

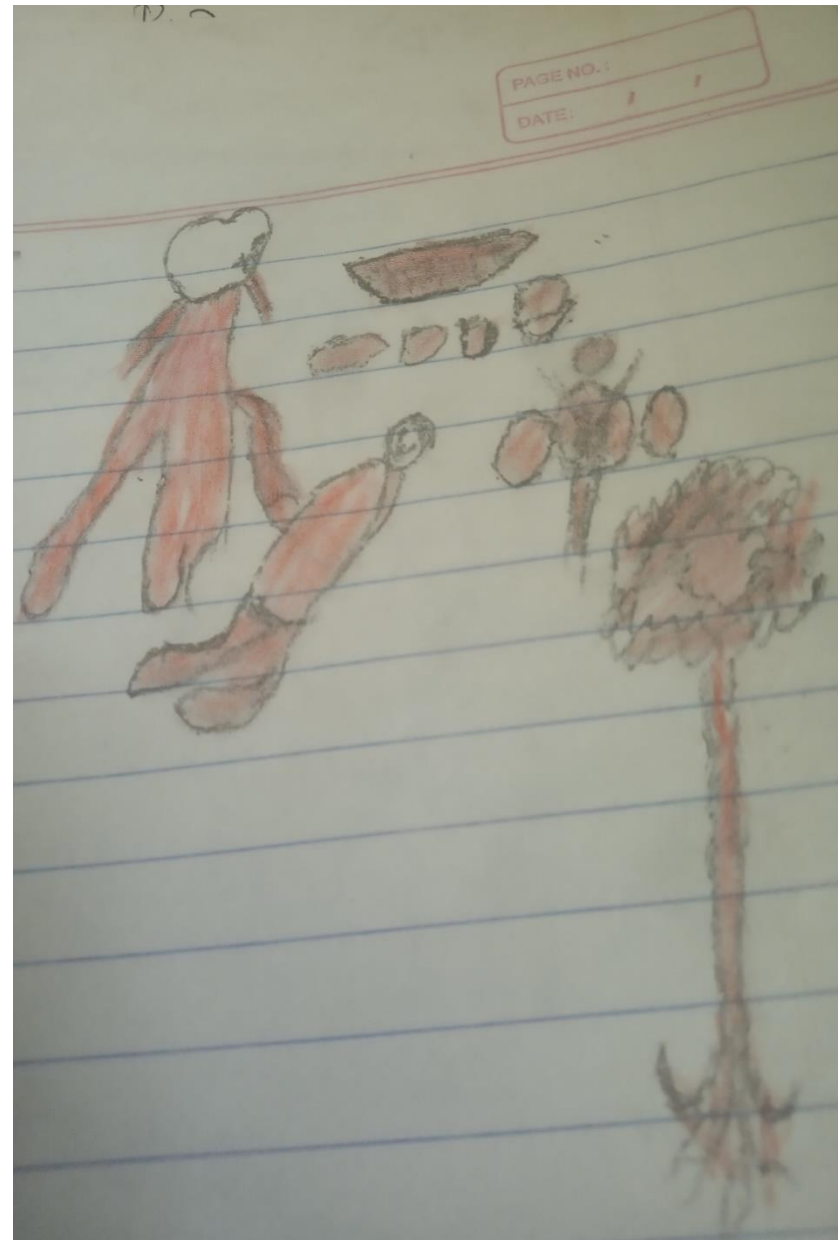
Children's Experiences of Violence at Home: A Case of Nabuyonga Slum, Mbale City

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BACKGROUND

- Children grow and develop well when they are in a home that is warm, provides love, assured safety and violence-free experiences for them to enjoy good nurturing.
- However, globally between 125-133 million children are exposed to family violence (WHO, 2013).
- Most forms of VAC happens in homes (WHO, 2020).



Con't.,

- Although some adults consider aspects of VAC to be proper upbringing of children, children often feel upset and distressed by acts of violence (Pells & Morrow, 2018).
- VAC threatens children's holistic development (Pereda & Diaz-Faes, 2020).
- Uganda VAC survey focused on 13-24 years old leaving out 3-8 year olds (MoGLSD, 2018).
- By 2010 Mbale ranked second with the highest number of street connected children (800) after Kampala (4000) (Namukuve, 2019).



Research Questions

1. How do the 3-8 year old children experience VAC at home?
2. What meaning do 3-8 year old children ascribe to their experiences of VAC at home?
3. How are the children of 3-8 years coping with violence against them at home?



METHODOLOGY

Design	Method	Participants	Sampling	Sample Size
Phenomenology	Interviews (drawing, body mapping, role play)	Children	Purposive and Snow balling	12
	FGD	Parents	Convenience	15
	Observati on	Children and parents	Convenience	8



FINDINGS



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Category and Gender of Participants

9



girls

9



boys

6



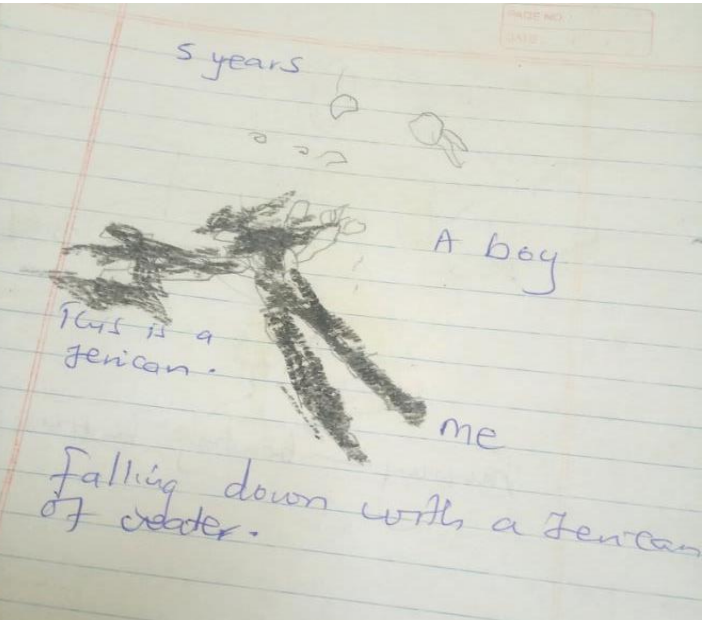
parents

11

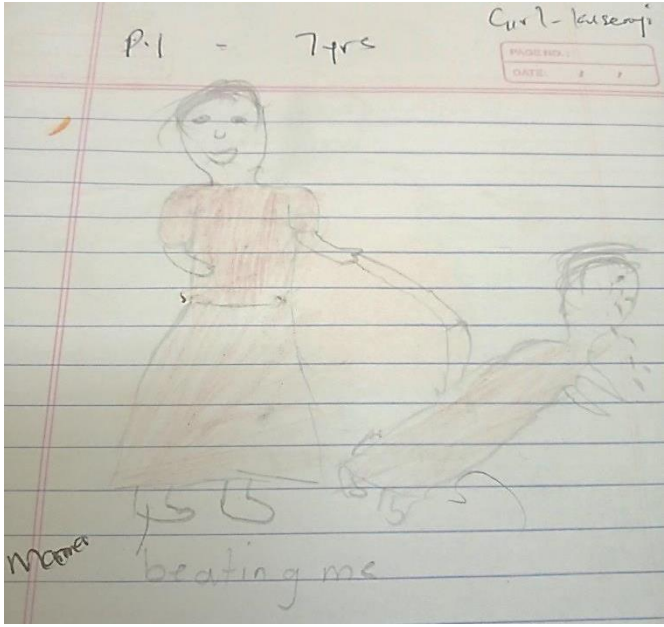
How the 3-8 year old children experience VAC at home

SN	FORM	PERPETRATOR
1.	Verbal	Mothers and grandmothers
2.	Physical	Mothers, fathers, stepmothers, grandmothers, aunties, uncles, siblings, friends
3	Child labour	Stepmothers
4	Neglect	Fathers, mothers, aunties,
5.	Psychological	Mothers, stepmothers,
6.	Sexual	Stepfathers, fathers, adults on the way

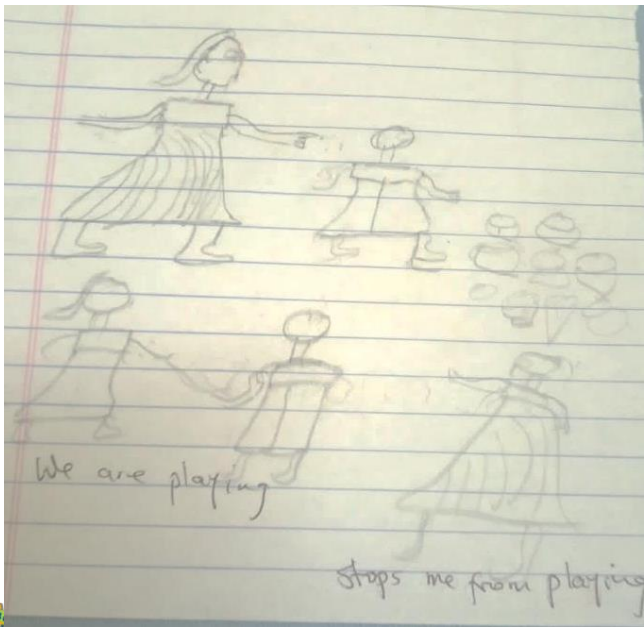




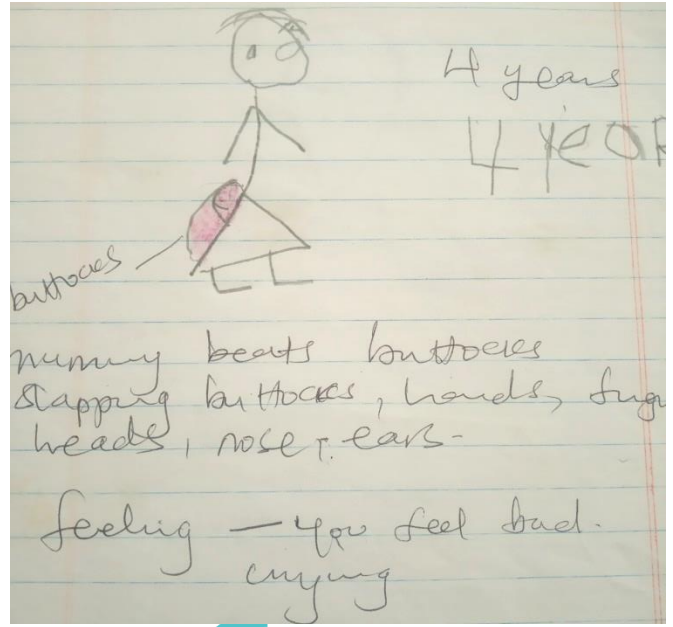
Child Labour



Physical



Psychological



Meaning of Experiences of VAC

- Life is a battle
- Life is a struggle
- Life is not easy,

Lonely struggle

- There is suffering in the world,
- The world is challenging,

Suffering



Meaning of Experiences of VAC

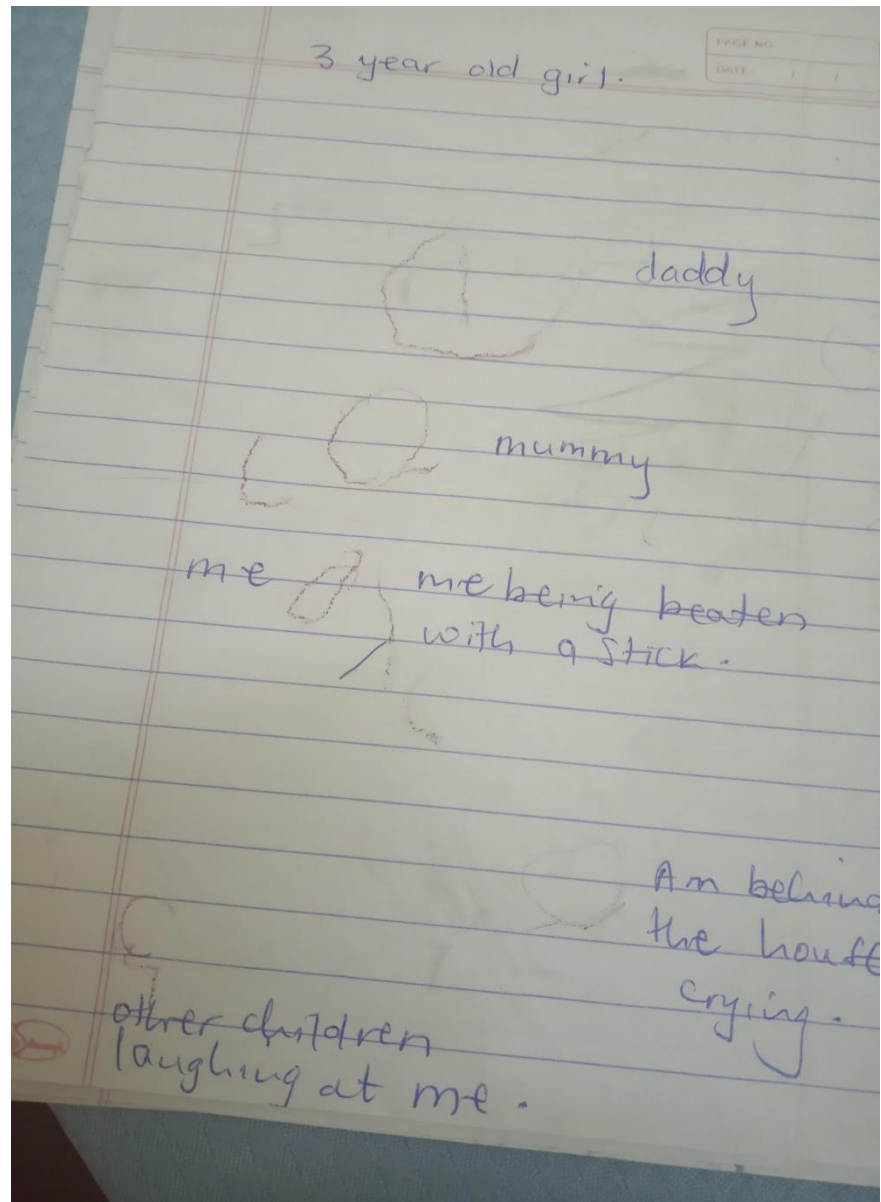
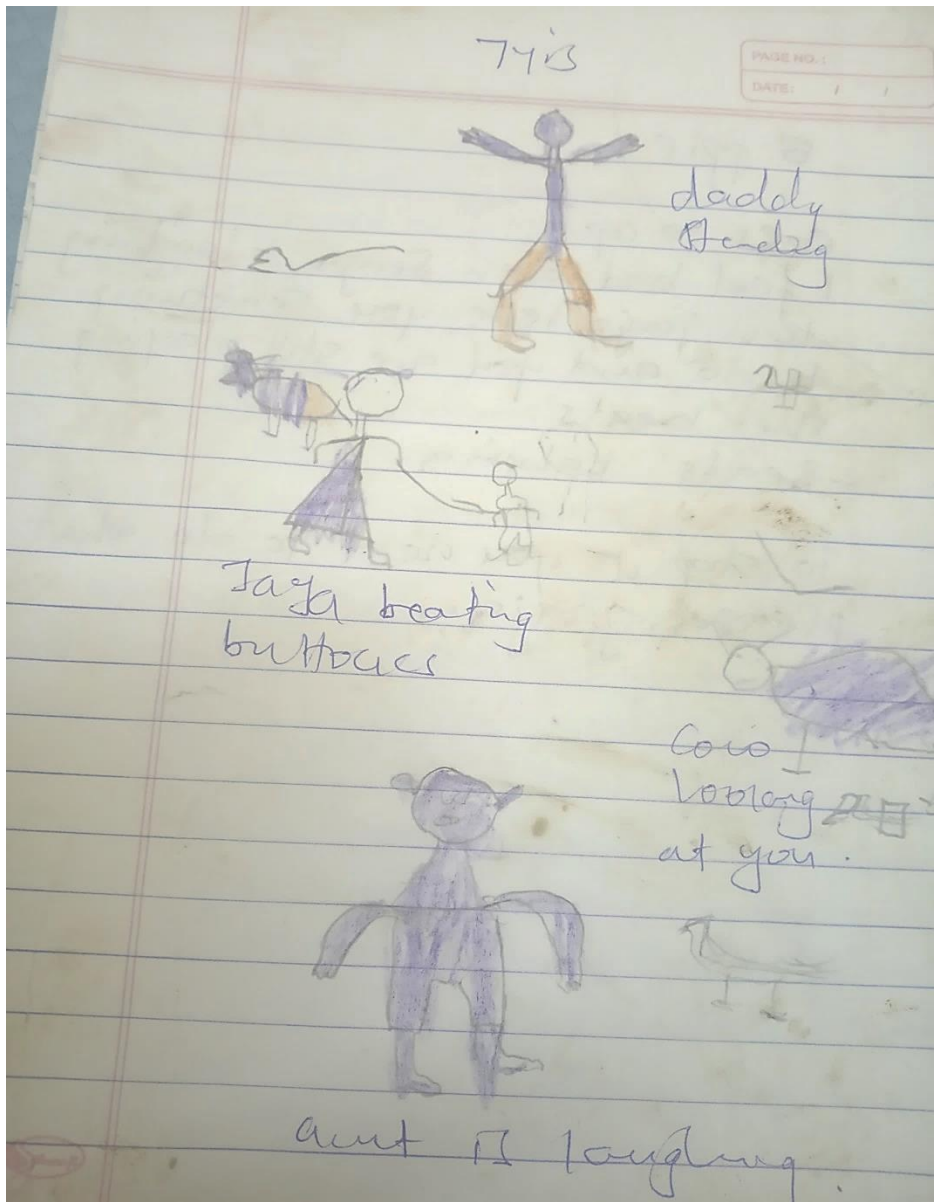
- I get confused
- I am isolated

Stranded in childhood,
neglected

- The world is very unfair
- I am unloved,

Betrayal





Coping with VAC

- Crying, self-isolation, or displacement
- Seeking for social support
- Control emotions because there is nothing to do.
- Do scrap business
- Running away from the perpetrators



CONCLUSION

- The most prevalent is physical violence followed by child labor. Sexual violence is less reported.
- We may witness in future cases of assault, sexual abuse or murder of parents by their children.
- Children see their parents as betrayers from the VAC actions
- Stepmothers inflict child labor as a revenge to their co-wives while mothers and grandmothers think they are training children.
- Stepfathers resort to sexual violence to hurt the mothers.

SO WHAT?

City officials

- Educate parents on what constitutes VAC
- Need to sensitize local leaders on reporting structures for VAC

Parents

- Provide opportunity for children to express their frustration
- Creating family support mechanisms to provide safe spaces for children to run to.
- Minimize exposure of VAC related situations to children (e.g. films, domestic violence).
- Need to learn to talk children out of misbehavior and minimize corporal punishment.



Con't.,

Local area authorities

- Act swiftly to calls of abuse
- Sensitize parents on the need to minimize cultural practices that promote VAC.

Children

- Report incidences of violence on them to parents or local authorities
- Show respect to their parents to reduce cases of VAC

Teachers

- Education and training from an early age about their rights and how they can protect them.
- Engage children in story and news activities that expose VAC incidences they may be going through.
- Listen to and provide counseling to children who may be experiencing VAC.

Thank You



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