

**EXAMINATION OF COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO GIRL CHILD  
DEFILEMENT IN AINABKOI SUB-COUNTY, UASIN GISHU COUNTY,  
KENYA**

**BY**

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UNIVERSITY**

**July, 2023**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this research thesis is my original work and that it has not been presented in any other university academic work.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is a tribute to my husband, my parents, who raised and educated me, and to my children, who have supported and encouraged me throughout the program with their moral support.

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## ABSTRACT

Public authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations and individuals have come up with efforts to address and eradicate sexual violence against girls. Such efforts have failed to achieve the objectives due to concerned stakeholders' lack of adequate knowledge on child defilement. The main aim of this study was to examine community response to girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. The study's specific objectives were: to establish the magnitude of girl child defilement; to assess the level of knowledge of the residents on girl child defilement; to establish predisposing factors to girl child defilement, and evaluate community-based interventions available on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. The study was guided by rational choice theory. A descriptive survey design was used in this study. The target population for this study was 34892 households. The study used Krejcie and Morgan formula to obtain a sample of 380 household heads. Further, 9 chiefs, 9 social workers, 27 secondary school principals, 33 primary school head teachers, and 32 church leaders were included in the study. Simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques were used to select participants for the study. Questionnaires and key informant interview guides were used in collecting data. Quantitative data was analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25, whereby percentages and frequencies were obtained and presented in tables and graphs. Qualitative data obtained on specific open-ended questions were analyzed thematically and triangulated within quantitative data. The researcher ensured confidentiality and non-disclosure of respondents to ensure research ethics are adhered to. The study findings revealed that 90 (27.7%) of the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement many times. The study results revealed that there was statistically significant association between residence knowledge and defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 7.344, p = .007$ . The study findings revealed that cultural practices  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 6.087, p = .014$ , media exposures  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 4.465, p = .035$ , poor parenting  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 5.954, p = .015$  and poverty  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 5.041, p = .025$  are associated with defilement cases. Action taken by community on known defilers are statistically significant associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 10.539, p = .015$ . The study concluded that the area had witnessed a few cases of defilement by a random adult male on the road. The residents of the area had no knowledge of the offender of girl child defilement in the area since they never discuss girl child defilements at chief barazas, churches, radios, family get together, or funerals. The study recommended that everyone in the community is encouraged to get involved with other parents to help vulnerable children and their families.

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Community response:** is a voluntary system of supports and services for girl child to prevent defilement cases (Haug et al., 2020).

**Community-based interventions:** are programs and initiatives that aim to reduce girl child defilement cases in Ainabkoi Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya (Ochen, Chi and Lawoko, 2019).

**Defilement:** refers to any sexual intercourse either through sexual touch, kissing, oral, anal and vaginal intercourse with a girl aged 1-17, regardless of whether or not the child consents (Jenkins, 2020).

**Girl child:** This is a young female aged between 1- 17 years of age (Efevbera et al., 2017).

**Magnitude:** refer to the extent of girl child defilement (Alene et al., 2021).

**Predisposing factors:** are aspects that increase the likelihood of girl child defilement (Ayu et al., 2019).

**Victim/Survivor:** A person who is offended by another person as a result of committing a crime to the person. In this case, the defiled girl-child (Ayimoro, 2020).

**ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

<b>APRHC</b>	:	African Population and Health Centre
<b>AYES</b>	:	Adolescence and Youth Friendly Service
<b>BEEP</b>	:	Bicycle for Education and Empowerment Project
<b>CAAC</b>	:	County Area Advisory Council
<b>DCC</b>	:	Deputy County Commissioner
<b>GGA</b>	:	Global Girls Alliance
<b>HIV</b>	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
<b>KCPE</b>	:	Kenya Certificate Primary Examinations
<b>KCSE</b>	:	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
<b>KNUT</b>	:	Kenya National Union of Teachers
<b>NHIF</b>	:	National Hospital Insurance Funds
<b>NTSA</b>	:	National Transport Service Association
<b>OBS</b>	:	Operation Back to School
<b>PRB</b>	:	Population Reference Bureau
<b>RPA</b>	:	Research Plus Africa
<b>UNPF</b>	:	United Nation Population Fund
<b>WHO</b>	:	World Health Organization

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

This study set out to examine community response on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi sub-county, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya. This chapter highlights the study's background, statement of the problem, objectives of the study and research questions. The chapter also presents the assumptions of the study, significance of the study, the study's scope, theoretical framework, delimitation, and limitations of the study together with the conceptual framework.

#### **1.2 Background of the Study**

In any nation, children are considered the building blocks. In this manner, the improvement of future generation development lies in children's prosperity, and as such, it is essential to consider them. Banda (2016) defines defilement as a global phenomenon that crosses continents, countries, and socioeconomic classes. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, 150 million girls and 73 million boys are defiled or subjected to other forms of sexual violence each year (Muindi, 2016). Although a large proportion (over 50%) of boys also face the problem of sexual abuse, the researcher has opted to study girls because they appear more vulnerable than boys (Nguyen & Chang, 2021). This inadvertently raises the question of how effective child protection mechanisms are in the world and in particular, Kenya thus, promoting the need for the present study.

In this study, girl child defilement is defined as any form of sexual contact either through sexual touch, sexual kissing, oral, anal and vaginal sex. In this situation the culprit utilizes physical force to threaten or intimidate the girl who is below 18 years or

achieve sexual gratification. Girl child defilement is a global social, economic, human rights, and public health issue that has negative effects on both health and society (Gatuguta, Colombini, Seeley, Soremekun, and Devries, 2019). It is a big problem that affects people of all races, classes, regions, and even different ages and genders (Ramabu, 2020). Millions of girls around the world are still defiled and used in their homes, schools, and communities. These places are supposed to keep them safe. Girl child defilement weakens the strong foundation that children need to live healthy, productive lives.

Many parents, guardians and the community alike feel that their children are no longer safe in any place, be it at home, school, church or with community members where they are likely to stray away from the ever-watchful eyes of their parents or caregivers (Mwamba, 2019). They are at any given time vulnerable to perpetrators who may either be their fathers, neighbours or indeed any close male relative. The traumatic experience and associated psychosocial problems are a significant social strain on family relationships and well-being (Thomas, Liu & Umberson, 2017).

In the USA, community child protection structures are used to protect girls from defilement. Ochen, Ssengendo and Chemonges (2017) indicated that between 2011-2015, 60% of girl's defilement cases referred to court on girls' defilement were prosecuted and perpetrators convicted. In Asia, Bangladesh has been ranked highly on girl child defilement cases through commercial sex trafficking within and outside the country. According to Odhikar (2014), four districts in Bangladesh reported 801 incidences of rape between July 2011 and July 2012. Among the cases reported more than half (511) were of girls aged below 18 years.



In some parts of sub-Saharan Africa, as many as 24% of teenage girls are sexually assaulted, which can cause serious physical and mental health problems (Lucy et al., 2014). Laws that indicate a rapist cannot be charged if they marry the person they raped can also lead to more sexual violence through child marriage. Even though such a law was repealed in Ethiopia in 2005, anecdotal evidence suggests that "bride-kidnapping," which is basically rape and forced marriage, did not stop until the people who did it were given harsh sentences in a well-known case. This means that laws that are based on harmful social norms can leave women and girls with few choices. In Uganda, despite numerous policies and techniques that have been set up to improve child sexual abuse, cases on girl child defilement are on the rooftop. The girl child in this country remains disadvantaged with close to 62% defilement cases reported from rural Uganda (Yahaya, 2013).

In Kenya, while there are several sexual offences against children, girl child defilement is most prominent (Wangamati et al. 2019). Further, according to Bridgewater (2016) sexual abuse was experienced by 32 percent of Kenyan girls and 18 percent of boys before the age of 18. Child sexual abuse is seen to be contributed by incorporate peer pressure, drugs and substance misuse, orphanhood, poverty level, social media impact, a culture of quietness on sexual issues and enormous sex inconsistencies (Bridgewater, 2016). Several children are defiled by individuals in all life circles, ranging from family members, biological fathers, step-fathers, religious leaders, guardians, parental figures and outsiders. White (2016) revealed an average of over 200 cases of defilement reported every month in the country. Studies carried out in Mombasa, Taita Taveta and Kwale by the Peace Initiative Kenya (PIK, 2018), revealed that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is rampant here, particularly the forms that relate to children.

Prosecution of defilement cases remains a major challenge in sought justice for children who are defiled. A poor investigation and lack of cooperation from the witnesses in child defilement make cases presented in court weak. In 2018, a team of people from different organisations was put together to investigate Kenya's children's justice system. The report they made showed that most parents do not help when suspects are being tried. Instead, they prefer to make deals with the offenders outside the court. The report shows how minors do not get justice while offenders do not have to pay for their crimes. Based on an analysis of police records, most of the pending child cases in Kenyan courts between 2016 and 2018 are about defilement. In the eight counties that were looked at, 69.48% of all pending cases involving children were about defilement (Muthoni, 2019). This has led to many cases remaining unreported and encouraging perpetrators to continue with the menace. Based on this background the study sought to establish response used by the community on cases of girl defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

For the affected children, defilement is a crippling experience that has detrimental psychological, social, educational, and physical health effects that are detrimental to the affected child, their families, and society at large. Studies (Raghavan et al. 2014; Mutavi, Mathai, Kumar, Nganga & Obondo, 2016; and UNICEF, 2020) have revealed high levels of girl child defilement in Kenya. In Kenya, the reported prevalence of defilement among young female children is exceptionally high at 55% (Mutavi et al., 2016). Despite psychosocial outcomes related to the defilement of girl child demonstrating negative impact on children's psychosocial, physical and mental

health development, most studies and interventionists have not taken into consideration community response towards girl child defilement.

More so, a few existing interventions have focused more on FGM, while not much has been done on girl child defilement. As a result, there have been increasing cases of girl child defilement. The researcher argues that if there is little response or intervention against girl child defilement from the community, girl child remains vulnerable and increased cases can have irreversible developmental consequences. If a study was not done on community response on girl child defilement there could have been increased defilement cases which could lead to poor academic performance, low self-esteem, depression, and poor social relationships among the victim of defilement. Additionally, some people may experience life-threatening consequences as a result of the defilement, such as HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, drug or alcohol use, the development of serious mental illness, and suicide attempts. Despite studies (Mutavi et al., 2016; Wanjiru & Mugai, 2022; Liveri et al., 2023; Constance, 2019; Oguda; 2022; Helton et al., 2018) on girl child defilement there is still high defilement cases in Ainabkoi sub-county as presented in Table 1.1

**Table 1.1 Defilement Cases per Sub County**

<b>Sub-county</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Soy	89.96	15.7
Ainabkoi	242.38	42.3
Turbo	151.27	26.4
Moiben	54.44	9.5
Kapseret	19.48	3.4
Kesses	15.47	2.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>100</b>

As presented in Table 1.1, Ainabkoi sub-county has the highest number of girl child defilement cases, followed by Soy, Turbo, Moiben, Kapseret and Kesses. The percentage of cases in Ainabkoi is significantly higher than in the other sub-counties, which suggests that there is a need for more intervention and awareness programs in this area. This study therefore sought to fill the gap by focusing on community response.

The government of Kenya has taken a number of steps to address the problem of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. The government has worked with local organizations to provide education and awareness-raising programs on the dangers of defilement. These programs have been targeted at both girls and boys, as well as parents and community members. The government has enacted stricter laws against defilement, with stiffer penalties for offenders. These laws have been welcomed by many, but some have argued that they are not being enforced effectively. The government has also provided support services to victims of defilement, such as counseling and medical care. These services have been praised by many, but some have argued that they are not reaching enough victims. Despite these efforts, the problem of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County persists. It is on this basis the study sought to examine the influence of community response on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi sub-county, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.

#### **1.4 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to understand the community's response to the issue of girl defilment and to identify ways to improve it. The study focused on magnitude of girl child defilement, the community's awareness of defilement, the community's response to defilement and the community's needs in addressing defilement.

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

- i. To determine the magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County.
- ii. To assess the knowledge of the residents on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County.
- iii. To examine the factors predisposing the girl child to defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County.
- iv. To evaluate available community-based interventions against girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County.

### **1.6 Research Questions**

- i. What is the magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County?
- ii. To what extent do resident have knowledge on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County?
- iii. What are the factors predisposing the girl child to defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County?
- iv. Which available community-based interventions against girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County?

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

Understanding the community response on child defilement informed the interventions dealing with the well-being of sexually abused girls and other children on how to cope with the menace. Community response is a key determinant influencing the defilement rates and sustainability of interventions. Therefore, this helped uncover the gaps on why the number of child defilement cases is growing. Hence, relevant interventions may be generated to help in preventing defilement.

The research is foreseen to be useful to a wide scope of stakeholders who incorporate Government children office, social workers who handle defilement cases at the medical clinics and local leaders in the society. Also, the research results are used to raise awareness among the police, local community leaders, the judiciary, and government agencies about the need to stop the sexual abuse of children, especially the defilement of girl children in vulnerable situations. The study's results also helped counselling psychologist learn more about how complicated child sexual abuse and defilement are. This was important for making policy about the defilement of girls in Kenya and other places.

Girl child benefitted from the study findings by understanding how the community respond to defilement cases and whom to run to when they become victims of defilement. The study also supported other studies in coming up with factors that involved other stakeholders to participate with policymakers, department of children, Education, local authorities, local communities, non-governmental organizations, and strategies that help prevent the crime. The study also contributed to further research on girl defilement.

### **1.8 Scope of the Study**

The study targeted girl child defilement aged 1-17 years in Ainabkoi sub-county in Uasin Gishu County. In this study, the researcher was concerned with only girl child defilement. The study was carried out in Ainabkoi sub-county in Uasin Gishu County, Kenya in April 2021. The sub-county has nine locations namely; -Ainabkoi, Kapngetun, Olare, Chepngoro, Plateau, Chepkero, Kaptagat, Kipsinende and Kapsoya. The study employed a descriptive survey design. This research design is important because inferences about relations among variables are made, without direct intervention

from a concomitant variation of independent (magnitude of defilement cases, level of knowledge, predisposing factors and community-based interventions) and dependent variable (girl child defilement). The sample size for this study were 490 respondents comprising of 380 household heads, 9 chiefs, 9 social workers, 27 secondary school principals, 33 primary schools headteachers and 32 church leaders. This is because the researcher believes that at this age a parent is mature enough to address issues of girl child defilement.

### **1.9 Delimitations of the Study**

In this study, the researcher only studied household in Ainabkoi sub-county because households tend to have extensive information on girl child defilement. The researcher also through a key informant collected data from the village elders, social workers, and children's officers.

The respondents were not willing to participate in the study due to sensitivity of defilement cases. The respondent may also fail to give true information hence increasing the study biasness. The researcher assured that respondents that the study was purely for academic purpose and the information they gave were confidential. The study topic focused on girl child defilement which could require experience of defiled child and their families and how the community have responded to it.

### **1.10 Limitations of the Study**

Ainabkoi sub-county is a vast county with a high population, as indicated in chapter 3 in this study. Therefore, through the research design adopted in this study, the researcher recruited only individuals from the household deemed relevant to the study. Based on the study's sensitivity, some of the respondents might not be willing to revealed information on defiled children for fear of prosecution. The researcher countered this by explaining the study's purpose to the participant and advise on voluntarily participation. To increase the respondents' validity, the researcher collected almost similar information using interview guides. In cases where respondents refused to respond the team selected a different household and sought cooperation from local leaders.

### **1.11 Assumptions of the Study**

The first assumption is that there are cases of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi sub-county. The researcher assumes that the research assistant understands the subject matter and collected reliable data. It is also assumed that all respondent, key informants' participants cooperated during the study period. The researcher also assumes that the data generated was reliable and answered the research questions adequately. The study assumes that there is magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County. The study also assume that the residents have knowledge about girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County. The study further, assume that there are predisposing factors to girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. Lastly, the assumed that there are community-based interventions available on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County.



## **1.12 Theoretical Framework**

### **1.12.1 Rational Choice Theory**

This study was guided by Rational Choice Theory developed by Coleman, and Fararo in 1992. According to the theory, people are driven by the desires or objectives that represent their "preferences." They operate within certain limitations and based on the knowledge they have regarding the circumstances in which they operate. Bentham (2002) says that nature has put people under the control of two sovereign masters: pain and pleasure. This is the utility principle. The principle shows that people mostly decide for themselves whether to follow the law or break it. This depends on how afraid they are of what will happen if they do not follow the rules.

There is a real chance that the person will go to jail for a long time. Then, the person should think twice before breaking the law. Homans (2004) said that the way people act, like the way animals act, is not free but determined. It changes based on the rewards and punishments it faces. People do the things that get them rewards and avoid the things that get them in trouble. Human behaviour is based on "conditioning," which is the process of giving reinforcement through rewards and punishments.

This theory focuses on the people who commit the crime and the choices they made before they did it. It indicates that people who break the law do so on purpose and hope to get something out of it. When people break the law, they have goals in mind, even if they are short-term or only account for a few of the benefits of the crime and a few risks involved. No matter how old the person is, the main goal of those who do these things is to satisfy their sexual needs. This lets the bad guys figure out that the child's chances of figuring out their plan are close to zero, lowering their chances of getting caught. (Rakowski, 2011).

They use threats to control the victim, making them feel even less likely to be caught. So, they do not put much stock in the fact that they could go to jail if they get caught. This theory is relevant to this research because Kenyan law has tried to stop defilement by making laws that are a deterrent and giving judges as little freedom as possible when deciding sentences. But the law can only work as a deterrent if it is implemented and enforced in a way that makes it impossible for a potential offender to get away without facing the punishment.

If potential criminals knew they had a good chance of getting justice quickly, effectively, and on time, the crime rate would go down. Finkelhor (2014) says that the way the justice system handles sexual abuse may have primary effects on preventing it. The abuse happens because people fear getting caught and punished quickly, surely, and severely. So, it is important to look at how the law is put into place and see if it makes it easier or harder for people who might break the law to get caught and punished on time or if it makes it less likely that they will.

In terms of this study, the theory posits that sexual violence against girls happens in the community. So, the state should deal with violence and sexual assault at the community level to get rid of these bad habits. How society feels about the crime of defilement needs to be looked at because a good law that was not accepted by society failed to protect children. Once society's view is taken into account, any training interventions to prevent defilement must be weighed against the ways to help after the fact. Rational Choice Theory provides a useful framework for understanding the community response to girl child defilement. According to the theory, individuals make rational choices based on the costs and benefits associated with alternative courses of action. The community's response to girl child defilement is significantly impacted by

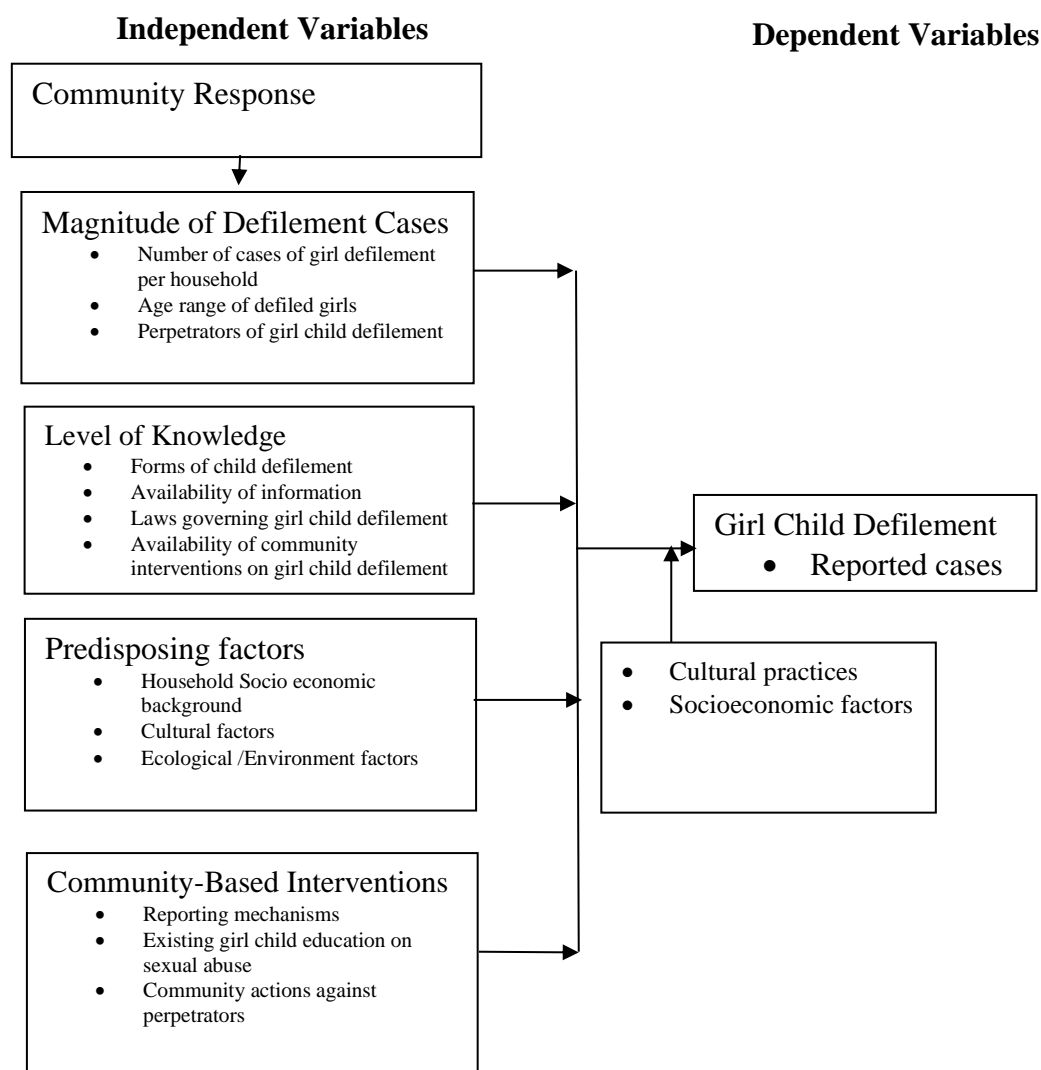
how individuals in the community view the victim, punitive measures, and the perceived risks and benefits of reporting the crime. Through adopting powerful empathetic responses, communities can encourage reporting and ensure that all perpetrators of girl child defilement face the consequences of their actions.

However, rational choice theory has been criticized for several reasons. One of the criticisms of rational choice theory is that it only applies in a perfect world scenario (Myers & Hansen, 2020). In reality, people do not always have access to all the information they need to make a perfectly rational choice. Additionally, not all choices are economically driven, and preferences can be maximized based on the determination of other values (Bigne, Chatzipanagiotou & Ruiz, 2020).

Another criticism of rational choice theory is that it is not ethically neutral. Some scholars argue that rational choice theory encourages people to maximize preferences by acquiring wealth and power, which can lead to greed and selfishness (Herfeld, 2022). Rational choice theory is also criticized for its conformity with personal gain and capitalism. Rational choice theory has been criticized for its limited scope, ethical implications, and assumptions about human behavior. While it provides a useful framework for understanding individual decision-making in microeconomics, it does not account for the complexity of social and cultural factors that influence human behavior.

### 1.13 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework, according to Mugenda (2008), is a structure that not only supports and binds together all other pieces in a logical arrangement but also offers form and shape to the entire system. In this study, the conceptual framework is viewed as a diagrammatic portrayal of the investigation's variables. Figure 1.0 below illustrates this.



**Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework:, Community Response to Girl Child Defilement**

**Source: (Author, 2023)**

The conceptual framework above highlights the relationship between community response (independent variable) and girl child defilement (dependent variable). The study interrogated the community's level of knowledge on forms of girl child defilement on community response. Further, the study looked at the availability of information, and laws governing girl child defilement. Predisposing factors was examined by investigating household socio-economic background, cultural factors and ecological factors. Community-based interventions relied on reporting mechanisms, existing girl child education on sexual abuse, and community actions against perpetrators. The researcher finally ascertained the magnitude of defilement cases by understanding the number of girls defiled in a household. All the variables were examined to determine the extent to which they influence girl child defilement. The researcher interrogated intervening variables such as cultural practices and socio-economic factors on how they affect community responses in relation to girl child defilement. This helped the researcher to explain the relationship between the two variables (independent and dependent variable).

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This study sets out to review relevant literature on community response to girl child defilement. This chapter reviews both theoretical and empirical literature related to community response to girl child defilement. The chapter looked at: the magnitude of girl child defilement; the level of knowledge; predisposing factors and community-based intervention employed to prevent the occurrence of girl child defilement. The chapter also provides a summary of the literature and knowledge gaps.

#### **2.2 Empirical Literature Review**

Child defilement is a stark reality across the world. A study by Murray (2014) contradicts the common misperception that child defilement is perpetrated on a girl child by male strangers. It alluded that child defilement is much a common occurrence on girls and boys across the world in large and small communities. Results from a face-to-face interview with 34000 adults in the United States, found that 10% of the respondents reported experiencing defilement before the age of 18. Of this population, 65% were women. Radford et al. (2011) found that 90% of sexually abused children in the UK were abused by someone they knew. More than one-third of children (34%) who were defiled by a close relative like their father or uncle did not tell anyone else. Eighty-two percent of the children who got the vice from a peer didn't tell anyone about it.

Lloyd (2016) conducted a study on the understanding of child sexual exploitation by social workers. This study was carried out in England. The study specifically sought to understand how social workers respond to sexually exploited girls

as choice-makers and agents. Eighteen social workers from three local authorities safeguarding areas were interviewed. The study further explored a social understanding of girls who had been abused sexually and how they respond to the defiled girls. This study employed qualitative methodology and a social constructionist, feminist approach utilizing thematic analysis. Findings from this study found that social workers wrestled to understand sexually exploited girls. The study recommended the need for encouragement and agency to understand better issues surrounding girl child sexual abuse. Though this study's strength is an in-depth understanding of how social workers respond to sexually exploited girls as choice-makers and agents, the study did not investigate the effect of community response on girl child defilement. Hence the need for this study.

Phiri (2015) examined the problems involved in reporting and prosecution of defilement cases among boys and girls in Lusaka, Zambia. The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative approach. Administrative records and unpublished reports were used to collect some of the quantitative data. As the present study, this study used observations and in-depth interview schedule among the parents, victims/survivors, and key leaders.

Findings showed that children experienced traumatic events that had negative implications on their development, including teen pregnancy, STIs, psychological effects, and educational effects. The study did note that there were not enough doctors to evaluate the victims, appropriate transportation, forensic equipment, or office space to effectively report cases of defilement. Cases on defilement were not prosecuted due to lack of sufficient evidence. This study established that Lusaka's community was not aware of predisposing factors to child defilement and suggested a study on the same.

In Kenya, Waithaka et al. (2013) reported "Facing Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse in Kibera Slum" alluded that defiled/sodomised girls and boys experienced shock and trauma undermined their status in society thus choosing to remain silent. This report was limited to the response of the victims to defilement. The current study was conducted in the rural setting and explored community response to girl child defilement.

### **2.2.1 Magnitude of Girl Child Defilement**

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and especially girl child defilement is a worldwide persisting public health problem which has generated interesting discussions within child protection scholarship (Ramabu, 2020). Globally girl child defilement estimates prove challenging to quantify. However, Hillis, Mercy, Amobi and Kress (2016) reports that one to two billion children are exposed to sexual violence worldwide. Mutavi (2016) argues that the extent and severity of defilement cases among boys and girls are prevalent across all cultures globally. However, shame and fear of stigmatization affect reporting of such occurrence across the community. Girl Child defilement has been acknowledged by UN sustainable development goals (2015) for global human development as a fundamental obstacle to children and society's health at large. During the UN general assembly 2015, the UN targeted eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world. Special interventions were formulated to eradicate sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

According to Barth et al. (2013) meta-analysis of CSA prevalence, 8–31% of girls experience contact sexual abuse in some way. Despite this data, defilement continues to be a terrifying event with detrimental effects on the victimised girls' physical, psychological, social, educational, and health (Collin-Vezina et al., 2013; WHO, 2014). Mohler-Kuo, Landolt, Maier, Meidert, Schönbucher, and Schnyder



(2014) conducted a population-based cross-sectional study among adolescents in Switzerland and discovered lifetime prevalence rates of 35.1% for females and 14.9% for boys. This illustrates the irrefutable reality of child exploitation as a major social issue affecting both the young and the old.

In South Africa, more than 67,000 cases of rape and sexual assault on children were reported, according to Jewkes (2009). Some of the victims were as young as 6 months old. Some died from their injuries, and others got HIV. According to the study, widespread defilement was caused by the community's belief that having sex with a girl child would clean and heal the victim (Jewkes, 2009). Based on this myth, it was said that many young girls had been raped and killed.

In Zambia, child sexual abuse is rampant, whereby 56.8% of girls aged below 12 years are reported to have been defiled. Chinunda (2013), analyzing the prevalence of defilement cases in Zambia revealed that sexual offences in Zambian societies remained very controversial. Despite the fact that Penal code (2005) prohibiting child defilement and treating it as a high-level felony reported cases on defilement to continue to rank highly in the country. In 2011, 1,339 defilement cases were reported, but only 511 people were found guilty. This is less than half of the number of reported cases. In 2012, 2,791 reported defilement cases were reported, and 192 people were found guilty of it.

The Kenya Children's Act (from 2001) and the Kenya Sexual Offences Act (from 2006) both use the word "defilement" to describe both criminal and civil offences that happen when an adult has sexual contact with a minor or uses a minor for sexual pleasure.

According to this Act, a child is anyone under the age of 18 who is not thought to be old enough to agree to sexual activity with an adult.

A 2009 report from the "CRADLE" Foundation indicated that about 79% of girls in Kenya between the ages of 13 and 15 had been raped. Different studies have found that the rate of defilement and sexual abuse is between 7 and 36% among females and between 5 and 10% among males (Pereda et al., 2009; Callender & Dartnall, 2010; Sumner et al., 2015). Smith and Harell (2013) found that mentally disabled children were at higher risk of experiencing defilement than ordinary children. While numerous studies have been fronted to explain the prevalence of child defilement, there are a lot of inconsistency and fragmentation on defilement data. The statistics on the number and various forms of child defilement are not accurate or clear due to a lot of unreported cases.

Omondi, (2014) and Ndungu et al. (2014) noted that defilement victims sought justice are usually confronted with a legal system that ignores and denies them justice by protecting perpetrators. Mustafa et al. (2018) noted that factors such as culture and stigmatization accounts largely for unreported child defilement cases in societies where a significant number of cases remain unreported, and a few of the reported cases are always done after repeated incidences.

The country's Childline (2008) reported a prevalence of defilement among female children at 55%. According to Gender-Based Violence Recovery Centers (GBVRCs) report (2014), sexual violence against children is the leading form of defilement in Kenya. National Survey on Violence against children, (2010) reported a total of 32% adults female and 18% of adult males had experienced sexual violence during

their childhood. Mwangi et al. (2013) found that 0.54% of boys and 0.84% of girls were HIV positive due to defilement, while 1.6% of the girls became pregnant. The study found that girls were more affected by defilement than male children, whereby 1.2% of girls under the study were infected with sexually transmitted diseases compared to 0.4% of boys. According to WHO (2014), child defilement is detrimental and affects a child negatively as well as the families and the society at large.

### **2.2.2 Level of Knowledge on Girl Child Defilement**

Girl child defilement, also known as sexual abuse, remains a pervasive problem across the globe. An estimated 1 in 3 girls worldwide has experienced sexual abuse, a situation that has grave consequences on their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being (Fuller-Thomson et al., 2020). Despite this alarming statistic, there is a gap in knowledge and understanding of girl child defilement, leading to misconceptions and failures in addressing the issue.

A study carried out by the World Health Organization (2021) on Violence against Women reveals that girl child defilement is a widespread issue across the globe. There were over 18 million cases of sexual violence against women and girls, with many cases remaining unreported. The study further highlights that girl child defilement starts early, with girls aged 14 and below being more vulnerable to such abuses. There is a need for advocacy and education to create awareness of the issue and its consequences. Another report by the Sardinha et al. (2022) highlights the need for urgent action to address girl child defilement in Africa. The report further identifies the root causes of the problem, including poverty and cultural practices, leading to neglect and discrimination against girls. Awareness campaigns and policy interventions should

prioritize addressing these underlying causes to effectively address girl child defilement.

Education plays a critical role in preventing girl child defilement, yet there is a knowledge gap in understanding how to integrate it effectively into school curriculums. Koris et al. (2022) highlights the inadequacy of current curriculums in addressing the issue. Education should be effectively integrated into the curriculums to empower girls to speak out and prevent violations of their rights. Denov and Lakor (2018) highlights the importance of working closely with communities to raise awareness and facilitate prevention efforts. These organizations form a critical element in the fight against girl child defilement, providing support and advocacy for victims, as well as promoting awareness campaigns to end the problem.

Yar (2020) highlights how technology can be used as an effective tool to combat girl child defilement through the implementation of child protection policies such as age verification software and internet safety regulations. The study further advocates for collaboration between governments, NGOs, and technology companies to create a safe and secure cyberspace for children.

UNICEF (2020) reports that child sexual abuse is a secretive crime. Therefore, it cannot be assumed, and the female parent is always aware of what is going on in the family. Only the offender and the victim know about the abuse most of the time. A study by Chirwa et al. (2016) on the implication of guidance and counselling on girl's defilement in primary and secondary schools, revealed that media was the main provider of information on defilement to the community, parents and girls. Workshops, neighbours, friends and people around the community were other sources of information on

defilement. However, the study revealed little knowledge of defilement from schools or parents in the same community. The study recommended the availability of awareness programs at school, church and community level to empower children with defilement preventive skills in both primary and secondary schools.

Smith et al. (2000) found that 28% of women who had been raped as children had never told anyone about it before participating in that study. Mutavi (2016) found that boys were more reluctant than girls to talk about being sexually victimised, likely because of the shame that comes with it. Girl child defilement is a specific form of child sex abuse that occurs in many communities around the world (Odima, Otengah & Mabururu, 2020). Girls are vulnerable to defilement because of their inability to physically resist male perpetrators and make decisions related to sex (Ngovi, 2020). Poverty, ignorance, gender inequality, and the nature of a child's residence are some of the socio-economic factors that cause girl child defilement (Oluwatosin et al., 2019).

The local community authorities, all arrayed against girl child defilement, appear not to be yielding positive results as evidenced by the marked increase in the defilement of the girl child (Omari, 2021). Defiled children often have negative outcomes in terms of poor academic performance, low self-esteem, depression, poor social relationships, cruelty to animals, and have a higher risk of engaging in criminal activities (Phiri, 2015). To curb girl child defilement, it takes a combination of strategies and efforts by everyone in society. People must desist from engaging in devilish acts such as going into rituals and adhere strictly to Godly living (World Health Organization, 2020). Victims of defilement should be courageous to report their unpleasant experiences to relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations. The government should

also enforce laws that protect the girl child from defilement and provide support for victims of defilement.

### **2.2.3 Predisposing Factors to Girl Child Defilement**

Modernity, foreign influences, and fast social change are thought to be the main reasons why child defilement and sexual abuse of children happen in Sub-Saharan Africa (Mbagaya, 2010). The study also pointed out that rapid social change has led to more people living in cities and being more individualistic. This has led to family separation, which makes children more likely to be sexually abused by adults unrelated to them. Ajaero and Onokala (2013) say that rural-to-urban migration is causing traditional ways of raising children to fall apart. People who do not have adults in their homes are more likely to be sexually preyed upon. The study found that girls between the ages of 10 and 19 are more likely to be defiled by adults.

Jewkes et al. (2005) examined cultural and environmental factors causing child rape in South Africa and Namibia. The study was conducted using semi-structured in-depth interviews in Windhoek, Namibia and rural Mpumalanga province, South Africa. Findings from this study uncovered that cultural and societal factor caused young girls' defilement in South Africa. Societal forces (macro-system) that shaped interaction between men women and children greatly influenced young girls' defilement in Namibia and South Africa. The study argued that power relations render children vulnerable to abuse. Other societal factors such as the dominance of patriarchal ideology and pronounced age hierarchies escalated defilement cases in the society. According to Petersen et al. (2005), risk accumulation within a family predisposed child to sexual violence. Evan and English (2002) argued that an increase in a number of risks such as patriarch notions of respect and sexual entitlement combined with

unemployment increases child defilement. Also, poverty and illiteracy increase the chances of a child being abused.

According to Kisanga et al. (2011), abandonment of gender-specific sex education among communities has contributed to increased defilement cases of children. He notes that abandonment of traditional and formal ways of sex education leaves a knowledge vacuum on sexuality. This situation leaves children vulnerable to abuse and exploitation as they rely on information from peers. Guma and Henda (2004), who do not talk about gender hierarchies, say that "culturally derived authority based on age hierarchies may put children at risk in some situations." Townsend and Dawes (2004) think that children are more likely to become Centre for the Study of Adolescence (CSA) victims if they are willing to obey and please adults. Children in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are taught to obey older people without question. This makes them more likely to be sexually abused by people they are supposed to respect (Lalor, 2008).

Pinea-Lucaterro, Trujillo-Hernandez, Millan-Guerrero, and Vasquez (2009) investigated the situation in Mexico and found that CSA mostly affects 108 girls from low-income families with few social and economic resources. Turner et al. (2006) looked at a group of 2030 children in the US between the ages of 2 and 17 who were chosen to be representatives of the whole country. They found that things like low socioeconomic status, low parental education, and lack of parental availability were major risk factors for child abuse, including sexual abuse. Also, Rogan et al. (2010) found that poverty was a major risk factor for early sexual debut, transactional sex, and unintended pregnancy among women and children. More experts have said that poverty affects every part of an adult's or child's life, from child mortality to health in later years.

The UNICEF (2012) report found that when parents break up, children are left alone, and without the support they need. Children from broken families are often mistreated by stepparents and end up as prostitutes or child labourers after running away from home. Orphans without care and support from their parents are more likely to be sexually exploited and abused. Street children are also more likely to be used for sexual purposes. Both survival, sex, and child prostitution are directly caused by and the result of drug abuse. In some countries, parents sell their children for sexual exploitation to make money or to get out of paying family debts.

Davis and Jones (2012) found that child defilement can be caused by things like sex, age, drug use by a child under the age of 18, a mental or physical disability, a history of sexual abuse, and psychological and cognitive vulnerability. Child defilement was caused by things like weak punishments for people who do sexual violence, high crime rates, and conflicts in social and cultural norms that support male dominance and entitlement.

#### **2.2.4 Community Based Interventions to Child Defilement**

International laws protect children from any kind of defilement, including the right to life, the protection of children without families, freedom from abuse and neglect, freedom of identity, freedom from sexual abuse, and freedom from the sale, trafficking, and kidnapping (Yahaya et al., 2013). The protection of children is also emphasised in Article 27 of the African Charter, which says that parties must protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation. They must take steps to stop children from being forced, coerced, or pushed into sexual activity.



According to Batunzi and Kadoma (2011), defilement existed in traditional African societies where girls would be married off to older men for their parents to accumulate wealth through bride price and gifts. In Buganda, the girl's virginity was of great value of a girl before marriage. A man who was found or reported to have defiled a girl would be fined a goat, one cow and two back clothes given to the girls' father. A death penalty was issued to a man who defiles a virgin girl being prepared for the Kabaka. UNICEF (2012) revealed the importance of interventions in adopting culturally sensitive and appropriate policies to address child defilement in Uganda.

Winsor Consults Ltd. (2011) found that there were not enough ways for people in the community to respond to and stop violence against children, report it, and get help. Wulczyn et al. (2010) noted that protecting children requires people and groups that are ready to do so. However, UNICEF (2015) revealed that communities do not have the resources or skills to protect their children from being defiled. Some cultures have been seen as both good for girls and bad for them by the rest of society. WHO identifies seven ways to stop children from being defiled: implementing and enforcing the law, Norms and values, a safe environment, the support of parents and caregivers, economic growth, response and support services, education and life skills, and a safe environment. Wesells (2015) urged that mechanisms in the community to protect children from violence are important. He says these systems are set up in groups of people in each town or village.

Carlson et al. (2015) noted that community use social norms as a mechanism for the protection of children against violence. According to him, social norms can prevent or perpetuate violence against children. Alexander –Scout et al. (2016) asserts that social norms condition degree and quality of care and protection they receive from

families. Thus, these studies highlight the importance of understanding a community's norms that might be used as protection intervention against children defilement. World Vision Uganda (2012) and Wessells (2015) identified religion and traditional interventions for child protection against defilement in the community. Traditionally Idioms, taboos and proverbs were important cultural resources for childcare and protection in the communities. Some of the idiomatic expression was negative, discouraging certain behaviour in society. Proverbs would be used to warn children on any dangers. Religion teaching and counselling are useful in nurturing children spiritually, thus preventing them from engaging in risky behaviour.

### **2.3 Summary and Research Gap**

Global, regional, national, and local studies by UNICEF's 2010; Krug et al. 2002; Lucy, 2001; Odhikar, 2014; and Nanteza, (2006) show that girl child exposure defilement during childhood can increase vulnerability to a broad range of mental and physical health problems. These are ranging from depression and unwanted pregnancy to sexually transmitted diseases. Most of the reviewed studies for example Poddar and Mukherjee (2020); Singh et al., (2014), Goldman & Grimbeek (2015) and Weiss and Alexander, (2022) have not routinely categorized age for child sexual abuse. This has created a gap in obtaining magnitude of girl child defilement within societies. Some studies have treated young girls and adult women above 18 as victims of sexual abuse missing out the girl child aged below 18 years. Other studies have looked at child sexual abuse in which the boy child was included. The nature and prevalence of child defilement between boys and girls vary, thus understanding the magnitude of girl child defilement within communities is required.

Data on community knowledge of prevention and protection of girl child defilement is very limited. Most of the studies for example Chitundu et al. (2018); Tozda et al. (2019); Abeid et al. (2014); Seff et al. (2020) and Alaggia et al. (2019) have perceived girl child defilement issues as a legal matter to which community role is minimal. Thus, this study sought to fill this gap by understanding community knowledge on laws protecting girls from defilement, knowledge on procedures for identifying and handling a defiled girl, reporting mechanisms by community members, and cultural laws on handling perpetrators. Furthermore, there is limited evidence from review literature on community response to girl child defilement. Most studies have concentrated on legal and civil society, NGO response to girl child defilement. The current study thus sought to fill the various gaps identified from the literature review.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the research design and research methodology that was employed in this study. It contains the research design, target population, sampling for the study, data collection instruments and procedure, data analysis, as well as presentation methods to be used in the study.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The study used a descriptive survey to examine how the community in Ainabkoi sub-county, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya, reacted to girl child defilement. The researcher chose this research design because it allows inferences to be made about the relationships between variables without direct intervention from changes in independent and dependent variables at the same time (Paton, 2000). In this study, variables (magnitude of defilement cases, level of knowledge, predisposing factors, community-based interventions, and girl child defilement) were investigated without any manipulation or alteration. Descriptive research was appropriate identifying characteristics, frequencies, trends, and categories community responses to girl child defilement. This is because not much is known yet about the community responses.

This design made it easy and convenient for the researcher to gather data, and it can still give the study what it needs (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The descriptive design made it possible to collect, measure, classify, analyse, compare, and interpret data (Kothari, 2009). Using a descriptive survey design helped get original information from a population that was too big to observe directly. The descriptive analysis method

was chosen for the study because the researchers wanted to learn more about a phenomenon and give basic information about the study area.

### **3.3 Research Site**

The study was carried out in Ainabkoi sub-county, one of the six sub-counties and administrative units in Uasin-Gishu County. The sub-county has nine locations namely, -Ainabkoi, Kapngetun, Olare, Chepngoro, Plateau, Chepkero, Kaptagat, Kipsinende and Kapsoya. The sub-county has a population of 137, 117 people and an area of 479.9 square kilometres (KNBS, 2019). Majority of the people in the area are small scale businessmen and women, small scale farmers, casual labour which is accessed in Eldoret.

In Ainabkoi sub-county, there have been more cases of children being raped. According to a report from the Center for Human Rights and Mediation in 2021, more than eight children are defiled every day when they are at home because of the coronavirus pandemic. However, before coronavirus struck Center for Human Rights and Mediation were receiving at least one case per week. Further, Ainabkoi sub-county community faces challenge in fighting defilement where majority of parents of the affected child want to solve the case at home instead of taking the person involved to court.

### **3.4 Target Population**

The study targeted all households within Ainabkoi Sub County. According to the Kenya Population and Housing Census (2019), the Ainabkoi sub-county population is 137,117 people and 34,892 households. Respondents included all households' heads. This is because the researcher believes that the parents are well informed enough to

address issues of girl child defilement aged 1-17 years. This study also targeted chiefs, social workers, secondary school principals, primary schools headteachers and church leaders as key informants.

**Table 3.1 Target Population**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Household Heads</b>	<b>Chiefs</b>	<b>Social worker</b>	<b>Secondary school principals</b>	<b>Primary schools headteachers</b>	<b>Church leaders</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ainabkoi	4562	1	1	2	5	4	4575
Kapngetuny	4217	1	1	1	4	3	4227
Olare	4254	1	1	2	3	3	8802
Chepngoror	1182	1	1	1	2	3	1190
Plateau	4347	1	1	3	3	2	4357
Chepkero	2642	1	1	1	3	2	5547
Kaptagat	4351	1	1	3	4	4	4364
Kipsinende	2927	1	1	3	3	4	2939
Kapsoya	6410	1	1	4	6	7	7303
<b>Total</b>	<b>34892</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35002</b>

**Source; Kenya Population and Housing Census (2019)**

### 3.5 Study Sample

#### 3.5.1 Study Sample Size

The sample size is a subset of the population that the researcher engages in providing information for the study. This study used Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table in Appendix I to obtain a sample size of 380 respondents. Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula was appropriate as it provided a representative sample from the target population. The sample is appropriate as the researcher would not have enough resources and time to obtain data from all 34892 households living in Ainabkoi Sub-County.

The Krejcie and Morgan formula used:

$$S = \frac{X^2NP(1-P)}{d^2(N-1) + X^2P(1-P)}$$

Where:

S = Required sample size

X = Z value (e.g., 1.96 for 95% confidence level)

N = Population Size

P = Population proportion (expressed as decimal) (assumed to be 0.5 (50%))

d = Degree of accuracy (5%), expressed as a proportion (.05); It is margin of error

Therefore:

$$S = 3.841 * 34892 * 0.5 * (1 - 0.5) \div (0.05 * 0.05 (34892 - 1)) + 3.841 * 0.5 * (1 - 0.5)$$

$$S = 33505.043 \div 88.19$$

$$S = 379.9$$

$$S = 380$$

Therefore, the sample size for this study was 490 respondents comprising of 380 household heads, 9 chiefs, 9 social workers, 27 secondary school principals, 33 primary schools head teachers and 32 church leaders.

### 3.5.2 Sampling Procedure

Sampling is the process of choosing a group of people for a study so that the chosen people represent the larger group from which they were chosen. This means that the people chosen are a good representation of the group (Orodho, 2009). In this study, groups of homes from each location were put together using stratified sampling. Households were put into 9 strata as per the 9 locations (Ainabkoi, Kapngetuny, Olare, Chepngoror, Plateau, Chepkero, Kaptagat, Kipsinende and Kapsoya) in Ainabkoi sub-county. After stratification systematic sampling was used from each location to select

household. The first household was selected at random the  $k^{\text{th}}$  ( $N/n$ ) household was selected until the required sample was arrived. After selecting the household, a household's head was chosen randomly from each household using simple random sampling. This sampling method is appropriate because it gives each person a chance to participate in the study.

**Table 3.2 Sample Population**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Household Heads</b>	<b>Chiefs</b>	<b>Social worker</b>	<b>Secondary school principals</b>	<b>Primary schools headteachers</b>	<b>Church leaders</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ainabkoi	50	1	1	2	5	4	63
Kapngetuny	46	1	1	1	4	3	56
Olare	46	1	1	2	3	3	56
Chepngoror	13	1	1	1	2	3	21
Plateau	47	1	1	3	3	2	57
Chepkero	29	1	1	1	3	2	37
Kaptagat	47	1	1	3	4	4	60
Kipsinende	32	1	1	3	3	4	44
Kapsoya	70	1	1	4	6	7	89
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>490</b>

Purposive sampling technique was used for local leaders, school heads, and social workers from Uasin Gishu Sub- County Hospital. They are considered resourceful people in providing information on girl child defilement reporting systems and community intervention to girl child defilement. This formed part of the key informants.



### **3.6 Data Collection**

#### **3.6.1 Data Collection Instruments**

The study used three data collection instruments to obtain information on community response to girl child defilement in the study area. The main data collection tool was a questionnaire developed by the researcher. Interview schedules collected data from key informants. Questionnaire was the main research instrument. A questionnaire covering items from the four study objectives was formulated and administered with the help of research assistants to household members. The questionnaire comprised both open ended and closed questions sought information on community response on girl child defilement.

The questionnaires were subdivided into five main sections. Section A sought the participants' demographic information; section B contained questions that answer objective one that aims to establish the magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub County. Section C had questions on community knowledge level on girl child defilement. Section D investigated the predisposing factors for girl child defilement in the study area. The last section E sought to establish community intervention for prevention of girl child defilement. Use of questionnaire has been recommended by Mugenda and Mugenda (2010) and Sarantakos, (2007) as an efficient data collection tool for a large amount of information from many people. This tool has been applauded for its cost-efficiency, time-saving and easy in conducting reliability and validity of tools.

The interview schedule is a data collection tool that allows a researcher to collect in-depth information from study participants (DeJonckheere & Vaughn, 2019). This study used an interview guide to collect information from local leaders, children's

officers, social workers fighting against sexual violence and security officers in Ainabkoi Sub County. The researcher engaged in face-to-face sessions to identify key informants to collect information on magnitude, community intervention, predisposing factors, and knowledge systems available in the study area to respond to girl child defilement.

### **3.6.2 Pilot Testing of Research Instruments**

In this study, the instruments were piloted in rural Kapseret sub-county, which has similar characteristics as the study area. The instrument was tested for reliability and validity, as explained in the subsequent sections below.

### **3.6.3 Instrument Reliability**

Reliability is a measure of how well a research tool gives the same results after being used many times (Neuman, 2000). Reliability is a quality that is given to a proposition or measure based on how consistent the results they produce are. The researcher did a test with 38 households in a sub-county next door. Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was used to check the reliability of the data. Cronbach's Alpha coefficient values range from 0 to 1, and as the alpha value goes up, so does the reliability. Most of the time, an alpha value above 0.7 means a good level of reliability (Kothari, 2014). Cronbach's Alpha scores of 0.7 and above was used in this study.

### **3.6.4 Instrument Validity**

Validity is to which results obtained from the data analysis represent the phenomenon under study (Orodho, 2009). This process is important in ensuring instruments issued in collecting data are as accurate as possible and are able to collect only relevant data for the study. There are various techniques for establishing the

validity of one's study instruments. The content validity technique was used in this study to ensure that the instrument accurately measured the intended variables. The researcher sought advice from child protection officers within the sub-county who would go through the instrument; ensuring relevant information concerning girl child defilement is included. Academic experts from the department of counselling psychology with experience in children's matters was also consulted. The researcher reviewed all comments from the expert by adding or deleting according to expert's advice. Grammar and sentence constructions of research instruments were adjusted as per the expert's advice.

### **3.6.5 Data Collection Procedures**

Before the actual data collection an authorization letter from the Board of Post Graduate Studies Africa Nazarene University was sought. This approval letter was used to get a permit from the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI). The permit to be obtained was used to obtain permission from the research authorization letter from the ministry of Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Sports and Social Services in Uasin Gishu County and Ainabkoi sub-county offices. The researcher used two research assistants to administer the questionnaires. The research assistants were recruited based on background in counselling psychology and they were trained before participating in data collection. The researcher conducted interviews from 110 key informants. Before, data collection was carried out consent was sought from household as well as key informants. Those respondents who consented to participate in the study were administered questionnaires (household heads) and interviewed (Key informants). The sampling procedures was followed to select

households who participated in the study. Interviews were carried out in key informant's place of work in a booked room.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

Data was collected using questionnaires, which were then coded, entered into the Statistical Analysis Software-Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25, and described. The frequencies and percentages were used to determine how the respondents felt about the issues brought up in the collected data to answer the research questions. Kombo and Tromp (2007) noted that the purpose of the descriptive method is to learn about the current situation and, if possible, draw valid conclusions from the facts discussed. Chi-square analysis was adopted to check for association between the independent magnitude of defilement cases, level of knowledge, predisposing factors, community-based interventions) and dependant variable (girl child defilement). Results were considered significant at 95% confidence level.

Thematic analysis was used to organize qualitative data from key interviews into themes and patterns that corresponded to the research questions. This assisted the researcher in detecting and establishing distinct categories in the data. The researcher manually assigned codes to generate themes and categories. The data was then evaluated and analyzed for use in answering research questions, and a report was created.

### **3.8 Legal and Ethical Considerations**

The researcher sought permission from African Nazarene University, Ethical approval from the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation to conduct the research. The researcher wrote letters and visit the local chief's offices

sought permission to conduct the research. The information collected was kept confidential for the research study. The researcher briefed the participants on the purpose of the study and answer any questions before proceeding with data collection.

Respondents who agreed to participate in the study were given informed consent forms to fill out in order to be included in the research study. After the respondents had fully understood the nature of their involvement in the research, including time commitment, type of activities, issues they would be asked to comment on or discuss, and the anticipated risks for participating in the research, the researcher facilitated the process of filling out informed consent forms. The researcher did not force respondents to sign informed consent forms when seeking consent for this study. As a result, participation was entirely voluntary. During the consent form filling process, the researcher informed the respondents that they could withdraw from the study at any time.

Another ethical consideration in this study was the protection of the respondents' identities. This entailed masking identities, maintaining confidentiality, storing data securely, and restricting access to the data. The researcher agreed to seek permission from the respondents for any future use of the data. Furthermore, once the analysis and reporting were completed, the researcher destroyed all raw data.

The researcher informed participants that the data collected for this study would remain confidential. They were informed that the findings would serve academic purposes only and would not be shared, except with prior knowledge of the investigator and them. This were meant to safeguard the trust exhibited by the participants on the researcher and to observe the ethical code of conduct on information gathered from the

field. To ensure privacy and confidentiality of the information and participate the researcher used pseudonyms.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the qualitative and quantitative data based on the objectives the study.

#### 4.2 Response Rate

The anticipated total sample population for the study was 490 (100%) respondents and out of these 418 (85.3%) filled the questionnaire and took part in the interviews. Specifically, 325 (85.5%) household heads, 9 (100%) chiefs, 9 (100%) social workers, 23 (85.2%) secondary school principals, 25 (75.6%) primary schools headteachers and 27 (84.4%) church leaders took part in the study. The response rate of 85.3% was deemed high enough to support the data analysis for the study.

**Table 4.1 Response Rate**

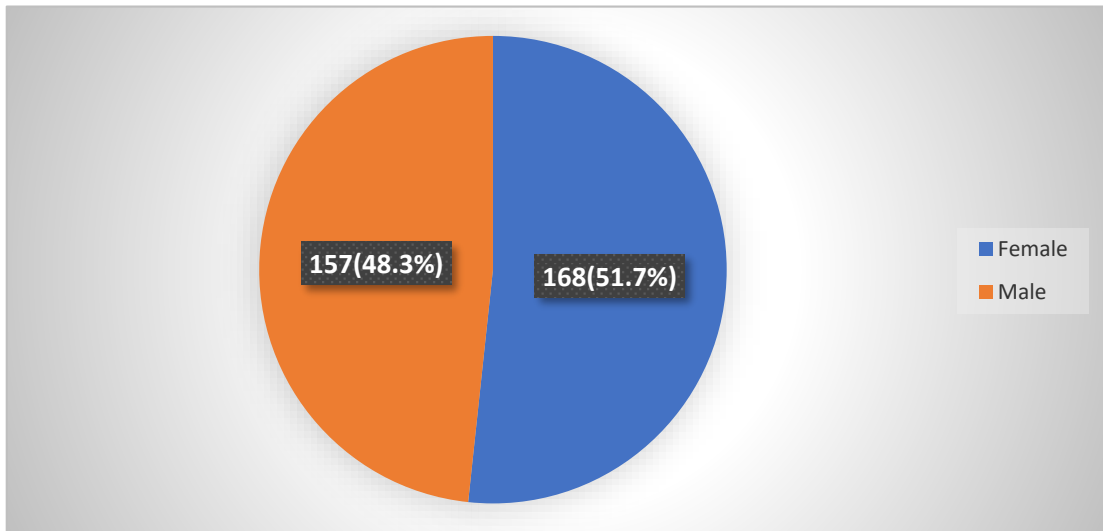
<b>Category</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Response rate</b>
Household Heads	380	325 (85.5%)
Chiefs	9	9 (100%)
Social worker	9	9 (100%)
Secondary school principals	27	23 (85.2%)
Primary schools headteachers	33	25 (75.6%)
Church leaders	32	27 (84.4%)
Total	490	418 (85.3%)

**Source: Field Data (2022)**

#### 4.2.1 Demographic Information

This part looks at the demographics of the people who answered the survey. This part of the report describes the respondents by their gender, age range, level of education, religion, and family status.

The study results in Figure 4.1 revealed that majority (168 [51.7%]) of the respondents were female, while 157 (48.3%) were male. This implies that there are more female than male respondents.

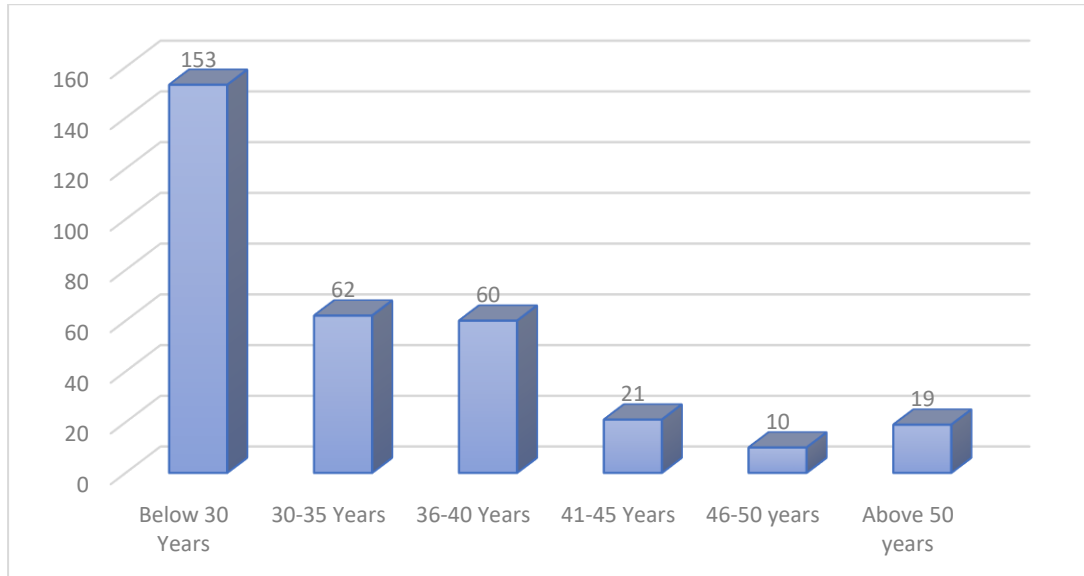


**Figure 4.1 Gender of the Respondents**

**Source: Field data (2022)**

The study results on age bracket of the respondents as presented in Figure 4.2 revealed that 153 (47.1%) of the respondents were in the age bracket of below 30 years, 62 (19.1%) aged between 30-35 years, 60 (18.5%) of the respondents were in the age bracket between 36 to 40 years while 10 (3.1%) aged between 46-50 years. The results implied that majority of the respondents were old enough to understand the topic under the study.

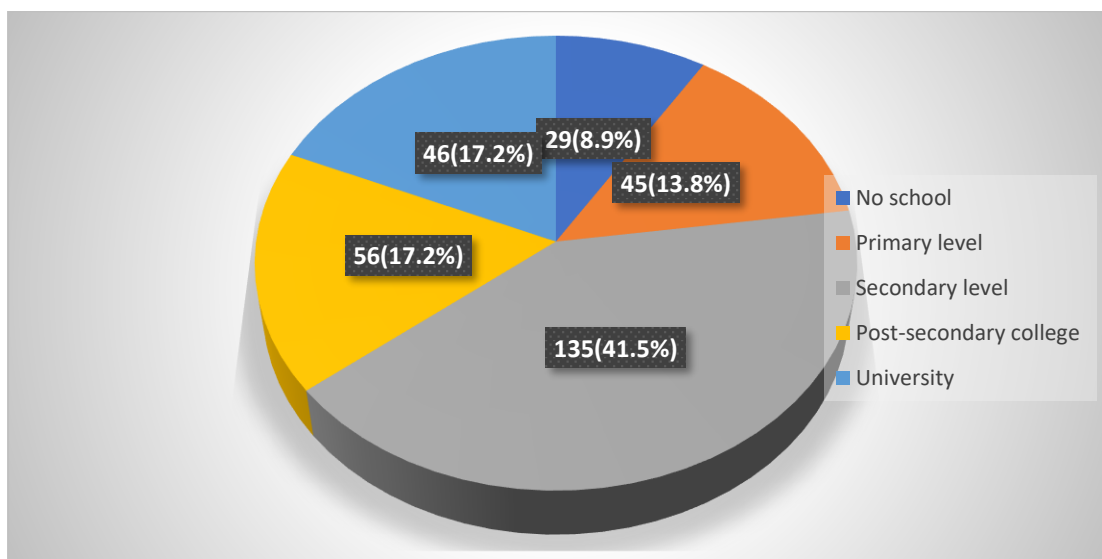




**Figure 4.2 Age Bracket of the Respondents**

**Source: Field data (2022)**

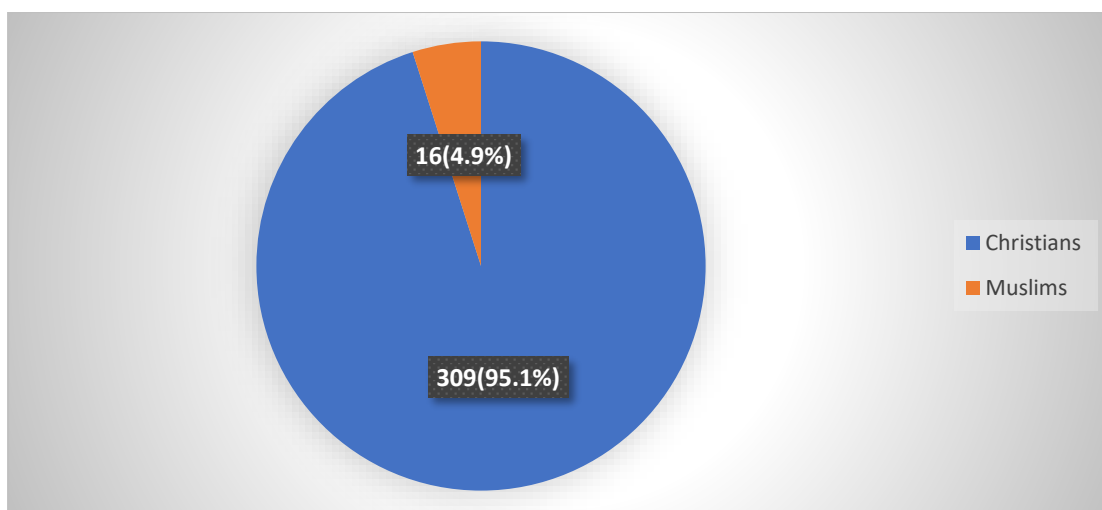
The study results on respondent's level of education as presented in Figure 4.3 indicated that 29 (8.9%) of the respondents indicated that they had no education at all, 45 (13.8%) of the respondents had primary level of education, 135 (41.5%) of the respondents had secondary level of education, 56 (17.2%) of the respondents had a college level of education and 46 (17.2%) of the respondents had a university level of education. The results implied that the majority of the respondents were learned enough to understand the research and give reliable information.



**Figure 4.3 Level of the Education**

**Source: Field data (2022)**

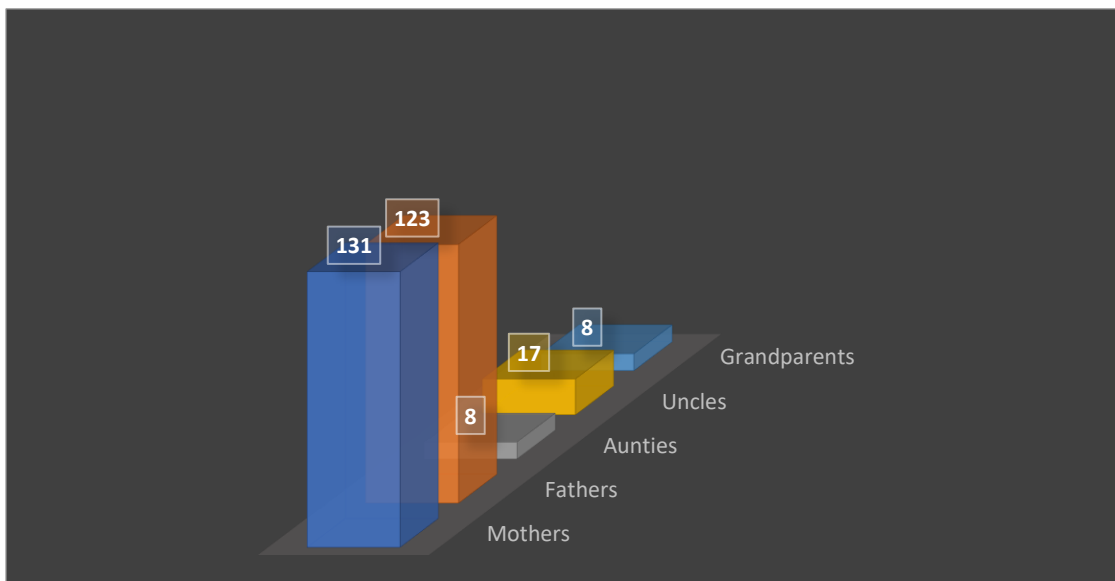
The study results in Figure 4.4 on religion of the respondents revealed that 309 (95.1%) of the respondents indicated that they had been Christians while 16 (4.9%) of the respondents indicated that they were Muslims. The results implied that the majority of the residents in Ainabkoi Sub-County, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya are Christians.



**Figure 4.4 Religion of the Respondents**

**Source: Field data (2022)**

The study findings family status of the respondents revealed that 131 (40.3%) of the respondents indicated that they were mothers, 123 (37.8%) of the respondents indicated that they were fathers, 8 (2.5%) of the respondents indicated that they were aunts, 17 (5.2%) of the respondents indicated that they were uncles and 8 (2.5%) of the respondents indicated that they were grandparents. The study findings are presented in Figure 4.5.



**Figure 4.5 Family Status of the Respondents**

**Source: Field data (2022)**

Further respondents were asked to indicate the type of labor they engage in. Results in Table 4.2 revealed that 31 (9.5%) of the respondents indicated that they engage in formal employment, 74 (22.7%) of the respondents indicated that they engage in casual labor, 54 (47.4%) of the respondents indicated that they engage in self-employment and 66 (20.3%) of the respondents indicated that they were not engaged in any labor.

**Table 4.2 Type of Labor**

<b>Type of Labor</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Formal employment	31	9.5
Casual labor	74	22.7
Self employed	154	47.4
None	66	20.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

In addition, the respondents were asked to indicate their family income. Results in Figure 4.3 revealed that 151 (46.5%) of the respondents indicated that they earn less than 5000, 87 (26.8%) of the respondents indicated that they earn between 5000-10000, 55 (16.9%) of the respondents indicated that they earn between 10000-15000 and 14 (4.3%) of the respondents indicated that they earn above 15,000.

**Table 4.3 Family Income**

<b>Family Income</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 5000	151	46.5
5000-10000	87	26.8
10000-15000	55	16.9
Above15000	14	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.2.2 Association between Demographic Information and Defilement Cases**

The study findings on Table 4.4a and 4.4b revealed that out of the total 262 of respondents who indicated that they have heard of defilement 135 (41.5%) were male. Chi-square test for independence from the statistical analysis showed that there was no significant association between gender and defilement cases ( $P=0.903$ ). The 112 (34.5%) of respondents aged below 30 years noted that they had heard about the defilement cases, while the least were from the age above 50 years (5.2%). The chi-square test results revealed a statistically significant relationship between age and defilement cases, as indicated by Pearson's chi-square probability value of ( $p=0.04$ ).

According to Pearson's chi-square probability value of 0.012, there was a statistically significant statistical association between education level and defilement cases. The respondents with the highest level of education, secondary, were the most likely to have heard of defilement. Pearson's chi-square probability value of 0.392 indicated that there was no statistically significant relationship between family status and defilement cases.

**Table 4.4a Association between Demographic Information (Gender, Age Bracket, Highest-level of education, Family status) and Defilement Cases**

	<b>Defilement Case</b>	<b>Never heard Cases</b>	<b><math>\chi^2</math></b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	135(41.5%)	33(10.2%)	0.015	1	0.903
Female	127(39.1%)	30(9.2%)			
<b>Age Bracket</b>					
Below 30 years	112(34.5%)	41(12.6%)	17.575	5	0.040
30-35 years	48(14.8%)	14(4.3%)			
36-40 years	54(16.6%)	6(1.8%)			
41-45 years	21(6.5%)	0(0.0%)			
46-50 years	10(3.1%)	0(0.0%)			
50 years and above	17(5.2%)	2(.6%)			
<b>Highest-level of education</b>					
No school	26(8.0%)	3(0.9%)	12.864	4	0.120
Primary school	43(13.2%)	2(0.6%)			
Secondary level	103(31.7%)	32(9.8%)			
Post-secondary college	40(12.3%)	16(4.9%)			
University	50(15.4%)	10(3.1%)			
<b>Family status</b>					
Mother	105(32.3%)	26(8.0%)	5.204	5	0.392
Father	102(31.4%)	21(6.5%)			
Aunt	8(2.5%)	0(0.0%)			
Uncle	12(3.7%)	5(1.5%)			
Grandparent	5(1.5%)	3(0.9%)			
Others	30(9.2%)	8(2.5%)			

**Source: Field data (2022)**

The chi-square test results in Table 4.4b showed that there was no statistically significant association between religion and defilement cases as indicated by Pearson's chi-square probability value of 0.132. The chi-square test results showed that there was statistically significant association between head of family and defilement cases as indicated by Pearson's chi-square probability value of 0.042. Out of the total 262 defilement cases, majority of the respondent's indicated that they were Christians evidenced by 119 (36.6%). The chi-square test results showed that there was no statistically significant association between number of households and defilement cases as indicated by Pearson's chi-square probability value of 0.182.

The chi-square test results showed that there was a statistically significant association between labor and defilement cases as indicated by Pearson's chi-square probability value of 0.020. Out of the total 262 defilement cases, majority of the respondent's indicated that they were self-employed as shown by 126 (38.8%) and minority were formally employed as shown by 19 (5.8%). The chi-square test results showed that there was statistically significant association between income and defilement cases as indicated by Pearson's chi-square probability value of 0.025. Out of the total 262 defilement cases, majority of the respondent's indicated that they earned less than Ksh.5000 as shown by 122 (37.5%) and minority earned between 15,000 and 20,000 shillings as shown by 7 (2.2%).

**Table 4.4b Association between Demographic Information (Religion, Number household, Labor and Income) and Defilement Cases**

	<b>Defilement Case</b>	<b>Never heard Cases</b>	$\chi^2$	<b>Df</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Religion</b>					
Christians	246(75.7%)	63(19.4%)	4.047	2	0.132
Muslims	14(4.3%)	0(0.0%)			
Others	2(.6%)	0(0.0%)			
<b>Number household</b>					
01-Mar	69(21.2%)	19(5.8%)	3.403	2	0.182
03-Jun	132(40.6%)	36(11.1%)			
6 and above	61(18.8%)	8(2.5%)			
<b>Labor</b>					
Formal employment	19(5.8%)	12(3.7%)	9.816	3	0.02
casual laborer	59(18.2%)	15(4.6%)			
Self employed	126(38.8%)	28(8.6%)			
None	58(17.8%)	8(2.5%)			
<b>Income</b>					
Less than 5000	122(37.5%)	29(8.9%)	111.108	4	0.025
5,000-10,000 shillings	69(21.2%)	18(5.5%)			
10,000-15,000 shillings	49(15.1%)	6(1.8%)			
15,000-20,000 shillings	7(2.2%)	7(2.2%)			
Above 20,000 shillings	15(4.6%)	3(0.9%)			

**Source: Field Data (2022)**



### 4.3 Presentation of Research Analysis and Findings

This section covers the presentation of the research analysis and findings according to the four study objectives. The study results were presented in form of tables and figures.

#### 4.3.1 Objective One: Magnitude of Girl Child Defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County

The first objective of the study was to determine the magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County. To achieve these objective descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) as well as inferential statistics (chi square) were used to analyze the data collected. Thematic method was also used to analyze the data collected via interviews. Results from the various subsections were as follows; The respondents were asked to indicate how often in their life they have witnessed or heard of girl child defilement. The study results are presented in Table 4.5.

**Table 4.5 Defilement Cases**

<b>Defilement Cases</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Once	82	25.2
A few times	90	27.7
Many times,	90	27.7
Never heard	25	7.7
Never witnessed	38	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

Results in Table 4.5 revealed that 82 (25.2%) of the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement once, 90 (27.7%) of the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement a few times, 90 (27.7%) the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement

many times. However, 25 (7.7%) of the respondents had never heard of cases of defilement while 38 (11.7%) of the respondents had never witnessed.

Further, the study findings from interviews with Chief [1] revealed that the number of defilement cases for girl child have risen in their location. Chief [1] noted that

*“.... Many girl children defilement cases have been reported in my office especially during COVID-19 pandemic....”*

This implies that during COVID-19 there was rise in defilement of girl child since majority of them were at home after schools were closed.

Chief [3] indicated that

*“Girl child defilement is a major problem in Ainabkoi Sub-County. In 2022, there were over 200 cases of defilement reported to the police. This is a significant increase from the previous year, when there were only 150 cases reported.”*

Church leaders [ 3] said that;

*“Defilement is a serious problem in our community. We need to do more to protect our girls.”*

Children's officer [5] noted that;

*"We are seeing a rise in the number of cases of defilement. This is a worrying trend."*

Further, Social worker [6] said;

*"We are working with victims of defilement to provide them with support. We are also working to raise awareness about the dangers of defilement."*

Security officer [3] revealed that;

*"We are working to apprehend perpetrators of defilement. We are also working to educate the community about the law."*

Social worker [1] said;

*“Child defilement is a serious issue that can have long-lasting negative effects on children.”*

Chief [3] said that;

*“It is important to take child defilement seriously and take action to protect children from harm. If you suspect that a child is being harmed, it is important to report it to the appropriate authorities and take steps to ensure the child's safety.”*

#### 4.3.2 Perpetrator of Defilement

The respondents were asked to indicate the perpetrator of defilement. The results are presented in Table 4.6.

**Table 4.6 Perpetrator of Defilement**

<b>Perpetrator of Defilement</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Adult male relative	34	10.5
A random adult male	222	68.3
Teacher	45	13.8
Teenage boy	24	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

Results in Table 4.6 revealed that 34 (10.5%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked by an adult male relative, 222 (68.2) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked by a random adult male, 45 (13.8%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked by a teacher and 24 (7.4%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked by a teenage boy.

In addition, children’s officers [5] interviewed revealed that;

*“...The girl child defilement cases reported to us are many are the perpetrators are majorly adult family members.... This alarming because those who are expected to take care of the children are the one who defile them...”*

This gave implication that the adult family members defile the girl child.

### 4.3.3 Areas where Girl Children Mostly get Attacked by their Perpetrators

The respondents were asked to indicate the areas where girl children mostly get attacked by their perpetrators. Results in Table 4.7 revealed that 25 (7.7%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked at school, 123 (37.8%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked on the road, 88 (27.1%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked while fetching water. Furthermore, the study findings from interviews with social worker [3] revealed that;

*“..... majority (73%) of girls are defiled at home by their relatives. ....”*

**Table 4.7 Areas where Girl Children Mostly get Attacked by their Perpetrators**

<b>Areas</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Home	25	7.7
School	123	37.8
On the road	88	27.1
While fetching water	33	10.2
While collecting firewood	48	14.8
Church	8	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.4 Objective Two: Residence Knowledge on Girl Child Defilement

##### 4.4.1 Opinion on Girl Child Defilement

The respondents were asked to indicate their opinion on girl child defilement. Table 4.8 revealed that 304 (93.5%) of the respondents indicated that defilement is having sex with a child and 21 (6.5%) of the respondents indicated that defilement is having sex with a student.

**Table 4.8 Opinion on Girl Child Defilement**

<b>Opinion on Girl Child Defilement</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Having sex with a child	304	93.5
Having sex with a student	21	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

##### 4.4.2 Knowledge of any Offender of Girl Child Defilement in the Area

The respondents were asked to indicate their Knowledge of any Offender of Girl Child Defilement in the Area. Results in Table 4.9 revealed that majority (213 [65.5%]) of the respondents indicated that they had knowledge of offender of girl child defilement in the area.

**Table 4.9 Knowledge of any Offender of Girl Child Defilement in the Area**

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	213	65.5
No	112	34.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.4.3 Forum of Discussions of Girl Child Defilements

The respondents were asked to indicate the forum of discussions of girl child defilements. Table 4.10 revealed that a good number 133 (40.9%) of the respondents indicated that they never discuss girl child defilements at chief barazas, 142 (43.7%) of the respondents indicated that they rarely discuss girl child defilements at church, majority 186 (57.8%) of the respondents indicated that they never discuss girl child defilements in radios, 140 (43.1%) of the respondents indicated that they often discuss girl child defilements at family get together and 144 (44.3%) of the respondents indicated that they always discuss girl child defilements in funerals.

**Table 4.10 Forum of Discussions of Girl Child Defilements**

<b>Forums</b>	<b>Always</b>	<b>Often</b>	<b>Rarely</b>	<b>Never</b>
Chief Barazas	29 (8.9%)	69 (21.2%)	94 (28.9%)	133 (40.9%)
Church	29 (8.9%)	87 (26.7%)	142 (43.7%)	67 (20.6%)
Radio	20 (6.2%)	25 (7.7%)	94 (28.9%)	186 (57.2%)
Family gets together	107	140	41 (12.6%)	37 (11.4%)
Funerals	144	92 (28.3%)	54 (16.6%)	35 (10.8%)

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.4.4 Awareness of the Law Protecting Children from Defilement

The respondents were asked to indicate their knowledge of law protecting children from defilement. Results in Table 4.11 revealed that 229 (70.5%) of the respondents indicated that they had knowledge of law protecting children from defilement.

**Table 4.11 Awareness of the Law Protecting Children from Defilement**

<b>Awareness of the Law Protecting</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	229	70.5
No	96	29.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.4.5 Association between Residence Knowledge and Defilement Cases**

The study results in Table 4.12 revealed that there was statistically significant association between residence knowledge and defilement cases ( $p=0.007$ ). Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 49 (15.1%) of the respondents had witnessed defilement of household girl.

The study results further revealed that there was statistically significant association between knowing an offender and defilement cases ( $p=0.003$ ). Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 102 (31.4%) of the respondents indicated that they knew an offender. The chi-square test results showed that there was no statistically significant association between knowing the law protecting the child and defilement cases ( $p=0.851$ ).

**Table 4.12 Association between Residence Knowledge and Defilement Cases**

<b>Residence Knowledge</b>	<b>Defilement Case</b>	<b>Never heard Cases</b>	<b><math>\chi^2</math></b>	<b>df</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Household girl child defilement</b>					
Yes	49 (15.1%)	3 (0.9%)	7.344	1	0.007
No	213 (65.5%)	60 (18.5%)			
<b>Know any offender</b>					
Yes	102 (31.4%)	12 (3.7%)	8178	1	0.003
No	160 (49.2%)	51 (15.7%)			
<b>Law protecting children</b>					
Yes	184 (56.6%)	45 (13.8%)	0.035	1	0.851
No	78 (24.0%)	18 (5.5%)			

Source: Field data (2022)

#### **4.4.6 Association between Forum of Discussions of Girl Child Defilements and Defilement Cases**

The study findings in Table 4.13 noted that there was a statistically significant association between girl child defilement discussion in chief baraza and defilement cases ( $p=0.003$ ). Out of the total 262 defilement cases, majority of the respondent's indicated that they always attend chief Barazas where they get information about defilement as shown by 119 (36.5%).

There was no statistically significant association between girl child defilement discussion at church functions and defilement cases ( $P=0.529$ ). The study findings also, revealed that there was statistically significant association between girl child defilement discussion on radio and defilement cases ( $p=0.002$ ). Out of the total 262 defilement cases, majority of the respondent's indicated that they often discuss defilement matters in radio as shown by 157 (48.3%).



There was no statistically significant association between girl child defilement discussion at family get together functions and defilement cases ( $P=0.139$ ). Out of the total 262 defilement cases, majority of the respondent's indicated that they never discuss defilement matters in family get togethers as shown by 83 (25.5%).

The study results showed that there was statistically significant association between girl child defilement discussion at funerals and defilement cases ( $p=0.002$ ). Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 113 (34.8%) of the respondents indicated that they never discuss defilement matters in funerals.

*"We are aware of the problem of girl child defilement, but there is a lack of awareness among residents," said chief [4]. "Many people do not know what constitutes defilement, and they do not know how to report it."*

Local leaders in Ainabkoi Sub-County are aware of the problem of girl child defilement, but they say that there is a lack of awareness among residents. They say that many people do not know what constitutes defilement, and they do not know how to report it. They also say that there is a stigma associated with reporting defilement, which discourages victims from coming forward.

*"We are working to raise awareness of girl child defilement," said children's officer [2]. "We are visiting schools and communities to educate people about the issue."*

Children's officers in Ainabkoi Sub-County say that they are working to raise awareness of girl child defilement. They say that they are visiting schools and communities to educate people about the issue. They are also working to create a network of people who can help victims of defilement, including police officers, social workers, and lawyers.

*"We are seeing an increasing number of cases of girl child defilement,"* said social worker [4]. *"The majority of victims are young girls between the ages of 10 and 14."*

Social workers in Ainabkoi Sub-County say that they are seeing an increasing number of cases of girl child defilement. They say that the majority of victims are young girls between the ages of 10 and 14. They say that the perpetrators are often known to the victims, and they often use threats or violence to silence them.

*"We are working to crack down on defilement cases,"* said security officer [1]. *"We are increasing patrols in areas where there have been reports of defilement."*

Security officers in Ainabkoi Sub-County say that they are working to crack down on defilement cases. They say that they are increasing patrols in areas where there have been reports of defilement. They are also working to build relationships with community members so that they can get information about potential cases.

The level of knowledge among residents of Ainabkoi Sub-County regarding girl child defilement is low. There is a lack of awareness about what constitutes defilement, and there is a stigma associated with reporting it. Local leaders, children's officers, social workers, and security officers are working to raise awareness of the issue and to provide support to victims.

**Table 4.13 Association between Forum of Discussions of Girl Child Defilements and Defilement Cases**

		<b>Defilement Case</b>	<b>Never heard Cases</b>	$\chi^2$	<b>df</b>	<b>p-value</b>
<b>Chief Barazas</b>						
	Never	23 (7.1%)	6 (1.8%)	14.134	3	0.003
	Rarely	47 (14.5%)	22 (6.8%)			
	Often	73 (22.5%)	21 (6.5%)			
	Always	119 (36.6%)	14 (4.3%)			
<b>Church</b>						
	Never	23 (7.1%)	6 (1.8%)	2.213	3	0.529
	Rarely	66 (20.3%)	21 (6.5%)			
	Often	119 (36.6%)	23 (7.1%)			
	Always	54 (16.6%)	13 (4.0%)			
<b>Radio</b>						
	Never	11 (3.4%)	9 (2.8%)	14.863	3	0.002
	Rarely	16 (4.9%)	9 (2.8%)			
	Often	78 (24.0%)	16 (4.9%)			
	Always	157 (48.3%)	29 (8.9%)			
<b>Family gets together</b>						
	Never	83 (25.5%)	24 (7.4%)	5.499	3	0.139
	Rarely	120 (36.9%)	20 (6.2%)			
	Often	33 (10.2%)	8 (2.5%)			
	Always	26 (8.0%)	11 (3.4%)			
<b>Funerals</b>						
	Never	113 (34.8%)	31 (9.5%)	14.976	3	0.002
	Rarely	66 (20.3%)	26 (8.0%)			
	Often	52 (16.0%)	2 (0.6%)			
	Always	31 (9.5%)	4 (1.2%)			

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.5 Objective Three: Predisposing Factors to girl child defilement

The respondents were first asked to indicate why they think that girl child defilement occurs in their community. Table 4.14 revealed that 12 (37.2%) of the respondents indicated that it is due to the darkness at night, 76 (23.4%) of the respondents indicated that it is due to fear to report defilement cases, 45 (13.8%) of the respondents indicated that it is due to offenders are hardly punished, 31 (9.5%) of the respondents indicated that it is due to poor housing that exposes children, 27 (8.3%) of the respondents indicated that it is due to teachers take advantage of children in school and 25 (7.7%) of the respondents indicated that it is due to abuse of power.

**Table 4.14 Predisposing Factors to Girl Child Defilement**

<b>Predisposing Factors</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
The area is dark at night	121	37.2
Fear to report defilement cases	76	23.4
Offenders are hardly punished	45	13.8
Poor housing that exposes children	31	9.5
Teachers take advantage of children in school	27	8.3
Abuses of power	25	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

##### 4.5.1 Factors contributing to Child Defilement

The respondents were further asked to indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree s regarded as factors leading to girl child defilement in their community. Table 4.15 revealed that majority 107 (32.9%) of the respondents strongly disagreed cultural practice leads to girl child defilement in their community. The study further

revealed that majority 101 (31.1%) of the respondents agreed that type of houses in their village leads to girl child defilement in their community, majority 92 (28.3%) of the respondents agreed cultural practice leads to girl child defilement in their community, majority 111 (34.2%) of the respondents disagreed lack of electricity in the community leads to girl child defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community.

The study results revealed that majority 118 (36.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that media exposes girl children to defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community. Majority 93 (28.6%) of the respondents disagreed church activities (Vigil etc.) leads to girl child defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community. Majority 147 (45.2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed disabled girl child is more vulnerable to defilement in their community leads to girl child defilement in their community. Majority 138 (42.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that poor parenting leads to girl child defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community. Majority 138 (42.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that orphaned girl children are more vulnerable to defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community.

Majority 150 (46.2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that poverty in their household exposes girl children to defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community. Majority 176 (54.1%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that night club vigil has increased girl child defilement in their area leads to girl child defilement in their community.

**Table 4.15 Factors contributing to Child Defilement**

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
Cultural practices	107 (32.9%)	96 (29.5%)	83 (25.5%)	39 (12.0%)
Type of houses in this village	55 (16.9%)	101 (31.1%)	98 (30.2%)	71 (21.9%)
Lack of electricity in the community leads to girl child defilement	74 (22.8%)	92 (28.3%)	91 (28%)	68 (20.9%)
Media exposes girl children to defilement	55 (16.9%)	58 (17.8%)	111 (34.2%)	101 (31.1%)
Church activities (Vigil etc.) leads to girl child defilement	118 (36.3%)	105 (32.3%)	44 (13.5%)	58 (17.8%)
Disabled Girl child is more vulnerable to defilement in this community	58 (17.8%)	82 (25.2%)	93 (28.6%)	92 (28.3%)
Poor parenting leads to girl child defilement	147 (45.2%)	42 (12.9%)	108 (33.2%)	147 (45.2%)
Orphaned girl children are more vulnerable to defilement	41 (12.6%)	55 (16.9%)	91 (28%)	138 (42.5%)
Poverty in this household exposes girl children to defilement	25 (7.7%)	66 (20.3%)	84 (25.8%)	150 (46.2%)
Night club vigil has increased girl child defilement in this area	25 (7.7%)	44 (13.5%)	80 (24.6%)	176 (54.1%)

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.5.2 Cultural Practices Encouraging Girl Child Defilement**

The respondents were also asked to state the cultural practices in this community encourage girl child defilement. Table 4.16 revealed that majority 168

(51.7%) of the respondents indicated that incest is the main cultural practice contributing to girl child defilement.

**Table 4.16 Cultural Practices Encouraging Girl Child Defilement**

<b>Cultural Practices</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Incest	168	51.7
FGM	157	48.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.5.3 Association between knowing the cause of defilement and Defilement Cases**

The study results in Table 4.17 revealed that there was statistically significant association between knowing the cause of defilement and defilement cases ( $p=0.008$ ). Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 94 (28.9%) of the respondents indicated that the main cause of defilement is the fear to report the defilement cases.

**Table 4.17 Association between Knowing the Cause of Defilement and Defilement Cases**

<b>Reason of girl defilement</b>	<b>Defilement Case</b>	<b>Never heard Cases</b>	$\chi^2$	<b>df</b>	<b>p-value</b>
The area is dark at night	30 (9.2%)	0 (0.0%)	17.418	6	0.008
Fear to report defilement cases	94 (28.9%)	19 (5.8%)			
Offenders are hardly punished	54 (16.6%)	23 (7.1%)			
Poor housing that exposes children	52 (16.0%)	10 (3.1%)			
Teachers take advantage of children in school	4 (1.2%)	0 (0.0%)			
Parents do not know what to do	9 (2.8%)	2 (0.6%)			
Abuse of power	19 (5.8%)	9 (2.8%)			

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.5.4 Association between Factors contributing to Child Defilement and Defilement Cases

The study sought to determine association between factors contributing to child defilement and defilement cases. The study results are presented in Table 4.18.

The study findings in Table 4.18 revealed that there was no statistically significant association between defilement cases and lack of electricity in the community  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 2.117, p = .146$ , church activities  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 2.340, p = .126$  and night club vigil has  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 0.342, p = .559$ .

However, the study findings revealed that cultural practices are statistically significant associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 6.087, p = .014$ . Out of the total 262 of defilement cases, 121 (37.2%) of respondents noted that cultural practices lead to defilement cases.

The study findings revealed that type of houses in the village was significantly associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 3.877, p = .049$ . Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 126 (38.8%) respondents noted that type of houses in the village led to increase in defilement cases.

The study findings revealed that media exposes girl children to defilement was significantly associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 4.465, p = .035$ . Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 136 (41.8%) respondents noted that media exposes girl children to defilement.

The study findings revealed that disabled girl child is statistically significant associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 6.303, p = .012$ . Out of the total 262



defilement cases, 194 (59.7%) of the respondents agreed that disabled girl child is more vulnerable to defilement in this community.

The study findings revealed that poor parenting was significantly associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 5.954, p = .015$ . Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 180 (55.4%) of the respondents agreed that poor parenting leads to girl child defilement.

The study findings revealed that orphaned girl children were significantly associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 7.644, p = .006$ . Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 164 (50.5%) of the respondents noted that orphaned girl children are more vulnerable to defilement.

The study findings revealed that poverty is statistically significant associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2 (1, N = 262) = 5.041, p = .025$ . Out of the total 262 defilement cases, 174 (53.5%) of the respondents agreed that poverty in the household exposes girl children to defilement.

Factors that predispose a girl child to defilement can be complex and interrelated. Here are some responses from local leaders, children's officers, social workers fighting against sexual violence, and security officers:

A social workers fighting against sexual violence said that;

*“Age, health, and physical, mental, emotional, and social development are factors that may increase a child's vulnerability to maltreatment. Children who do not have a clear understanding of boundaries are highly unlikely to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate behavior. Children with a disability are at least three times more likely to be sexually abused.”*

Children's officers [2] noted that

*“Low self-esteem, poor control over their emotions, a history of being abused themselves, stress, financial problems, social isolation, and substance abuse are some of the factors that can contribute to child abuse and neglect”.*

Chief [4] said that;

*“Family factors that contribute to child abuse and neglect include domestic violence, marital conflict, and poor parent-child relationships.”*

Children's officers [2] said;

*“Communities' perceptions of factors contributing to child sexual abuse vulnerability in Kenya include gender separation, dressing modestly, harsh penalties for sexual offenders, and community watch groups.”*

**Table 4.18 Association between Factors contributing to Child Defilement**

			<b>Defilement Cases</b>	<b>Never heard</b>		$\chi^2$	<b>df</b>	<b>p- value</b>
Cultural practices	No	F	141	23	164	6.087 <sup>a</sup>	1	.014
		%	43.4%	7.1%	50.5%			
	Yes	F	121	40	161	3.877 <sup>a</sup>	1	.049
		%	37.2%	12.3%	49.5%			
Type of houses in this village	No	F	136	24	160	2.117 <sup>a</sup>	1	.146
		%	41.8%	7.4%	49.2%			
	Yes	F	126	39	165	4.465 <sup>a</sup>	1	.035
		%	38.8%	12.0%	50.8%			
Lack of electricity in the community leads to girl child defilement	No	F	105	19	124	2.340 <sup>a</sup>	1	.126
		%	32.3%	5.8%	38.2%			
	Yes	F	157	44	201	6.303 <sup>a</sup>	1	.012
		%	48.3%	13.5%	61.8%			
Media exposes girl children to defilement	No	F	126	21	147	5.954 <sup>a</sup>	1	.015
		%	38.8%	6.5%	45.2%			
	Yes	F	136	42	178	7.644 <sup>a</sup>	1	.006
		%	41.8%	12.9%	54.8%			
Church activities leads to girl child defilement	No	F	188	39	227	5.041 <sup>a</sup>	1	.025
		%	57.8%	12.0%	69.8%			
	Yes	F	74	24	98	.342 <sup>a</sup>	1	.559
		%	22.8%	7.4%	30.2%			
Disabled Girl child is more vulnerable to defilement in this community	No	F	68	7	75	5.041 <sup>a</sup>	1	.025
		%	20.9%	2.2%	23.1%			
	Yes	F	194	56	250	7.644 <sup>a</sup>	1	.006
		%	59.7%	17.2%	76.9%			
Poor parenting leads to girl child defilement	No	F	82	10	92	5.954 <sup>a</sup>	1	.015
		%	25.2%	3.1%	28.3%			
	Yes	F	180	53	233	7.644 <sup>a</sup>	1	.006
		%	55.4%	16.3%	71.7%			
Orphaned girl children are more vulnerable to defilement	No	F	98	12	110	5.041 <sup>a</sup>	1	.025
		%	30.2%	3.7%	33.8%			
	Yes	F	164	51	215	.342 <sup>a</sup>	1	.559
		%	50.5%	15.7%	66.2%			
Poverty in this household exposes girl children to defilement	No	F	88	12	100	5.041 <sup>a</sup>	1	.025
		%	27.1%	3.7%	30.8%			
	Yes	F	174	51	225	.342 <sup>a</sup>	1	.559
		%	53.5%	15.7%	69.2%			
Night club vigil has increased girl child defilement in this area	No	F	123	27	150	.342 <sup>a</sup>	1	.559
		%	37.8%	8.3%	46.2%			
	Yes	F	139	36	175	.342 <sup>a</sup>	1	.559
		%	42.8%	11.1%	53.8%			

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.6 Objective Four: Available community-based Intervention on girl child defilement

##### 4.6.1 Whether your child /children Ever been Sexually Abused

The respondents were first asked to indicate whether their child/children have been sexually abused. Table 4.19 revealed that 204 (62.8%) of the respondents indicated that their children have not been sexually abused.

**Table 4.19 Whether your child /children Ever been Sexually Abused**

<b>Sexually Abused</b>	Frequency	Percent
Yes	121	37.2
No	204	62.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

##### 4.6.2 Action taken after Defilement

The respondents were also asked to indicate the action taken after their child/children have been sexually abused. Table 4.20 revealed that 101 (31.1%) of the respondents indicated that they reported to the chief, 98 (30.1%) of the respondents indicated that they reported the matter to the police, 99 (30.5%) of the respondents indicated they took the child to the hospital, 1 (0.1%) of the respondents indicated that they informed their neighbors, 9 (2.8%) of the respondents indicated that they did nothing out of fear, 17 (5.2%) of the respondents indicated that they did not know what to do.

The study findings from the interviews with social worker [4] noted that;

*“.....when defilement case is reported to us, we report to the nearest police station and take the girl for medication....”*

Chief [7] interviewed said “..... when defilement cases are reported to me I Take them to hospitals for medical evaluation and acquisition of a p3 form further report to the local police also get them psychosocial support.....”

Further, church leader [6] interviewed noted that “.... I report the case to the police station, then take her to the hospital for medical check-ups ....”

**Table 4.20 Action taken after Defilement**

<b>Action taken</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Report to the local chief	101	31.1
Report to the police	98	30.1
Take the child to the hospital	99	30.5
Informed the neighbors	1	0.1
Did nothing out of fear	9	2.8
Resolved the matter with the perpetrator	17	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.6.3 Knowledge of the Person who Committed the Act**

The respondents were asked to indicate whether they knowledge on the person who committed the act. Table 4.21 revealed that majority 205 (63.1%) of the respondents indicated that they were not aware of the people who committed the act.

**Table 4.21 Knowledge of the Person who Committed the Act**

<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	120	36.9
No	205	63.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.6.4 Action Taken on the person who committed the act

The study further sought to know the action taken on the person who committed the act. Table 4.22 revealed that 22 (6.8%) revealed that they did nothing, 127 (39.1%) of the respondents indicated that they apologized and paid the fine and 176 (54.2%) of the respondents indicated that they reported him to the police. The questioned respondents added to the actions that should be implemented against culprits based on the interviews.

Chief [2] said that;

*.....They should be arrested, arraigned in courts and charged as per the law, they should be arrested and be jailed for whole of his life, Imprisonment, they should be prosecuted. They should be arrested and face the law, Report to chief.....indicate the source of this information*

**Table 4.22 Action Taken on the person who committed the act**

Action Taken	Frequency	Percent
Nothing	22	6.8
He apologized and paid the fine	127	39.1
Reported to the police	176	54.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.6.5 Know of any child who has been defiled in your area

The respondents indicate whether they had knowledge know on any child who has been defiled in the area. Table 4.23 revealed that majority of the respondents 221 (68%) of the respondents indicated that they had knowledge know on any child who has been defiled in the area.

**Table 4.23 Know of any child who has been Defiled in the Area**

<b>Child Defilement</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	221	68
No	104	32
Total	325	100

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.6.6 How they came to know about Child's Defilement**

The respondents were asked to indicate how they came to know about child's defilement. Table 4.24 revealed that 35 (10.8%) of the respondents indicated that they witnessed, 98 (30.2%) of the respondents indicated that the children shared with them, 101 (30.2%) of the respondents indicated that they overheard from other members, 91 (28%) of the respondents indicated that other children reported.

**Table 4.24 How they came to know about Child's Defilement**

<b>Knowledge of Child's Defilement</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
I witnessed	35	10.8
The child shared with me	98	30.2
I overheard from other members	101	31.2
Other children reported	91	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.6.7 Action Taken after Defilement**

The respondents were also asked to indicate what they did after getting the information of a child had been defiled. Table 4.25 shows that 31 (9.5%) of the respondents indicated that they did nothing, 91 (28%) of the respondents indicated that

they reported to the police, 83 (25.5%) of the respondents indicated that they reported to the chief and 120 (36.9%) of the respondents indicated that they took the child to the hospital. When asked what actions should be performed once a kid is defiled, the respondents gave the following responses.

Social worker [3] said, *“Take them to hospitals for medical evaluation and acquisition of a p3 form further report to the local police also get them psychosocial support”* another interviewee added, *“Advice the girl and Report to chief”* Also, *“To report the case to the police station, then take her to the hospital for medical check-ups”*

**Table 4.25 Action Taken after Defilement**

Action Taken	Frequency	Percent
Nothing	31	9.5
Reported to the police	91	28
Reported to the chief	83	25.5
Took child to hospital	120	36.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### 4.6.8 How often the Child Perpetrator is Known to the Community

The researcher sought to know how often the child perpetrator is known to the community. Table 4.26 shows that majority 198 (60.9%) of the respondents indicated that the perpetrator is rarely known to the community.

**Table 4.26 How often the Child Perpetrator is Known to the Community**

Frequency	Frequency	Percent
Very often	32	9.8
Often	55	16.9
Rarely	198	60.9
Not at all	40	12.3
Total	325	100

**Source: Field data (2022)**



Finally, the study sought to know the action which community take on known defilers. Table 4.27 revealed that 79 (24.3%) of the respondents indicate that they are beaten and 223 (68.6%) of the respondents indicate that they are handed to the police.

**Table 4.27 Action by the Community**

<b>Action by the Community</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Beat them	79	24.36
Nothing	23	7.1
Hand them to the police	223	68.6
Total	325	100

**Source: Field data (2022)**

#### **4.6.9 Association between Action Taken and Defilement Cases**

The study sought to determine association between factors contributing to child defilement and defilement cases. The study results are presented in Table 4.28.

**Table 4.28 Association between Action Taken and Defilement Cases**

	Action Taken		Defilement Case	Never heard Cases	$\chi^2$	df	p-value
What action did you take on the person who committed the act	He apologized and paid fine	F	1 2.60%	0 0.00%	5.381 <sup>a</sup>	2	0.068
	Reported to police	F	30 78.90%	3 7.90%			
	other	F	2 5.30%	2 5.30%			
What did you do after getting the information of a child had been defiled	Nothing	F	27 21.80%	3 2.40%	.683 <sup>a</sup>	3	0.877
	Reported to police	F	53 42.70%	5 4.00%			
	Reported to chief	F	14 11.30%	2 1.60%			
	Took child to hospital	F	19 15.30%	1 0.80%			
What action does the community take on known defilers	Beat them	F	71 21.80%	15 4.60%	10.539 <sup>a</sup>	3	0.015
	Nothing	F	36 11.10%	13 4.00%			
	Hand them to police	F	145 44.60%	27 8.30%			
	others	F	10 3.10%	8 2.50%			

**Source: Field data (2022)**

The study findings revealed that there was no statistically significant association between action taken on the person who committed the act and defilement cases  $\chi^2$  (2,  $N = 262$ ) = 5.381,  $p = .068$ . Action taken after getting the information of defiled child is not statistically significant associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2$  (3,  $N = 262$ ) = .683,  $p = .877$ . However, the study findings revealed that action taken by community on known defilers are statistically significant associated with defilement cases  $\chi^2$  (1,  $N = 262$ ) = 10.539,  $p = .015$ . Out of the total 262 of defilement cases, 145 (44.60%) of respondents noted that the community hand known defiler to police.

*"We are working with schools to educate students about girl child defilement," said children's officer [3]. "We want to make sure that young people know what constitutes defilement and that they know how to report it."*

*"We are also organizing community events to raise awareness of the issue," said social worker [5]. "We want to make sure that everyone in the community is aware of the problem and that they know what to do if they see something suspicious."*

*"We are using social media to reach a wider audience," said a representative from a non-governmental organization. "We want to make sure that everyone knows about the problem of girl child defilement and that they know how to help."*

Local leader [3] said that;

*"We have a number of strategies in place to handle defilement of girls. These include educating girls about their rights, providing them with support services, and working with the police to prosecute perpetrators. We also work to change the social norms that contribute to defilement, such as the belief that girls are not as valuable as boys."*

Children's officer [1] noted that:

*"We have a team of social workers who work with children who have been defiled. We provide them with counseling, medical care, and legal assistance. We also work with their families to help them cope with the trauma of the experience."*

- Social worker [5] said;

*"I have seen firsthand the devastating impact that defilement can have on girls. It can lead to physical and emotional problems, as well as social isolation. It is important for us to provide support to these girls and to help them heal."*

- Security officer [7] said that;

*"We are committed to working with the community to stop defilement. We have increased patrols in areas where there have been reports of defilement, and we are working to build relationships with community members so that they feel comfortable reporting these crimes."*

Local Leader [5]

*"We have been working with the community to raise awareness about the dangers of child sexual abuse. We have also been providing training to parents and caregivers on how to protect their children. We believe that these measures will help to prevent child sexual abuse from happening."*

Children's Officer [4] said;

*"We have been working with the police to investigate cases of child sexual abuse. We have also been working with the courts to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. We believe that these measures will help to deter child sexual abuse and protect children from further harm."*

Social Worker [2] noted;

*"We have been providing counseling and support to victims of child sexual abuse. We have also been working with the community to create a more supportive environment for victims. We believe that these measures will help victims to heal and recover from their trauma."*

Security Officer [6] indicated that;

*"We have been patrolling the community to deter criminals and protect children. We have also been working with the community to build relationships and create a sense of safety. We believe that these measures will help to keep children safe from harm."*

Local leaders [3] said;

*"We have been working with the police to increase patrols in areas where there have been a high number of defilement cases. We have also been working with schools to educate children about sexual violence and how to protect themselves."*

*"We have set up a task force to investigate all cases of defilement and to bring the perpetrators to justice. We are also working with the community to raise awareness about the issue of defilement and to encourage people to report any cases they know about."*

Children's officer [4] indicated that;

*"We have been working with schools to provide counseling and support to children who have been defiled. We have also been working with parents to help them understand the signs of sexual abuse and how to protect their children."*

*"We have been running awareness campaigns in the community about the issue of defilement. We have also been working with schools to develop age-appropriate sex education programs."*

Social workers fighting against sexual violence [4] noted;

*"We have been working with survivors of defilement to help them rebuild their lives. We have also been working with the police to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice."*

*"We have been working with the community to raise awareness about the issue of defilement and to encourage people to report any cases they know about."*

Security officers [6] said:

*"We have been working with the local community to increase patrols in areas where there have been a high number of defilement cases. We have also been working with schools to educate children about sexual violence and how to protect themselves."*

*"We have been investigating all cases of defilement and have brought a number of perpetrators to justice. We are committed to working with the community to stop this crime."*

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This section presents the summary, discussion, conclusion and recommendations of the study. The chapter first discusses the demographic characteristics of the respondents. Each of the subsequent sections has been sub-divided according to the study objectives.

#### 5.2 Summary of the Findings

The first objective determines the magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County. The study findings revealed that 82 (25.2%) of the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement once, 90 (27.7%) of the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement a few times, 90 (27.7%) the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement many times. Results revealed that 34 (10.5%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked by an adult male relative, more than half 222 (68.2%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked by a random adult male. Results revealed that 25 (7.7%) of the respondents indicated that they were attacked at school.

The second objective sought to assess the knowledge of the residents on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County. The study findings revealed that majority 304 (93.5%) of the respondents indicated that defilement is having sex with a child. Majority 213 (65.5%) of the respondents indicated that they had knowledge of offender of girl child defilement in the area.

A good number 133 (40.9%) of the respondents indicated that they never discuss girl child defilements at chief barazas, 142 (43.7%) of the respondents indicated that

they rarely discuss girl child defilements at church. The study results revealed 229 (70.5%) of the respondents indicated that they had knowledge of law protecting children from defilement.

The third objective sought to identify the factors predisposing the girl child to defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. The study results revealed that 12 (37.2%) of the respondents indicated that it is due to the darkness at night. Majority 107 (32.9%) of the respondents strongly disagreed cultural practice leads to girl child defilement in their community. The study further revealed that 101 (31.1%) of the respondents agreed that type of houses in their village leads to girl child defilement in their community. The study results revealed that 118 (36.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that media exposes girl children to defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community. Less than half 138 (42.5%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that poor parenting leads to girl child defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community. Less than half 150 (46.2%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that poverty in their household exposes girl children to defilement leads to girl child defilement in their community. Majority 176 (54.1%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that night club vigil has increased girl child defilement in their area leads to girl child defilement in their community. Majority 168 (51.7%) of the respondents indicated that incest is the main cultural practice contributing to girl child defilement.

The fourth objective sought to evaluate available community-based interventions against girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. The study revealed that 204 (62.8%) of the respondents indicated that their children have not been sexually abused. Less than half 101 (31.1%) of the respondents indicated that they reported to

the chief. Majority 205 (63.1%) of the respondents indicated that they were not aware of the people who committed the act.

The study revealed that 22 (6.8%) revealed that they did nothing, 127 (39.1%) of the respondents indicated that they apologized and paid the fine and 176 (54.2%) of the respondents indicated that they reported him to the police. The study results concur with Coble, (2017) who cited that majority of the Defilement offenders are reported to the nearby authorities. Majority 198 (60.9%) of the respondents indicated that the perpetrator is rarely known to the community. The study revealed that that 79 (24.3%) of the respondents indicate that they are beaten and more than half 223 (68.6%) of the respondents indicate that they are handed to the police.

### **5.3 Discussions**

The findings on the demographic characteristics of the respondents are discussed first, followed by the findings as per the objectives of the study.

#### **5.3.1 Magnitude of Girl Child Defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County**

The first objective of this study was to determine the magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County. The study findings revealed that majority of the respondents had witnessed cases of defilement once. The results concur with Hillis, Mercy, Amobi and Kress (2016) who reported that one to two billion children are exposed to sexual violence worldwide. Mutavi (2016) argues that the extent and severity of defilement cases among boys and girls are prevalent across all cultures globally. However, shame and fear of stigmatization affect reporting of such occurrence across the community.



The study results in revealed that majority of the respondents indicated that they were attacked by an adult male relative. The findings agree with Coble, (2017) who cited that majority of defilements cases are incest. This sex between persons so closely related that they are forbidden by law to marry. Results revealed that majority of the respondents indicated that they were attacked at school. The study however is in contrary with Wolak, (2010) who cited that most sexual assaults occur at or near the victim's home.

### **5.3.2 Knowledge of the Residents on Girl Child Defilement In Ainabkoi Sub-County**

The second objective of the study was to assess the knowledge of the residents on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County. The results showed that there was statistically significant association between household girl defilement and defilement cases. The study by Aaron, (2021) differ with the study findings. The study by Aaron, (2021) cited that majority of household girls are well organized and help in girl child protection.

The study results further revealed that there was statistically significant association between knowing an offender and defilement cases. The study findings furthermore noted that there was a statistically significant association between chief baraza and defilement cases. The study concurs with a by Maina, (2009) concurs who found out that Chief Baraza plays a big role in education therefore affect the society. There was no statistically significant association between church and defilement cases. Boloje, (2013) in his study stated that church teaches about defilement as state of being impure, dishonored, or desecrated, the church being a source of teachings is therefore not associated with defilement.

The study's results also showed a statistically significant link between radio and cases of defilement. The study by Aaron (2021) concludes that even though the press reports on defilement cases. People need to know how bad defilement is, so they need to give the stories much attention. Minors cannot speak up for themselves, so they rely on the press to bring attention to their plight.

There was no statistically significant association between family get together and defilement cases. The study however differs with study by Roffeei, (2015) who confirmed that children family meetings give a supportive, affectionate, and accepting homes to their child girl children. The study results showed that there was statistically significant association between funerals and defilement cases.

The chi-square test results showed no statistically significant link between knowing about laws that protect children and cases of defilement. The study by Ngovi (2020) said that sexual offences in Kenya are governed by the Sexual Offences Act 2006, which was made into law to deal specifically with sexual offences because sexual offences were previously covered in the Penal Code. It is important to know the law in Kenya.

### **5.3.3 Factors Predisposing the Girl Child to Defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County**

The third objective of the study was to identify the factors predisposing the girl child to defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. The study results showed that there was no statistically significant association between defilement cases and lack of electricity in the community, church activities and night club vigil have.

However, the study findings revealed that cultural practices are statistically significant associated with defilement cases. The study findings revealed that type of

houses in the village was significantly associated with defilement cases. The study findings revealed that media exposes girl children to defilement was significantly associated with defilement cases. The study agreed with Aaron (2021), who says that even though the press reports on defilement cases, they need to give the stories more attention to show how bad defilement is and what it does to children. Minors cannot speak up for themselves, so they rely on the press to bring attention to their plight.

The study findings revealed that disabled girl child is statistically significant associated with defilement cases. The study agreed with findings by Bott, (2012) who cited that there is growing evidence that children with disabilities face an increased risk of sexually abused globally. The study findings revealed that poor parenting was significantly associated with defilement cases. The results of the study agreed with Roffeei's (2015) findings, which show that children who grow up in homes that are loving, accepting, and supportive are less likely to become bad people. Children whose parents don't want them are among the most likely to get dirty.

The study findings revealed that orphaned girl children were significantly associated with defilement cases. The study agreed with Human Rights Watch (2003), which noted that it is especially shocking when members of a girl's own family abuse her sexually, especially if she is an orphan. This is because adult female relatives often watch, afraid or intimidated, but say nothing. The study findings revealed that poverty is statistically significant associated with defilement cases. Armstrong (2018) said that people who commit sexual violence often go after people who seem weak because of their poverty, gender, age, race, disability, sexual orientation, or immigration status. The study agreed with this. Poverty is one of the main reasons people are sexually abused, and the victim often has to deal with it daily.

### **5.3.4 Available Community-Based Interventions Against Girl Child Defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County**

The fourth objective sought to evaluate available community-based interventions against girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub-County. The study revealed that majority of respondents indicated that they reported to the chief. The study results concur with Coble, (2017) who cited that majority of the defilement offenders are reported to the nearby authorities. Majority of the respondents indicated that they were not aware of the people who committed the act. The study results are in contrary with a finding by McLaren, (2013) who cited that most people who sexually abuse children are our friends, partners, family members, and community members. The study revealed that they reported him to the police. The study results concur with Coble, (2017) who cited that majority of the defilement offenders are reported to the nearby authorities.

Majority of respondents indicated that they took the child to the hospital. The study concurs with Lyons, (2017) who cited that even if you don't have any symptoms, it's best to be checked for sexually-transmitted infections (STIs) since most have few signs or symptoms. Majority of the respondents indicated that the perpetrator is rarely known to the community. Mennen (2010) differ with the findings that relatives of the child perpetrator are most often the perpetrators of child abuse. However, the study findings revealed that action taken by community on known defilers are statistically significant associated with defilement cases. The findings concur with the findings by Makasa, (2017) who cited that reporting to police includes description of alleged assailant, time of alleged defilement; location and description of scene of alleged defilement; name of witnesses and suspects this do not relate directly to child defilement.

## **5.4 Conclusions**

Based on the study results the study concluded the following; avoid listing your conclusions. Instead, write your points in short paragraphs.

1. The area has witnessed few cases of defilement which were attacked by a random adult male on the road.
2. The residents of the area had no knowledge of offender of girl child defilement in the area since they never discuss girl child defilements at chief barazas, church, radios, family get together, funerals. However, the respondents indicated that they had knowledge of law protecting children from defilement.
3. The predisposing factors include; darkness at night, type of houses in the villages, cultural practices and media exposure.
4. Defilement cases are reported to the chief and to the police most of which they are aware of the perpetrators.

## **5.5 Recommendations**

The study recommends the following:

You should state your findings first; this should prompt you to give recommendations

1. Chiefs and church leaders in the community should get involved with the parents to help vulnerable children and their families in reducing girl child defilement.
2. Education sectors should educate children about their rights in order to be aware of the abuse and how to report the perpetrators.

3. The community should always support girl child defilement prevention programs such as family counseling, reporting mechanisms, girl child education on sexual abuse and community actions against perpetrators.
4. The study recommends police, local community authorities, judiciary and government agencies to cultivate the culture of stopping child sexual abuse, especially defilement of girl child in vulnerable situations by formulating policies regarding girl child defilement in Kenya and elsewhere.
5. The study recommends all stakeholders such as policymakers, department of children, Education, local authorities, local communities, non-governmental organizations to participate in coming up with strategies and formulating policies that helps in preventing girl child defilement.

### **5.6 Suggestions for Further Study**

The current study sought to examine community response on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya and therefore, the study suggests that the future scholars should do research on community response on girl child defilement in other sub counties in Uasin Gishu using similar or diverse objectives.

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### APPENDIX I: CONSENT FORM

I am a Masters student at Africa Nazarene University. As a course requirement I am conducting this study entitled: “community response on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya”. Please read this form carefully and ask any questions that you may have before agreeing to take part in this study. Your answers are voluntarily given and confidentiality is a must.

In case of any questions: Contact Selina C. Kogo: dions144@gmail.com or 0722891242. You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records. Statement of Consent: I have read the above information and have received answers to all the questions I asked.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

This consent form will be kept by the researcher for at least three years beyond the end of the study.

## APPENDIX II: HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

### Household Questionnaire on community response on girl child defilement

#### Section A: Demographic Information

1. Name of the Location \_\_\_\_\_ Village \_\_\_\_\_
2. Please indicate your gender  
Male  Female
3. What age bracket do you belong to?  
Below 30 years  30-35  36-40  41-45  46-50  50 and above
4. What is your highest level of education?  
No school  Primary level  Secondary level  Post-secondary college  University
5. Which religion do you belong to?  
Christian  Muslims  others specify
6. What is your status in the family?  
Mother ( ) 2) Father ( ) 3) Aunt ( ) 4) Uncle ( ) 5) Grandparent ( ) 6) other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is the head of your family?  
Myself  Male  Female  Child headed
8. Please indicate number of household members as categorized in the table

Male aged 18 and above	Female aged 18 and above	Boy children 17-one month old	Girl children 17 –one month old	Total household members

9. What type of labor do you engage in?  
Formal employment   Casual laborer  Self-employed  none
10. What income bracket does your family range in?  
Less than 5,000  5,000-10,000  10,000-15,000  15,000-20,000  Above 20,000

#### Section B: Magnitude of girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County

1. How often in your life have you witnessed or heard of girl child defilement?  
Once  A few times  Many times  Never heard  Never witnessed
2. What was the age of girl you witnessed or heard she had been defiled? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In cases where a girl was defiled who was the perpetrator?

Fellow child [ ] Adult male relative [ ] A random adult male [ ] Teacher [ ] Teenage boy [ ]

4. Which areas do girl children mostly get attacked by their perpetrators?  
Home [ ] School [ ] on the road [ ] While fetching water [ ] While collecting firewood [ ] church [ ] other specify [ ]
5. In the past two years how many cases of girl child defilement have you heard or witnessed? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Has your household had a girl child defiled?  
Yes [ ] No [ ]

### Section C: Residence knowledge on girl child defilement

7. In your opinion, what is girl child defilement?  
Having sex with a child [ ] having sex with a student [ ]  
Having sex with a woman adult [ ] Forcing someone into sex [ ]
8. Do you know of any offender of girl child defilement in this area?  
Yes [ ] No [ ]
9. How frequent are matters on girl child defilement discussed in the following forums?

Forums	Always	Often	Rarely	Never
Chief Barazas				
Church				
Radio				
Family get together				
Funerals				
Others Specify _____				

10. Which other forums have you ever heard girl child defilement being discussed?

-----  
-----  
-----

11. Do you know the law protecting children from defilement?  
Yes [ ] No [ ]

12. When you encounter a defiled girl child what are you supposed to do?
-

13, What should be done to girl child defilement perpetrators?

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14 How does your culture protect girls from defilement?

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15 What is the punishment for a girl child perpetrator in this community?

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#### **Section D: Predisposing Factors to girl child defilement**

16 Why do you think girl child defilement occurs in this community?

The area is dark at night  Fear to report defilement cases

Offenders are hardly punished  Poor housing that exposes children

Teachers take advantage of children in school  Parents do not know what to do

Abuse of power

17 Indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements as factors leading to girl child defilement in this community?

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
Cultural practices				
Type of houses in this village				
Lack of electricity in the community leads to girl child defilement				
Media exposes girl children to defilement				
Church activities (Vigil etc.) leads to girl child defilement				

Disabled Girl child is more vulnerable to defilement in this community				
Poor parenting leads to girl child defilement				
Orphaned girl children are more vulnerable to defilement				
Poverty in this household exposes girl children to defilement				
Night club vigil has increased girl child defilement in this area				

18 What cultural practices in this community encourage girl child defilement?  
 Incest  FGM  Any Other Specify \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Section E: Available community-based Intervention on girl child defilement**

1. a) Has your child /children ever been sexually abused?  
 Yes  No  If no go to item number 3
- b) If yes, what did you do?  
 Report to the local chief  Report to the police   
 Take the child to the hospital  Informed the neighbour   
 Did nothing out of fear  did not know what to do   
 Resolved the matter with the perpetrator
- c) If yes did you know the person who committed the act?  
 Yes  No
2. What action did you take on the person who committed the act?  
 Nothing  He apologized and paid fine  Reported him to police  Others Specify [ ]
3. Do you know of any child who has been defiled in your area?  
 Yes  No
4. How did you know about it?  
 I witnessed  the child shared with me   
 I overheard from other members  other children reported   
 Any other Specify \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did you do after getting the information of a child had been defiled?  
 Nothing  Reported to Police  Reported to the chief  Took child to hospital
6. How often is the child perpetrator known to the community?

Very often [ ] Often [ ] rarely [ ] Not at all [ ]

7. What action does the community take on known defilers?

Beat them [ ] Nothing [ ] Hand them to police [ ] others specify \_\_\_\_\_

8. What mechanism does this community put in place to protect girl child against defilement?

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9. What does the community do to discourage people from defiling girl children in the community?

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**Thank You**

**APPENDIX III: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR KEY INFORMANTS**

1. How prevalent is girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub- County?

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.....  
.....

2. What would you say about child defilement in this area? Probe on cases of girl’s defilement?

.....  
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.....

3. What is the level of knowledge among residents of Ainabkoi Sub-County regarding girl child defilement?

.....  
.....  
.....

4. What factors in this community do you think predispose a girl child to defilement?

.....  
.....  
.....

5. How does the community get informed on girl child defilement?

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.....  
.....

6. What strategies does the community have in handling defilement of girls?

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.....

7. Which preventive measures have the community used in responding girl child defilement?

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.....

8. What action has your office use in countering girl child defilement incidences in this community?

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.....  
.....



**APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH APPROVALS AND LETTERS**

25<sup>th</sup> October 2021

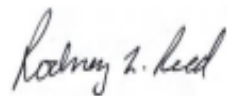
**RE: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

---

Selina Kago (1703DMCP015) is a bonafide student at Africa Nazarene University. She has finished her course work and has defended her thesis proposal entitled: -

*“Community response on girl child defilement in Ainabkoi Sub - County, Uasin Gishu County, Kenya.”*

Any assistance accorded to her to facilitate data collection and finish her thesis is highly welcomed.



**Prof. Rodney Reed**

**Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academics & Student Affairs**

APPENDIX V: RESEARCH PERMIT



THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ACT, 2012

The Grant of Research Licenses is Guided by the Science, Technology and Innovation (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014

CONDITIONS

1. The License is valid for the proposed research, location and specified period.
2. The License and rights thereunder are non-transferable.
3. The Licensee shall inform the relevant County Director of Education, County Commissioner and County Government before commencement of the research.
4. Excavation, filming and collection of specimens are subject to further necessary clearance from relevant Government Agencies.
5. The Licensee does not give authority to transfer research materials.
6. NACOSTI may monitor and evaluate the licensed research project.
7. The Licensee shall submit one hard copy and upload a soft copy of their final report (thesis) within one year of completion of the research.
8. NACOSTI reserves the right to modify the conditions of the License including cancellation without prior notice.

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 Website: [www.nacosti.go.ke](http://www.nacosti.go.ke)

**APPENDIX VII: LETTER FROM COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING AND BASIC  
EDUCATION**

Telegrams:  
Tel: 0208093829  
Email: eldoreteastdistrict@gmail.com  
Ref: No. EB/UG.E/G/43/128

SUB COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE,  
AINABKOI SUB COUNTY,  
P. O. Box 273,  
ELDORET.

DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> NOV, 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RE: AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH-SELINA KAGO**

The bearer of this letter, **Selina Kago** has been given authority by this office to conduct research on the topic “**Community response on girl defilement in Ainabkoi Sub County ,Uasin Gishu County -Kenya**” in your institution.

Kindly accord him necessary assistance.

Thank you

For  
SUB-COUNTY DIRECTOR  
OF EDUCATION, AINABKOI  
P. O. BOX 273-30100, ELDORET

**JACOB OKOME**  
**FOR: SUB COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**  
**AINABKOI SUB- COUNTY.**

**APPENDIX VIII: SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION TABLE**

N	n	N	N	N	n
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	168	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	198	3000	341
80	66	420	201	2500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	<b>384</b>

**Note:** N = Population size    n = Sample size

APPENDIX IX: MAP OF THE STUDY AREA

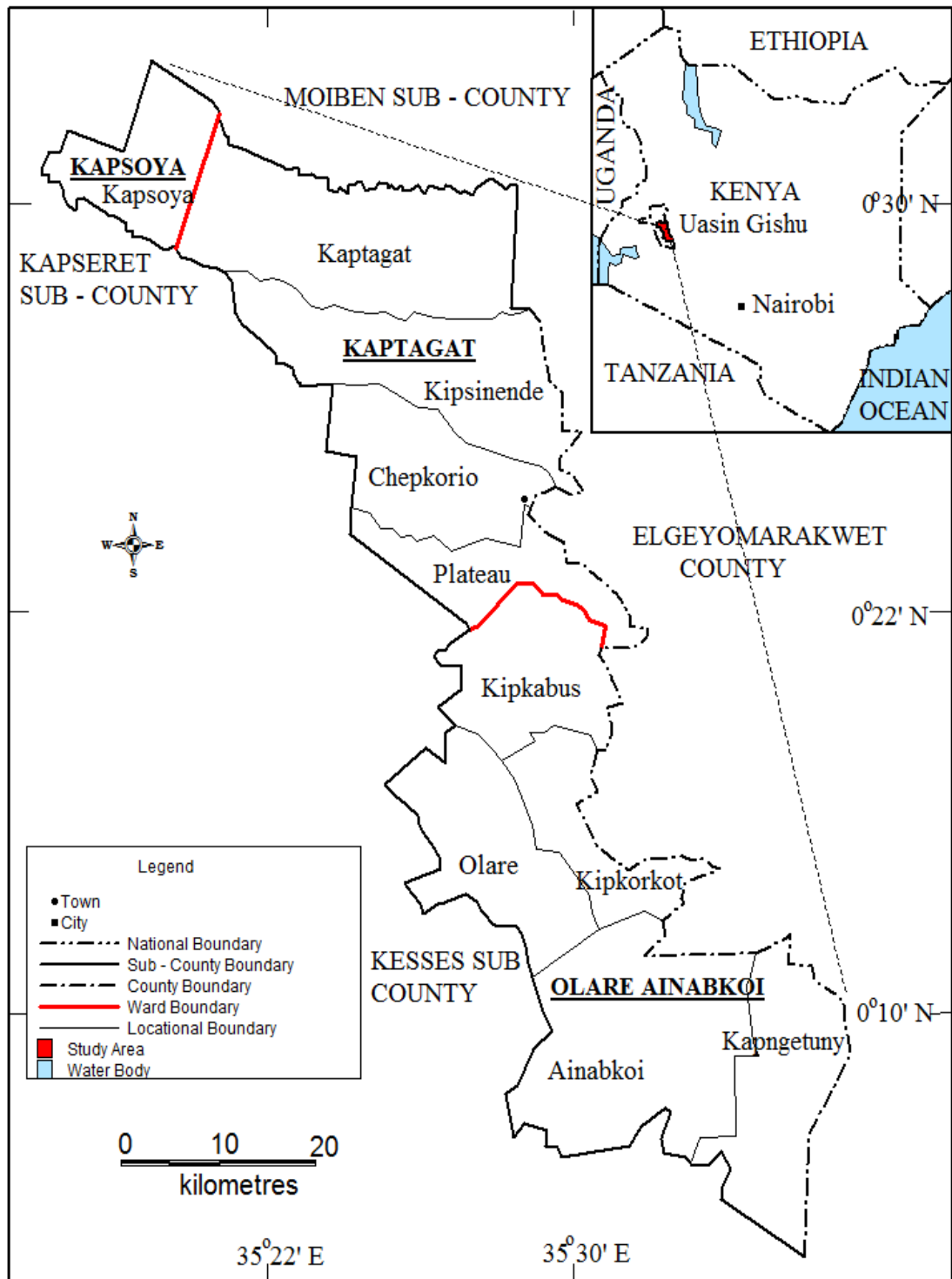


Figure 1: Map of Ainabkoi Sub-County showing wards and administrative unit

Source: Moi University Geography Department GIS Lab.