12 in order to adequately sensitize children on all aspects of this issue.
- v. Empower women with income generating ventures so that they can stand on their feet

and avoid sending their girl-children for income generating activities which make them vulnerable to men.

vi Teach the children especially the girl child assertiveness skills.

### **6.3 Suggestions for Future Research**

In the light of the present study and the ones that had been done before, I suggest that the following studies could be done on the phenomenon of child sexual abuse.

1. Prevalence and/or Incidence of sexual abuse of children and adolescents in Zambia
2. Attitudes Towards Victims of Child Sexual Abuse in Zambia
3. Traditional Practices and Beliefs that perpetuate Child Sexual Abuse in Zambia.
4. Relationship between Child Abuse and Violent Crimes in Zambia.

These studies will help to shed more light on child sexual abuse which is still shrouded in secrecy in the world and in Zambia in particular and yet its outcomes affect the victim for a life time.

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**Appendix A**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR PUPILS**

The purpose of this interview schedule is to help the researcher collect data on child sexual abuse in Lusaka. The responses will be used for only academic purposes. You are free to participate in this interview or to decline participation.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer the following questions as honestly as possible. Your responses will be recorded by the interviewer.

**SECTION A – *DEMOGRAPHIC DATA***

1. Age: 5-10years; 10-15years; 16-20years
2. Gender: Male; Female
3. Who do you live with? Mother/Father; Aunt/Uncle; Grandfather/Grandmother; Brother/Sister; Cousin; Step parent
4. Is your parent/guardian married; single; divorced; widowed
5. Number of people in the home
6. Employment status of parent/guardian: formal employment; informal employment; unemployed; general worker; domestic worker; marketeer; vender; kantemba owner.

**SECTION B – *INTERVIEW QUESTIONS***

1. Tell me what you understand by:

A. Child sexual abuse

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B. What age range is a child?

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C. What forms does it usually take in your location?

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D. Does CSA take place within the family? Yes/No

E. If yes, who are the perpetrators at family level?

2. Do you know of any child that was sexually abuse by someone older?

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3. If yes, tell me what happened

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.....

4. Are perpetrators someone known to the child or a stranger?

A. Known to the child/Stranger .....

B. How often does CSA happen in your area? (a) Always; (b) Sometimes; (c) Not at all?

.....

5. Who do the children who are abused live with? (a) Parents; (b) Guardians

.....

.....  
.....

6. Are CSA cases reported to the Police? (a) Yes; (b) No; (c) I can't tell.

A. If Yes, why? .....

B. If No, why?

.....

7. Do the children report the abuse to parents/guardians? (a) Yes; (b) No; (c) I can't tell

A. If Yes, what action do the parents/guardians take?

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B. If No, why?

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.....

C. How do the parents/guardians of the abused boy/girl settle the matter?.....

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8. In your opinion, what things lead to child sexual abuse in your area

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9. In your view, what should be done to reduce the rate of child sexual abuse in your area?.....

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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**

**Appendix B**

**FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FOR PARENTS**

The main purpose of this focus group discussion is to gain insights on child sexual abuse in Lusaka. The findings will be used for academic purposes only. Your participation in this discussion is at your own free will. You are free to participate or to decline participation.

**SECTION A - *DEMOGRAPHIC DATA***

Number of group participants - .....

Gender of participants  
.....

Age range of participants/parents; 30 -35; 36 – 40; 41 – 45; 46 – 50; 51 – 55; 56 - 60

**SECTION B – *INTERVIEW QUESTIONS***

1. What do you understand by child sexual abuse?
2. What form does child sexual abuse take?
3. Does child sexual abuse take place within the family?
4. How prevalent is child sexual abuse in your community?
5. How do parents/guardians resolve cases of child sexual abuse with the perpetrators?
6. What factors contribute to child sexual abuse in your area?
7. What should be done to reduce cases of child sexual?

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**

**Appendix C**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE FOR THE POLICE VICTIM  
SUPPORT UNIT OFFICER**

The purpose of this interview schedule is to help the researcher collect data on child sexual abuse in Ng’ombe Compound of Lusaka. You are free to participate in this interview or to decline participation.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Answer the following questions as honestly as possible. Your responses will be recorded by the interviewer.

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. AS VSO what is your definition of child sexual abuse?

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2. How many cases of child sexual abuse have been reported to your institution in 2017?

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3. Who mostly reports cases of child sexual abuse to your station?.....  
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4. Who are the perpetrators of this vice in your catchment area?  
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5. What have been your experiences concerning child sexual abuse in your catchment area?  
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6. What is the age range of the victims of child sexual abuse that are reported to your institution?  
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.....  
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7. What assistance do you give to (a) Victim. (b) Parent/Guardian  
(a).....  
.....  
(b).....

8. Any other information that you would like to add on the issue of child sexual abuse?

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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION**