ABANDONED NEW-BORN BABIES IN KAMPALA-UGANDA.

A INTERVIEW STUDY ON INVOLVED ORGANISATIONS`GOALS, STAFF `S PERCEPTION AND PERSONAL INCENTIVES WORKING WITH THE PROBLEM

ANNA SSENDI
Supervisor Ellis Janzon

Master thesis 30CRT
Public Health
January 2012

Health and Society
University of Malmö
205 06 Malmö
Abstract

Introduction: - An estimated number of 40 to 80 new-born babies are being abandoned by their mother in Kampala –Uganda annually. These children are usually dumped into dust bins, on streets, on hospital facilities, in bushes or in pit latrines. Aim:- The aim of this study was to investigate the goals of the organizations/institutions working with child abandonment in Kampala, to find out whom they collaborated with, to examine how the staff working with the organization/institution perceive the women who abandon and issue behind. Furthermore their personal incentives to continue to work with the problem,

Method: A qualitative approach was used in this study and face to face semi-structured interview were conducted, since this was the best way to explore feelings, thoughts and attitudes of the respondents who gave answers to complicated questions. Research Questions: What are the main goals of the organizations/institutions and with whom do they collaborate with? What are their major hinders and needs? Do they see any progress? What are their perceptions of the mothers who abandon their new-born babies as well as the issues behind this cruel action? When did the staff became aware of this problem and what are the incentives driving them to continue do this work?

Results: The results of the study were consistent with the research namely; the role of the organizations was reported being rescuing of the abandoned babies. First they are taken to the hospital during the first critical hours, thereafter are taken to children court to get a permission to keep them in the children’s home; or find adoptive parent for these children who can give them love, care and education. Tracing mothers or family members was on the agenda, and in some case eventual re-unification was possible. The hinder which were met by the organization while doing their work were financial resources, misinformation about the organizations in the community, poor flow of information, lack of facilities to accommodate abandoned children, and poor collaboration with the government.

Conclusion: The organizations/institutions are doing a good work, but procedures which are used at the moment are unfortunately not enough to reduce the problem. Therefore acute and new even radical approaches are needed to be put into consideration.

Key Words: Abandon, Abortion, Adoptive Parents, babies, Children, Donors, Death, Dust-bin, funds, Family- Planning, Government, Hospitals, Homes, Institutions, Illness New-born, Mothers, Organizations, Pit-toilets, streets.
Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the many people who helped me carry out this research work, and I attribute my success to their sacrifice. To all the respondents and other people who granted me their time for interviews and help as well as those who gave me technical support, I say particularly thank to my assistant in Kampala for the selfless time taken to work with me on the data gathering process.

Am heavily indebted to my supervisor for the guidance and motivation she has given me. I appreciate the time taken to show the direction and encouraging me to improve my work. I wish to also thank the entire Malmö University administration but especially to the Public Health staff and administrators for their guidance proffered under the two year of this course. I also would like to express gratitude to all my fellow Public Health students for your cooperation. Last but not least a big thank you to my family in Uganda for your love and moral support,
Abbreviation

ABC- Abstain, Be faithful, (Use) Condom
AIDS- Acquired Immunodeficiency Virus
AU - African Union.
CRC- Convention on the Rights of the Child
DFID- Department for International Development
DOI- Diffusion of Innovation
FOMENT - Focus, Management, Environment, Network, and Technology.
GDP- Gross Domestic Product
HIV – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LC- Local Council
MFDED- Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
NGO- Non-governmental Organization
PRB – Population Reference Bureau
SOC- Sense of Coherence
US – United States
UNCRC- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UN- United Nations
UBOS- Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UPPAP – Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Programme.
USAID – United States Agency for International Development.
TB- Tuberculosis
WHO- World Health Organization
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract ........................................................................................................................................... 1
Acknowledgment .............................................................................................................................. 2
Abbreviation .................................................................................................................................... 3
Table Content ................................................................................................................................... 4
1.0 Introduction ............................................................................................................................... 6
1.1 Background ............................................................................................................................... 7
1.1.0 The Country of Uganda ......................................................................................................... 7
1.1.1 Family Planning in Uganda .................................................................................................. 7
1.3 International Recognition of Child Rights ............................................................................... 8
1.4 Problem Statement .................................................................................................................... 8
1.5 Aim ............................................................................................................................................ 9
1.6 Research Questions .................................................................................................................... 9
1.7 Limitation .................................................................................................................................. 10
1.8 Significance of the Study .......................................................................................................... 10
2.0 Recent Science .......................................................................................................................... 10
3.0 Method ..................................................................................................................................... 14
3.1 Introduction ............................................................................................................................... 14
3.2 The Qualitative Research Method .......................................................................................... 14
3.3 Target Population .................................................................................................................... 14
3.4 Interview Instrument and Setting ............................................................................................ 15
3.5 Interviews ................................................................................................................................ 16
3.6 Validity .................................................................................................................................... 16
3.7 Reliability ................................................................................................................................ 17
3.8 Ethical Consideration .............................................................................................................. 17
4.0 Discussion of Method ................................................................................................................ 17
5.0 Theories .................................................................................................................................... 18
5.1 Introduction ............................................................................................................................... 18
5.2 Kassam - Sense of Coherence Theory ...................................................................................... 18
1.0 Introduction

People around the world usually hear about child dying in Africa due to hunger or communicative diseases like Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Cholera, and measles, but nowadays there is an increasing problem of abandoned new-born babies straight after birth. Like everywhere in the world child-abandonment has existed in Uganda in many years, thus since a long time a few children homes has been in existence, for example Sanyu Babies Home which is the oldest orphanage home in Kampala-Uganda founded in 1929 by Milnes Winfred Walker who was a mid-wife at Mengo Hospital (http://www.createdforacouse.com/2008/08/sanyu-babies-home-orphanage-kampala.html).

Nsambya Babies Home is another old child which was started by Reverend Father Rawlinson, the then a general secretary of the Episcopal Conference of Uganda. (http://www.allafrica.com/stories/200810040029.html). Today there are many children homes not only in Kampala, but throughout Uganda, and they are run by both local and foreign Non-governmental organizations. Therefore this is one of the indications that child abandonment has increased over the years. Furthermore it has been estimated that 40 to 80 children are abandoned each year in Kampala.

Many women in Kampala decide to abandon their new born-babies at hospitals or at the gates of children homes others discard them on the streets or in pit-toilets leaving them to die. Eventually; Social workers and hospital personnel have to deal with life and death situations, when the police contact them in the night to come and collect yet another tiny one who has been abandoned in a pit-toilet or somewhere in a bush; but who is miraculously still alive. Some of these babies die and a few lucky ones, who are found in time, are taken at Mulago hospital children’s ward, or another nearby hospital to be treated and fed until they gain some weight, but normally they remain very weak and apathetic. Additionally a great number of these children test HIV positive with no chances to thrive or survive. Child-abandonment breaches all fundamental parental roles of providing nurturance, protection and guidance to one offspring, particularly during the most vulnerable stages of their lives, and that is why one wonders how a mother could inflict such pain and suffering on her own child. According to Dr. Gladys .K. Mwiti, the African charter on the Right of the Children (1990:) defines a child as a very human being below the age of 18 years, since this is the period of
dependency upon adults for survival and well-being (Gladys Mwiti, 1997). As a Public Health student I choose this topic, because I am now very much aware that they are other issues rather than disease which could cause ill health and death. These factors could be self-inflicted or inflicted by a second or a third party and in this case, it is mothers who are supposed to protect their children; who are actually harming them. Although the major issue in this paper was about abandoned new born babies in Kampala-Uganda; the focus was mainly concentrated on investigating organizations/institutions. Thus the main purpose of this research was to investigate the organizations that are working to prevent the problem from increasing, how they worked and co-worked with other organizations/institutions, their perception of the women who do abandon their babies, the potential root causes, the personal incentive to work with such a severe problem, and the hinders they meet in their work.

1.1 BACKGROUND

1.1.0 The country of Uganda

Uganda is located in Eastern part of Africa, and it has a surface area of 236,859 square kilometers of which 82 percent is land, and most of the land is flat plateau, between 1,000 and 1,400 meters above sea level. According to the people population bureau Uganda has a population of 29.6 million, while the population of Kampala is estimated at 1.7 million (http://www.trueknowledge.com). Most of Ugandans make their living in agriculture, and 90 percent of the population live and work in the countryside or in rural areas and owning small holdings. Uganda has a GDP per capita of 300 US dollars and it is the fourteenth poorest country in the world. Life expectancy in Uganda for both men and women is 47 years of age and this is due to the Aids epidemic which hit the country in the beginning of 1980’s. In 1982, the first AIDS case in Uganda was diagnosed, and the link between ‘slim disease’ and AIDS was clinically recognized. It was not until 1986 when the Ugandan civil war ended and President Museveni was firmly in power that the country had a major HIV prevention program. By this time the country was in the midst of a major epidemic, with prevalence rates of up to 29 percent in urban areas. Uganda’s first AIDS control program was set up in 1987 to educate the public about how to avoid becoming infected with HIV. The program promoted the ABC approach (abstain, be faithful, use condoms), ensured the
safety of the blood supply and started HIV surveillance. Free antiretroviral drugs have been available in Uganda since 2004 (Uganda AIDS Commission, 2008).

**1.1.1 Family-planning in Uganda**

Family-planning services are available in Kampala and the clinics are recognizable by a yellow sunflower, there women can go and get information about diverse form of contraceptive. According to population reference bureau the source of public contraceptive supply in Uganda is 38.6 per cent, women who give birth by the age of 18 year is on per cent, and contraceptive use among single sexually active women age 20 to 24 lies on 48 per cent and contraceptive use among women between the age of 15 to 49 is 24 per cent (http://www.prb.org). Nowadays they are many forms of contraceptives on the market, for example, p-pills, diaphragms, hormone spirals, condoms and even the day after pill.

**1.2 The International Recognition of Child rights.**

On November 20, 1989 the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a landmark for human rights. Here for the first time was a treaty that sought to address the particular human rights of children and to set minimum standards for the protection of their rights. On September 2, 1990 the document was ratified by the world summit for children rights (Human Rights, Journal:164), Since then 194 countries has met and passed a declaration of the survival and protection of children and almost all countries has ratified the document except the United States of America and Somalia. Uganda itself ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child (UNCRC) in 1990 and in 1996 it domesticated the CRC by enacting a law for children now known as the children act (§59), and on the 19th of August 2002 Uganda ratified yet an optional protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, children prostitution and child pornography which is a part of the UN Convention on Rights of the Child Committee; these rights were submitted by the state parties and are Under Article 12(1) of the Optional Protocol. (Tamburini E, 2001-2002: 10-17)

**1.3 Problem Statement**

The problem of abandonment of new born babies in Kampala is not a new phenomenon per se; nonetheless there have been a rapid increase in the development. Hence this kind of excessive abandonment has denied many children their fundamental rights to life, good health and the right to live with a
family as enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights. Over the recent years the problem abandonment in Kampala has become unbearable so that even foreign NGO’s have been forced to intervene in order to prevent and decrease the burden. Abandoned children who get rescued are taken to children’s home after the approval from the police, children’s court, and the Gender Ministry. The Police always work hand with other institutions/organizations to ensure that these children are protected, facilitated, feed and given love and care they deserve. Many non-governmental organizations both local and foreign in Kampala work very hard to provide help, not only to abandoned children, but also to mothers who abandon them so that they many have a chance to be reunited in future. However the big problem is that many of these organizations could only facilitate children only for short period of time due to lack of financial resources and accommodation facilities. Sometimes the children are given to the extended members of the family; otherwise other alternatives like adoption has to be put into consideration, and that is not always an easy task since many Ugandans are too poor to adopt children. Therefore measure such as creating tough law for mothers who abandon and carry out other forms of child abuse ought to be legislated. According to Mills harm principle the state is within the right to interfere with the liberty of individuals, or coerce them against their will in only one way, namely to avoid actions that harm others (Stephen Holland, 2007:54). Mills also stressed that the government exist to make laws that impose unreasonable risk of harm to others

1.4 Aim

The aim of this study was to investigate the goals of the organizations/institutions working with child abandonment in Kampala, and with whom they collaborated. Furthermore, to examine staffs’ perception of issue behind the Problem and their personal incentives to continue to work with the problem,

1.5 Research Questions

Who are the organizations and their main goals and with whom do they collaborate?

What are their major hinders, needs and do they see any progress in decreasing the problem?
What are their perceptions of the reason that makes mothers leave their new born babies?

How and when did the staff working in this area at first become aware of the problem, and what are the incentives driving them to continue?

### 1.6 Limitation

Although the qualitative approach used in this study provided valuable information from the representatives of organizations/institutions working to prevent and reduce the problem, several study limitations must be considered. First, women who abandon their new-born babies were not interviewed for this study, since it was not perceived as being ethically appropriate to go to prison and ask them question of why and how they abandoned their new-born babies. Hence did not get their side of story. Second, no members of the government e.g. Ministry of health were included in the investigation. However their side of the story would have been essential to this study, since the government was heavily criticized by all of respondents.

### 1.8 Significance of the Study.

This study could be useful to governments, human rights bodies fighting for the rights of the children in Uganda, NGOs, health workers, students, and parents. It could also to shed a light on the difficulties organizations/institutions working with abandoned children face, and to help addressing the problem of abandoned children. Furthermore its recommendations could go a long way in helping to modify and re-enforce the pending laws in the Ugandan Parliament to do with abandoned children’s protective rights. This study would also help to encourage donor organizations, individuals, and countries to continue with their help, so that the problem of abandoned children in Kampala as well as in the whole of Uganda could be prevented and eventually reduced.

### 2.0 Recent Science

Although this problem exists worldwide, there is little literature in existence in any discipline to aid the identification of women at risk for this behavior. However there is pretty much literature about infanticide and neonaticide behaviors which could somehow be connected to child-abandonment. This chapter provides several article review, related to this thesis and concepts by
giving a discussion of other author’s work in line with abandoned new born babies.

Philpot the author of the article Nobody’s child declared that in 2003 the statistics proved that 57 new-born babies were abandoned in United Kingdom and 49 in 2004. He wrote that abandoned children faced major problems in future, since they had no family medical history; hence they had to deal with both their physical bodily ailments and psychological trauma of abandonment alone (Terry Philpot, 2006:24). The problem Philpot noticed here was that not having a family medical history for example diseases like cancer and hypercholesterolemia might limit an individuals’ chance for screening opportunities in future, to detect their illness in time (Philpot:24). Another issue discussed by Philpot was that abandoned children may face a problem in building their own families when they became adults because of their past history of being abandoned. Among those who supported Philpot’s study was Mullander, professor in social work. She pointed out that child abandonment says much about the realities of domestic violence and poverty which women find themselves in (Ibid: 24). In addition she argued that the perception that it was only women who abandon their children is a stereotype; since also men do abandon their children. Mullander also thought that the fact that the police and social services did not discuss child-abandonment as a crime was disturbing (Ibid: 25). Therefore she recommended that rigid notions for women who abandon their infants ought to be enacted, for example by implementing clear and strict measures. This in turn would make the work of police and other organizations working to rescue and trying to reunite mothers with their children easier. She believed that these measures could give them clear directives of what to do or not to do (Philpot: 24). Finally she stated that poverty could be a motive for child abandonment. According to Philpot (2006), babies who have been abandoned at birth, face a life time of uncertainty about their identity and genetic.

In their survey Gheorghe A, et.al, examined the issues of abandonment of new-born babies, and it was found and explained that abandonment of new-born infants indeed occurs throughout the world. They stated that this action often leads to the death of infant which is known as Neonaticide. This term is referred to as a practice of intentionally classification of causing death of the (neonate) a newborn child between 24 hours old to 31 days of the child’s life(Gheorghe et
al:317). In their study it was also disclosed that in Denmark, between 1997 and 2008, eleven newborn babies were found dead (Ibid: 318), and after their cases were registered an autopsy was carried out. In accordance with the results of the postmortem it was determined that the cause of their death ranged from asphyxia, brain damage or simply undetermined (Ibid: 318-319). Neonaticide is a crime which occurs all around the world and it is said to be one of the least preventable crime. According to the author of this survey, different theories has been connected with the motive behind child abandonment or Neonaticide, i.e. unwanted pregnancy, as well as the evolutionary theory that predicts that very young mothers have a higher risk of abandoning or killing their babies, as they assume, that they can always give birth later in life (Gheorghe et al: 318). Likewise it was explained that mothers who are psychologically disturbed run a higher risk of perform this act. According to the authors there has been at least one case of a dead abandoned infant each year in Denmark since 1997. In Germany forty to fifty cases of new abandoned infants are reported yearly since 2001, and five cases in Sweden since 1989 (Ibid: 318). The youngest of the mothers in Denmark, was 15 year of age and the oldest was 34 years old and were all were ethnic Danes still living home with their parent. These women did not deliver their babies in the hospital facilities, but rather in parks, creeks, basements, bedrooms, cellars, toilets and backyard, they then eventually hid the corpse by burying them. According to their next of kin, peers and teachers these women had concealed their pregnancy, however six of them were not aware of their pregnancy.

Campbell et al, 2003, examined the current status of Abandoned Baby Laws in in USA, in order to see how the effect of the new laws on the prevalence of abandoned babies could be influenced by child-birth education. Prior to passing the baby law, there was a public outrage after a case of thirteen abandoned – baby was highly publicized in Texas, 1999 (Nayna Campbell,2003: 42). Since then the Administration of Children and Families of U.S under Department of Health and Human Services, had estimated that 30 905 babies were abandoned in 1998 and 520 000 children were in foster care as well as 903 395 children were abused and neglected by their parents (Ibid: 42) Abandoned-baby law addressed the situation of which desperate parent would abandon their child (Ibid: 41). These laws were formed to ensure, that mothers did not harm their babies. The law also identified
safe havens, where mothers could leave their infants who were under a certain age (Ibid: 42). Some of these laws focused on educating the general public, notifying them about their legal rights, and getting access to their medical information to secure the children’s chances of being screened in future (Ibid:42). According to the author these laws are differed from state to state for example in Florida the law was extended, and required the attempts to locate the infant’s biological parents. Most safe havens are chosen by the state hospitals or emergency personnel and the babies left there should be between 3 to 45 days old (Ibid: 42).

According to Sandra Cesario (2003) the practice of abandoning baby shortly after birth has always existed and the motives varies and dependend upon the social norms of a specific geographic region at a given point in time (Cesario: 32). Therefore in Cesario study it was determined lack to acknowledging this problem in the American Society which has led to many deaths of abandoned children. Hence in response many states have passed a safe haven legislation to save the lives of unwanted newborns. Another reason given was the negative attitudes towards mother who commit this act and the lack of knowledge among nurses regarding the issue of new-born baby abandonment (Ibid 31). On this context education programs for all health care providers and community were lifted as being essential on prevention as well as to enacting efficient legislation than those which are already in existence. In this article Cesario also claims, that the incentives for abandoning new born babies in both primeval and contemporary societies varies. The reasons behind could be due to economic factors, size of population and possibilities for labor, political climate and ideologies or form philosophies of racial and ethnic superiority, hence being the circumstances playing a vital role in women’s decision-making process, when face with an unwanted pregnancy(Ibid:33). Other reasons according to the author could be psychological disorder and mental instability. Mother religious beliefs, which provide them a moral basis for human action and shape paradigms of what is an acceptable behavior in a given society at a particular point of time was also pointed out (Ibid:33). Cesario also claimed that some religions have practiced human sacrifice of infant, while others have forbidden abortion.
3.0 Method

3.1 Introduction
This chapter describes the various methods employed in carrying out this study. It covered the qualitative research method, the targeted population, interview setting, research instruments, validity, reliability ethical measures and method discussion.

3.2 The Qualitative Research Method
The present study used qualitative research method. According to Dahlgren, Emmelin and Winkvist a qualitative research method is the framework or plan that is used as a guide in collecting and analyzing words, interpreting, and reporting the data used in a study (Dahlgren and Winkvist, 2007:12). Therefore, in general terms, the research design specifies the methods and procedures for acquiring the information needed. For that matter an emotionalism interview approach was perceived to be appropriate since it has room for open-ended questions, expectations, in-depth face to face discussions and value. According to emotionalism, interviews are viewed as experience generated data which give an authentic insight into people experience (Silverman, 1993:89). Thus through in-depth interviews, observations, audio recording, interpretation and analysis emotionalists claim to depict the authentic reality needed to be access (Ibid 94). A qualitative approach involves describing the characteristics of a particular individual, or of a group of people, and in this study representatives for organizations/institutions working to prevent and decrease the abandonment newborn babies in Kampala were interviewed. The choice of processing qualitative approach was preferred to the quantitative one because it is systematic yet flexible and it conceptualizes the meaning of the phenomena and human action (Ibid: 13).

3.3 Target Population
This study was meant to only interview organizations/institutions working to prevent and reduce the rates of abandoned new-born babies. The organizations/institutions which agreed to be interviewed were; Watoto, Sanyu babies home, Nsambya Little Sisters Saint Francis, Mulago Hospital, ANNPACAN and Uganda Police children and family unite. The
organizations/institutions consisted of 3 social workers, 1 doctor, 1 nurse, 1 public health/development chief (church representative) and 1 police officer. The Seven respondents consisted of six female and one male, all ethnic Ugandans, well-educated and between the age of 22 to 55 years, therefore making the group heterogeneous in the sense of gender, but homogenous in nationality. The reason that more women were interviewed than men; was that most women are bound to take up jobs linked with health care, child, women, family issues, education, domestic work, nursing administration and social work in Uganda.

### 3.4 Interview instrument and setting

The data was collected using an interview guide and the questions. Using an interview guide with the open-ended questions, gave the respondent a complete freedom to answer the questions in their own way as well as letting them reveal their deepest emotions about the subject, thereby giving me an insight into their personal feelings, background, and interests. In addition, since the questions were realistically formulated, the respondents were able to give straightforward answers without any misinterpretations. The questions asked were mainly about the work of the organizations/institutions, abandoned children, the women who abandon, as well as the reason and issue behind infant abandonment. During the interviews an interview guide was used to acquire information. Other instruments used to obtain the data, was an Audio recorder. According to Kvale audio recording was necessary for an interviewer to concentrate on the interview and to later use the information when transcribing the findings (Kvale and Brinkmann 2009:179). There was also an assistant who was doing observations and taking written notice during the sessions. These two procedures employed vision during data collection. The process in which one or more persons examine what was happening under the interview sessions, while the other classify and record pertinent event was helpful as it provided unique insights; not attained by any other methods. Furthermore these measures yielded first-hand information, which was therefore more valid than only reported information. They offered data even when the respondents were unable to answer, unwilling to cooperate, or when they were giving biased information. A change in a voices or in body language indicated that one had a specific problem in answering the question, hence the aim of observation was to gather firsthand information about social processes in a ‘naturally occurring’ context (Silverman, 2007: 21). Apparently people often
tended to pretend when they are being interviewed and in so doing also change their behavior patterns, that is why an emotionalism interviewer wants to access the subject behind the person given the role of interview respondent (Ibid:123). Most interviews were carried out on organization´s/institution´s premises within Kampala area; accept for the police officer who preferred to be interviewed at her home.

3.5 Interviews

The Interviews were semi-structure, verbally administered and involved face to face encounters. The interviews were preferred from the questioners, because this was the best way to explore feelings, thoughts and attitudes to the complicated questions, and also to be able to enquire information from the people who worked with the problems on daily basis. As mentioned above six interview were conducted at the Organization´s/Institution´s grounds and one at home, the aim for this was to establish an atmosphere that allows for a maximum flow of information and this required comfortable and convenient location as well as safety for respondents. For this reason it was determined to have a personal approach, without involving any authority as mediator, since this would make the respondents feel comfortable and secure.

3.6 Validity

Validity is that the ability to produce findings that are in agreement with theoretical and conceptual values, that is to produce accurate results, as Kvale and Brink puts it, validity refer to the capacity of the method to come up with findings intended to be achieved( Kvale & Brinkmann,2009:327). Validity therefore refers to the degree to which the interview is actually measures and specifically related to the traits of which it was designed; i.e. the reflection on the chosen research questions. It shows adequately how the instruments, samples the sphere of knowledge, skills perceptions, and the attitudes of the respondents are likely to be exhibit. Prolonged answers given by respondents through recordings, taking interview notes, transcriptions, and interpretations validity could be achieved. However there could still be other procedures which are beyond the knowledge or control of the researcher which could impact the validity of the result or vice versa.
3.7 Reliability

Reliability is related to the consistency and credibility in the whole research process, so it requires the relevance in the findings (Kvale: 245). A reliable instrument is thus one which produces the same results whenever it is repeatedly used as characterized by precision and objectivity. Reliability could be achieved by consulting other researcher work that produce the same results from the same subject, hence using secondary data from former researchers was essential for this study.

3.8 Ethical consideration

When doing this study, ethical considerations were put into perspective as Kvale and Brinkman recommends, that when doing a research it is important to take an ethical point of view (Kvale, 2009 62-63), he emphasizes that in order to be critical for the scientific quality, it is important to be familiar with value issues, ethical guidelines, and ethical theories (Kvale, 1996:117). Hence issues such as anonymity of respondents, discretion of their personal data, and safe preservation of the data collected was ensured, and the respondents consent was sought both orally and in a written document before the interview session began.

4.0 Discussion of the method

This study took place in Kampala the capital city of Uganda, and seven participants, from different organizations/institution were interviewed, in order to obtain accurate information. During the interview sessions I had to obtain maximum cooperation with the respondent in order to achieve my goal. I therefore aimed at highlighting the activities and programs that the organizations/institutions carry out as related to the preventive work of abandoned new-born babies. Later I used these activities as a toll in the interview sessions, for example to determine if the government was aware of the existing of these problems, or if it has ever assisted the organizations/institutions to solve this problem in any way. The interviews were flexible and yielded a huge data, mainly because I and the respondents developed a bond, hence they became more open about the subject and other personal matters. At times very sensitive and personal information could be extracted from the respondent through honest and personal interaction. To completely refuse answering or ignoring the question
was not easy for the participants, since I was able to convince them to participate fully into the study. By allowing respondents to share their own thought about the subject, they opened up telling stories which they would otherwise never told. Furthermore, the way the questions were constructed made it easier for them to answer, as Holstein and Gubrium (1997) clearly puts it “the interviewer should try to formulate question and provide an atmosphere conducive to an open and undistorted communication” (Silverman David, 2007:123)

5.0 Theories

5.1 Introduction

This chapter offers four theories, in line with the preventive work of organizations working with abandoned new born babies in Kampala.

5.2 Kasam: - Sense of Coherence

For more than 25 year ago Aaron Antonovsky introduced the theory of sense of coherence (SOC), and claimed that people’s life direction have an impact on their health (Bengt Lindström, Monica Erikson, 2006:238). In the beginning his intention was to create the conception of salutogenic whereby he postulated that our environment was full of temptations and hazards, which we must learn to, cope with in our day to day life and this capability of coping depended on every individual’s probability to create a sense of coherence in their own environment. His first book was called Health, Stress and Coping; New Perspective on Mental and Wellbeing and he did a research about mortality and morbidity between different social classes and that is how salutogenic theory was formed and eventually was transformed to Kasam (Sense of Coherence ) (Ibid:240). Sense of coherence (SOC) explains why some people are capable of handling stress and hazard better than the other, Antonovsky claimed that it was due to how an individual perceived her/his environment, therefore ones capability of endurance relied very much on her/his comprehensibility, manageability and meaningfulness. Furthermore, Antonovsky pointed out that lack of communication could also prevent people from create their sense of comprehensibility, manageability and meaningfulness (Ibid: 241) and that could result into a low Sense of Coherence.

Comprehensibility (I know) what ones experience is also comprehensible in that way one could clearly structure and organize the stimuli both explicitly and
implicitly and this includes both in positive and negative situations for instance giving birth or getting married or death, war and other traumatizing conditions (Bengt Lindström, Monica Eriksson 2005:411).

Manageability (I can) this is a state whereby one experiences that [s]he is capable of handling different situations positive as well as negative ones. This strength in not only needed for our own use but also in relation with other people in the society. This is the behavioral instrument of sense of coherence (SOC) and most people who have this capacity usually rise up whenever they fall no matter what, and do not usually fell like victims of circumstances (Lindström, & Eriksson: 411).

Meaningfulness (I want) this is a major component of KASAM because it is about the individuals own motivation and how one perceive life when faced with negative situation as well as the persons own ability to learn from her/his mistakes and at the same time coming out stronger (Lindström & Eriksson:411). Hence this component of KASAM refers to the level a person’s ability to tackle his/her emotional problems and other demand of life, by perceiving the world as challenges rather than burdens (Ibid). Sense of coherence is also related to high quality of life; and it is connected with both attitudes and behaviors. KASAM has been applied in so many areas, including public health; and World Health Organization (WHO) has used it on many different occasions. Kasam could also be applied as a systematic direction in daily activities as well as professional practices that generates empowering discourse in order to enforce people’s strength (Aaron Antonovsky, 1993)

5.3 Diffusion of Innovation and FOMENT

The role of theory in health communications is to provide a sound framework on which health campaigns can be based and evaluated (Muhiuddin, Haider, at el 2005: xxxi). Therefore another theory applied in this study is The Diffusion of Innovation and FOMENT: A Synergetic Theoretical Frame Work in Health Communication

Diffusion of innovation has been known for 40 years and it was introduced by Everett Rogers, This theory is primarily a sociological approach that utilizes social roles, norms and networks for explanation of behavior and behavior change (Ibid:2). DOI theory contributes to public health by identifying culture, norm, education, socioeconomic, and political issue, subjects which influence people’s well-being through both planning and unstructured spread of new ideas. The
theory uses ways in which new ideas in public health are communicated to individuals or the entire society through distinct channels and it works in five main stages namely; Knowledge, Persuasion, Decision, Implementation, and Confirmation (Ibid:2-3). These five elements are relevant to DOI’s major interaction factors namely, the innovation, mass media, social systems, and period of time. Diffusion of innovation has been developed and tested in a wide variety of settings and for many different purposes. Health workers, on-governmental organizations (NGO’s), government health officers and educators are among those who utilize method to develop community communication and the evidence shows that it has provided excellent diagnostic tool for analyzing the importance of methodical research and planning to maximize the chance of success(Haider et al:3). Some case studies has been successfully conducted by innovators using the diffusion process for example in Brazil The Guy to Guy Project where Brazilian NGO´s demonstrated how to involve younger men in gender-based violence prevention and in sexual and reproductive health promotion (Ibid: 6). The process was also used in the Philippines, in a Family Planning Projects and this increased the use of contraceptive use from 40 to 48 percent (Ibid: 7).

FOMENT is theoretical framework which could be seen as a complementary theory to Diffusion of Innovation Theory, to generate new experience in health communication (Ibid: 18). By incorporating planning and management stages of public health, FOMENT makes DOI more effective to plan intervention programs for individuals, groups, and organizations. Therefore Haider created FOMENT as synthesis; a product of a variety of field experiences in health communication to provide additional strength to DOI (Ibid: 18-19). So far FOMENT has shown promising results and has made major improved in public health communication campaigns and programs, furthermore it has strengthened and built a capacity of DOI theory for organizations and public health setting and also built a bridge between communities, individuals governments and organizations (Ibid:19). FOMENT stands for Focus, Organization, Management, Environment, Network, and Technology (Ibid: 18).

5.4 Empowerment

The theory of empowerment contributes to behavior change. When applied to public health interventions, empowerment is used by health promoters to encourage people to participate in the process of decision making and this allows them to pursue a course of action (Stephen Holland, 2007:127). According to
Glenn Laverack (2005), the concept of empowerment is to help people gain back their self-esteem through supporting their power from within in the course of a collective action. Increasing people’s sense of value, control and belonging is important when trying helping people to gain control over their lives. Apart from increasing peoples self-awareness though discussion, reflections and action empowerment promotes trust between health promoters and clients and above all other thing empowerment is about gaining health by modifying behavior, while allowing personal freedom (Stephen Holland, 2007:130). At the community level, whereby partnership is an ultimate goal; empowerment could be useful within the situation of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse prevention. Here evaluation is viewed by the community based organization and institutions, necessary to make campaigns, interventions and other valued activities needed to help risk groups, hence self-determination is conducted.

5.5 Community Organization Theory

Community organization theory could be defined as the process by which community groups are helped to identify common problems or goals mobilizing resources, and in other ways develop and implement strategies for reaching the goals they have collectively set (Don Nutbeam, Elizabeth Harris, Marilyn Wise, 2010:28). Community organization consist of Non-Governmental organization and institutions, the political sector, organizations that promote certain political position, groups responsible for government, and individuals who hold political office. As it was stated in the World Health Organization report on community (1970),

"Increasing attention has been paid to community organizations as a mean of achieving large-scale change in both primary prevention and in treating of chronically health problems”.

The author agreed that community organization are crucial in changing community setting and help to promote healthier life-styles. According to Rothman (1968) there are three models in practicing community development. The first one is Locality Development which is also known as community participation, this model emphasizes community participation and approaches that promote ownership of issues, such as emphasizing the participation of community residence in identifying and solve the problem. The second one is Social Planning
which is task oriented and expert driven, based on rational planning and problem solving, which mean that those who plan may identify particular problems and enact actions to solve them. The third model is Social Action which is characterized by concern for processes which build community in favor of the most disadvantaged (Nutbeam, Harris, Wise: 28). Hence this approach is usually base on conflict and require drastic shift with those involved in solving a particular problem within the authority. These three models are useful in linking individuals, community groups, workers and leaders in the community thereby providing agenda in which interventions could be planned and applied on different levels (Ibid). Furthermore, these models are useful in helping understanding how major organizations within the system could contribute to a system wide change, since organizations and institutions are systems in themselves and promote their own models and ideals, plus they usually change through process of dispersion due to the networks in between them.

6.0 Results
This chapter presents findings and indicates how the data was presented, interpreted and analyzed. The findings in this chapter are consistent with the research questions and objectives furthermore the analysis method utilized for the presentation of the data was mainly qualitative. All in all the opinions were developed from the responses given by respondent as a result of face to face interview sessions.

6.1 Organizations/ Institutions and their Role
In respect, this study dealt with investigating the organizations/institutions working to reduce the problem of abandoned children, their collaboration, their perception of women who abandon and the reasons and issue behind the problem, as well as the personal incentives to work with organizations dealing with such a severe problem. Seven respondents from six organizations were interviewed for this study. Five of them were University graduates; one had post graduate qualifications, while the other one had post-secondary professional training. Principally the target was mainly to interview highly qualified people who could critically assess the magnitude of the problem of abandoned children and give objective solutions, and the assessment of the findings revealed that the majority
of interviewed individuals had enough knowledge, information and experience in the area of abandoned children.

The organizations which participated in this study, did not work in isolation but rather collaborated with each other to ensure that the problem of the infant abandonment and other types of child abuse in Kampala are reduced, beside they were also determined to guarantee that these children get, protection, shelter, food, clothing, education, medical care, love and other basic goods they need. Rendering the respondents findings, the majority of employees within the organizations were female, 86 percent as compared to male who were only 14 percent. This was declared in line with the population of people dealing with the problem of abandonment of new born babies who were mainly women. The reason for this was that in Uganda women tend to apply for such jobs in contrast to men. This too was observed both at Watoto Ministry, ANAPPACAN and at Sanyu baby’s home, where a large number of women are employed.

The organizations/institutions working actively in this area, which were willing to be interviewed, were:

*The Ugandan Police Force: Children and Family Unite.*

*Sanyu Baby’s Home.*

*Mulago Government Hospital.*

*The Little Sisters of Saint Francis*

*ANPPACAN.*

*Watoto Ministry.*

### 6.1.1 The Ugandan Police Force

The Uganda police force has been existing since time memorial and their main mission is first and foremost to protect people’s lives and property, but the children and family unite was grounded not so long ago and it is mainly funded by the NGOs. The main task and of this department was to protect the rights of the children, however the unite also dealt with case of women who were being abused by their husbands even those who were abandoned and left without financial help for their children, girls who got pregnant as a result of rape or incest as well as sex-workers.
The Uganda police Children and Family Unite also had a duty to trace the women who abandoned their children and made an effort to counsel and sensitize them before attempting to reunite them with their children, this process is done twice a month, but when it came to giving information on Family-Planning the police officer admitted that they did not do this publically; but rather privately in the office, and that if someone went to their office for consultation then they would teach her about family-planning method.

The Police also worked together with the Uganda judicial department to ensure that that those women who carried out this crime are taken to court and punished. Furthermore they had to notify the Local Council (LC) about each and every child found abandoned in order to get a court order. The court in turn had a duty to declare to other authorities that a child in a nation has been abandoned; thereafter they had to contact the NGOs or other Institution such as Mulago or other hospitals, Sanyu baby’s home, Nsabya baby’s home or Watoto to arranged accommodation and adoption for the children. Apart from organizations/institutions mentioned above, Uganda Police co-work with SEDOVIP, Action Aid, Action plans, Center for Domestic and many more

6.1.2 Sanyu Babies Home

Sanyu babies’ home is the oldest children home in Kampala, and it was said to care for abandoned new-born children, destitute, parentless and orphan children who needed a home, love, care and affection. Sanyu babies home could only facilitate children up to four year of age, and to manage this home The organization depended on donations from different donors, and activities initiated by the organization itself for instance a craft shop, a guest house, poultry keeping (selling eggs) and cows (selling milk),

Sanyu babies home had doctors, nurses, teachers and other care takers, but sometimes they have to take the children to the hospital for medical care when they have a complex situation they could not handle. Thus the money from generated activities and that received from generous donors is used to buy food, clothes, medicine, and paying salaries for the staffs. This home also received volunteers from different western countries who helped them to look after the children for the duration of three to six month. Sanyu babies home receive new-born babies with diverse disabilities, for instance kids with cerebral pluses, who could move, and also children who are HIV positive.
6.1.3 Mulago Government Hospital

Mulago is a government Hospital which also has a maternity department where some of the children are abandoned and it is a government financed institution. Mulago collaborated with all other institutions, as well as government and non-governmental organizations(NGOs) for example Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, the police, Watoto and Sanyu baby’s home just to mention a few. The Hospital could not manage its data very well since it received hundreds of delivering mothers and anybody could walk in and out of the hospital leaving her baby behind. The hospital however had security by the door, it registered babies at birth, and when the mothers entered the hospital, their history and their names and the names of their next of kin, as well as their address is registered, nonetheless they were big loopholes in their system since so many women still managed to walk out abandoning their babies at the hospitals premises. Mulago hospital was not in position to accommodate the babies left behind or left at the hospital gate, so they only kept the babies in their special unite for a few days until their social workers could contact the Police department and the NGOs to come and fetch them.

6.1.4 Little Sisters of Saint Francis

The Catholic Church represented by the monastery of Little Sisters of Saint Francis in Nsambya, and this institution is fully engaged in helping abandoned children. Their work like any other Non-governmental organization/institution was not funded by the government, rather by donors both local and foreign and by different projects run by the sisters to make money

“We have many different kinds of work in the community for example education, health care, and community development projects, we also run several children homes such as Nsambya babies home and Iganga babies home in Jinja, and we have a capability to facilitate abandoned new-born babies, orphans, neglected and poor children”.

The Little Sisters of Saint Francis had nun administrators, nun social workers, but also some other people who are not Nuns were employed and paid for their work, but nuns themselves did not get paid. For Little Sisters of Saint Francis tracing women who abandon their children was not an easy task, as the Nun who
represented the monastery plainly put it that women who leave their children in the hospital had their own strategies

6.1.5 ANPPACAN

ANPPACAN stands for African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect and was founded by group of intellectuals, after the conference against child abuse which was held in Nigeria in 1992. This is an African organization with its headquarters in Nairobi-Kenya; however it has branches all around African including Uganda. ANPPACAN has its secretariat in Kampala; but there are nine ANPPACAN divisions in nine districts in Uganda. The mission of this organization is to contribute to advocacy against child-abuse, and to promote rights and well-being of children, for example right to life, access to shelter, love and care from parents, clothing, education, medical care, education etc. The organization was funded by donor as well as different agencies from different countries in the Western world, the organization also was a membership organization, thus got some of its funds from its members. ANPPACAN collaborated with a vast number of both local and foreign NGOs/institutions; it was also partners with the government, and did some specific interventions. The government in turn gave ANPPACAN guidance and made the policies which the organization abided, but in terms of financial support, the government did not help at all.

One would think that organizations/institutions which are working for a good cause like saving children’s live and give them a dignified life would not meet challenges, but during the interview sessions with respondents it was revealed that in their work they did meet some hinder both with communication and financial resources and so forth. The major challenges were flow of information the communities as well as the incapacity of accommodating the rescued babies and therefore were obliged to refer them to other children home which could facilitate them for example Watoto, and Sanyu baby’s home

“There is a hinder with information gaps mainly; those who report usually do not have concrete information, only sketchy information. And there are a few organizations/institutions which can accommodate abandoned children here in Kampala. Those which are available are always contested and people in Uganda are not able to foster abandoned children, so we have a problem in finding homes to facilitate them”.

26
6.1.6 Watoto Care Ministry

Last but not least is Watoto Care Ministry. Watoto had a similar constitution like Nsabya babies home and a bit like Sanyu babies home, as these three organizations could accommodate and educate these unfortunate children. Watoto's task was mainly to rescue new-born babies abandoned by their mother and other children who were neglected or physically abused by their parent or relative as well as children who were born in very poor families, so that they could raise them into positive members of the society. This organization is also financed through donations from both within and outside the country (Uganda); these funds are used to give basic goods to the children e.g. food, medical care, shelter, education, as well as to facilitate workers who take care of these children. Watoto cooperated with the Police, churches, and hospitals, foreign and local NGOs. At Watoto Ministry the work was managed by team-working within the organization. They also managed to plan for emergencies and always followed the guide line, such as doing follow ups in the community and distributed work differently when something unusual came up at times, so that they could support one another especially when there was an overload of work needed to be done.

Regarding financial aspect the social worker assured me that:

“The resources are made available according to the needs and according to allocation of budget, they also available even to address emergency cases. Usually the money distribution is done by another department which also organizes the payment of wages and so forth”.

Most people in Kampala were very much aware of the problem of child-abandonment, but they did not have proper information about the organizations/institutions working with the problem. Like the respondent from Watoto mentioned:

“The hinders are improper and inadequate information given to civil society about our organization, so sometimes when we go to pick up abandoned babies from the communities, people do not want to give us these babies, since they had learned that our organization used children as a labor force or for trafficking. Secondly at times we have a problem reaching out as well as having the flow of information in these communities”.
Almost the entire respondent group was asked the question of how they did manage to trace women who abandoned their new-born babies, and their response was that it was not easy

“It does not happen all the time, but it has happened, when you do search for them you could discover them through their parents, friend or other relatives, but sometime it also happen through the authorities since some are locked up in prison” (social secretary from Watoto).

7.0 Themes

This chapter presents seven themes accessed from seventy pages of primary empirical data from the semi-constructed interviews. These themes would disclose among other thing the participants understanding of the problem they work with, attitudes, goals, hinders, their views about the women who carry out this act, and about their work of trying to reduce the problem of children abandonment in Kampala-Uganda. The themes are as follows:

Children and children’s rights
Personal awareness
Dedication and Emotions
Prevention
Mother’s profile
The issues behind the problem
The Future

7.1 Children and Children Rights

During the interview session some of respondents determined that the most crucial factor within their organizations/institutions was to preserve and protect children rights, ANPPACAN and The Uganda Police were among the organizations/institutions which emphasized the importance of respecting children rights by saying:

“Our organization contributes to advocacy against child abuse, to promote the rights and wellbeing of children, not only in Kampala but in Uganda as a whole. Therefore we address child abuse in general that means any form of child abuse, we focus mainly on physical abuse, sexual abuse, and gender based violence, child sacrifice, child labor, neglect and abandonment” (ANPPACAN).
While when the police officer working at the children and family unite responded by saying:

“**We protects the rights of the children, so children can get their rights for feeding, medical care, education clothes (basic needs), love and protection from the parents**” (Police officer)

### 7.2 Personal Awareness

Most of the respondents became personally aware of the problem many years before they actually started working with this problem, and this early contact seemed to have a strong impact on them. For example the respondent from Sanyu baby´s home expressed the following:

> “*When I was young I used to come and visit to see the babies and after I got my degree, I decided to apply for a job as a social worker and I was given the post*”.

The Doctor from Mulago hospital remembered vividly the first time the matter of women who abandon their new-born babies come to her attention:

> “*It was way back in school, I think they put these things in the news that children were being abandoned left here left there and also from the church. I think I was in my secondary school in the mid-90s*”.

> “*During my secondary school education, we used to hear about women who abandon their children and also we used to hear that those children were kept in Nsabya or Sanyu babies home.*” (The Nun)

### 7.3 Dedication and emotions

Working with abandoned children involved, hard work, sacrifice and patience. One of the respondents clarified that their work was very unpredictable, tough and emotionally draining and that one must really be dedicated and mentally stable to deal with his/her own feelings both at work and private.
“The work is emotionally draining; hearing different stories and seeing different situations such as picking up the babies at the police station, hospitals and on streets.” (Social worker from Watoto)

And that

“There is a lot of work and fatigue sometimes you go to the field in the morning up to 6.00 o’clock in the evening you are still on the road at time you are on the road until 10.00 in the night. Many times the work is unpredictable, you are going to do this or that, but when you get there you find the unexpected. It is way too much.”

While the social work from Watoto admitted that:

“I’m a social worker with a principle and work ethics, but at times you want to get out of yourself and lecture these people because of what they have done, but you think through, like maybe they have different reasons that you might not know, you think that let me go on and find out the real reason. When they show up especially, knowing that they had abandoned their children, facing them is hard enough after finding helpless babies dumped somewhere, you hurt so much but you think, what can I do with them now, so the first instinct is to help and rescue the child and meet the problem latter, the other issue will come letter when the child is in safety.

Despite of the limited financial resources, hinders, exhausting and emotional draining work most of the respondents stated that they loved their work and that they were ready to carry on working as long as they were still employed by their organizations. Some of the reason given by the respondent for continuing dealing with this problem was firstly because they loved children, secondly because they had experience in their work, thirdly, they still had pending contracts, lastly they claimed that they still had an interest and the ability to do it and that they enjoyed working with people

“I still have an interest, so I think I will still do it so long as I have the interest and the ability to do it. I love working with people, and with the kind of carrier that I’m pursuing it is worth it to work with people. So I will do it as long as it serves the purpose for me”. (Social worker from Watoto Ministry)
“For as long as I still can manage. I cannot tell you that it will be in 3,4,5 years, but I think even if I leave this organization I will still work for an organization which gives service to children”. (Social worker from ANPPACAN)

7.4 Prevention

Raising awareness is one of the most effective approaches in changing people’s attitudes and behavior. It is a constant procedure which sometimes entail education on a particular subject, campaigning and planning to address new audiences and giving new opportunity for existing and new target groups. Hence it is crucial to raise awareness in the communities in Kampala so that women could get access to information of how to prevent this problem from ascending. During the interview sessions, three of the seven participants highlighted the importance of the mass-media when trying to raise awareness for example the social worker from Sanyu babies home pinpointed that

“The media is also another way used by Sanyu baby’s home to announce the babies found dumped so that the mother could be found, for example if we get hold of the photograph of the mother they could publish in the newspapers, television or on the internet so that the general public could respond to the authorities by telling them the whereabouts of the mother of the baby”

And according to the Nursing sister from Mulago hospital more strategies to raise awareness exist but are not used in a productive manner, hence they do not give good results since the government does not put enough enthusiasm, for instant the information given through TV and internet did not beneficial those who most need it, since just a few people had access to TVs and computers. Another problem was that the most vulnerable people like young girls (students) are not targeted in the campaigns which promote family-planning so they do not know where to access these services. She stressed that:

“If the communication between the government and the general public increase for example through media, billboard and campaigns it could narrow the problem”.

And the nun from Little Sisters of Saint Francis thought that it would be good if women used natural family-planning and not contraceptive and she was also
against abortion, however she thought that sex education was essential and therefore the education system in Uganda needed to be changed, so that sex-education should be taught right from the primary schools, therefore all children could learn about sex relations.

“there should be sex-education in school as well getting rid of the taboo surrounding sexual relations, people need to change their mind set and that could only happen when young people are taught about the consequences of pre-marriage and un-safe sex activities so that they could also learn to take responsibility for their behaviors”.

7.5 Mothers Profile

Almost all respondents had a same perception about the women who abandon their children. They thought that most women, who abandon did not know the fathers of their children or that many were abandoned by their husbands/boyfriend when they were expecting. Others were runaway teenagers who got themselves pregnant, drop out of school, and allegedly got deserted by their parents and in turn ended up being homeless without any source of income.

According to the social worker from Sanyu baby’s home

“Most of these babies who are abandoned it is like some of the mothers are school girls who were chased away from home, so they have nowhere to stay or any source of income, so they decide to abandon and this is usually due to the girls’ parents who tell them if you do get pregnant we do not want to see you”. And according to Nun from Nsambya

“Some are students who did not like to lose their education, some fear their parents, the outcome of having been at school, they have been paying school fees invest in their daughters and at the end of the day the girls conceive without completing their education.”

Due to illnesses like HIV/AIDS and the so called NEURO-PYCHOSIS which some women experience under and after pregnancy women are forced to abandon. Last but not least young girls who get pregnant as a result of being raped and incest also had a tendency of abandoning their babies, since this brings shame both to women and their families. As stated by the nurse from Mulago hospital it
was difficult for the victims to walk into the hospital and tell the doctor about such personal issues at the time of delivery.

“unplanned pregnancy due to rape, incest or were not being aware of family planning as well as not having any form of employment, hence they do not know how they would look after their children, even shame is involved among other reasons.” (Doctor from Mulago hospital)

“So some babies come as a result of incest so the parents could not keep the babies because it’s like a taboo so they don’t want to see those babies again so some girls decide on abandoning their kid. It is like a curse”. (Social Secretary from Sanyu Baby’s Home)

Other isolated issues contributing to women’s decision to carry out this harsh act were as follows:

Women being irresponsible, practicing of prostitution, Alcohol and drug abuse,

”sex-workers also those we do have a lot because they usually abandon because they have to go back on the street to work. They have that kind of simple life therefore they do not have time for children so they abandon. Drunkenness and drug use is also another reason for child abandonment” (Police officer).

Women who grow up without own parents were perceived as being irresponsible, thus capable of abandon their children since they did not have emotional ties, or any family structure like mother, father and siblings.

“I mean…..women who have been rejected as children would not feel obliged to caring they would just abandon the child and that why I think that a lot has got to do with their back ground, like family social background” (Doctor from Mulago Hospital).

7.6 The Issues behind the Problem

After interpreting the findings all evidence showed that the root cause of the problem of infant abandonment could have derived from; Social, cultural, economic, and political issues. Many people especially women suffer tremendously from poverty; and for that reason the majority of respondent in this study believed that mothers who abandoned their children are affected by poverty such that they could not envisage looking after them, and therefore would chose the easy way out by getting rid of them. In addition many women and young girls who commit this crime have themselves been abandoned by their partners or their
families living them with no other alternative but to abandon. However the most crucial point mentioned was the negligence from government; which has left all the work of rescuing, accommodating, feeding, clothing, educating and health case to organizations/Institutions, which in turn has left these organizations/institutions with a very heavy burden since they do not have efficient financial resources to minimize the problem.

Here are some of the comments from respondents:

“The government has not done much about this problem. It is the NGOs who have done the work rescuing, accommodating, feeding, educating, raising awareness, counseling the women and so on. The government does not even support the home we have to look for the money to sustain us since the government does not give anything, but at the end of the day government need some money from us. Even sensitizing people about the use of family planning and practicing safe sex is mainly done by NGOs”. (social secretary from Sanyu Baby’s Home)

“The government needs to have intervention, it has identified the problem but still it is the NGOs whose have an upper hand in such a thing, they have programs for the street children, rehabilitating, children abandonment and so forth. I have not known a government program that handles these issues”. (Nurse from Mulago hospital)

“Actually the Ministry of health and especially those who are working in Public Health should initiate that themselves, because they also recognize this problem, if they do not initiate it will be even very difficult.” (Nun from Little Sisters of Saint Francis Nsambya)

“The ministry of health has tried to advertise about family planning, let’s say also the importance of mother breast feeding the child and all what a mother need to look after a child. They insist that the child is better off growing up with a guardian or a parent they also have done it through radio, newspapers, and billboards” (social secretary from Watoto Ministry)

Because of this negligence almost all respondents thought that the government ought to be held accountable for the increased child abandonment in Kampala and the entire country. Additionally they thought that lack of well-spread family-
planning information and services for women and younger girls regardless of socio-economic background does also contribute to the problem. Some respondents expressed their concern about how the poor and un-educated women are deprived of access to family-planning services, while a few well-off women had access to both information and services. Hence this type of ignorance among the majority of women in Kampala has contributed to the growing numbers of unwanted pregnancies and in turn more abandoned infants.

As the police officer mentioned:

“Whenever you go for a medical checkup the nurses are supposed to give you this information. They organize that lesson about family-planning in government hospitals”.

“I do not think that those in charge are very friendly, like in my hospital as I told you, there is no teenagers’ family planning unites where they can snick and get these services. We have them they are being used by those who are well-off and mature individuals. Of recent because of HIV/AIDS there are condoms in the supermarkets, pharmacies or other drug stores” (Nurse, Mulago Hospital)

“All health centers which have a sign of a yellow sunflower symbolize that family-planning services are available, but even if you put family-planning services and people are illiterate they would not know what family-planning is all about….. so family planning might mean different things to different people even if they are available” (Doctor Mulago).

Some respondents mentioned that religious beliefs could be hinder for family-planning and abortion.

“Religious belief may discourage the use of contraceptives especially for Muslim and Catholic women, since in their faith it is believed that contraception is against god’s wish”. (Social worker Sanyu Babies Home)

And when I asked the Nun about her views on abortion she just looked at me in amazement and replied quietly.

“Now that is Taboo both in a religious sense and the human rights sense. Also in Uganda abortion is prohibited and it is considered a crime. And anyone who understands human rights should not promote abortion. Each person needs to exist for me I would not approve of getting abortion, it is real killing” (Nun)
The Doctor from Mulago thought that if abortion was legalized it could save a lot of lives since young women end up dying. However she mentioned that the legalization has been hugely debated on back and forth, but the stand still remained illegal

“...In Uganda abortion is illegal be it in the early stages or late it equally illegal hence people who carry it out do illegal and they are not publicized and some young women end up dying, for they use very crude methods like hangers. You know deep in the village women get a lot of complications like perforated uteruses.” (Doctor from Mulago Hospital)

“.....From the public health perspective it should be legalized, but other Christian’s values or morals say it’s already a fetus, it is already a life it is like you are killing a baby”. (Doctor from Mulago Hospital)

According to the respondent from ANPPACAN this issue has also something to do with how the information is perceived by women. He believed that a lot of women perceived family-planning in different ways, but that they did know that if they did not use condoms they would get pregnant, however the church gives them other information such as the practicing the natural family-planning, so just get confused not knowing exactly what to do.

"That’s why I think that the major issue here is lack of information, misinformation, and lack of knowledge and awareness which in turn cause the actions that these women take”. (Social worker from ANPPACAN)

The nun did not have any abjection about the government promoting family-planning, if it was done in the right way, besides she recommended teaching ethics and sex-education earlier in school as being a primary prevention for infant abandonment.

“Most people think that family-planning should be contraceptives, but even if you educate the children ethics that also could work as family-planning. If they educate children from the beginning, they could have relations without making
them run away from the opposite sex, in a way you can educate them, to be responsible as they grow up” (Nun)

The nun therefore, did not recommend contraceptive pills since she knew that they had severe side effects such as inducing overweight and causing infertility. She did however recommend the use natural methods. She argued that:

“One could end up creating a bigger problem by allowing women to use contraceptives”.

In Uganda talking about sex is a taboo, and sex education is taught very late in schools and it is very brief, therefore so many people are ignorant when it comes to sexual relations and this has led to an increase in child abandonment as well as the spreading of HIV/AIDS.

“I think that it could be ideal if the government and the ministry of health can sensitize people, give them family planning options especially in primary and secondary schools give them sex education, since a lot of this occurs because of being ignorant about whatever is available”. (Doctor from Mulago hospital)

“This issue is surrounded mostly by the vicious cycle of poverty, for most women are very poor. Ignorance is another reason, and probably women do not know, or are not educated yet to understand”. (Nun from Nsabya)

Before informal welfare was widely practiced in Uganda that is to say that church, friends and family members could help and take care of those who were unfortunate; for example if a young girl gave birth a relative could take care of that child while she went back to school to complete her studies, however today the situation is completely different and this also has had a huge effect on the whole society. Most respondents believed that these changes in their society, were due to the transformation from “Ugandan culture” to a more Western culture of individualism and liberal values, in addition people were becoming poorer and poorer and could not afford to have an extra burden in their families. In short, everyone was only taking care of their own children.

According to the social worker from ANPPACAN:
“Our society is rapidly changing moving from the communal kind of style to a very individualized life style”.

The opinion from the Nun was

“......people are copying this modern life style. They are trying to adopt a bit of Western world, each one is attending to her/his own children they do not mind about others, even now you find that people do not know their neighbors which was not like this before. I think it is due to the fact that people are now much more educated people, and try to adapt to those Western values and what have you...., so I think that this has brought about that problem”.

The social worker from Sanyu babies Home:

“It’s because the standard of living nowadays is very high, therefore one cannot expect me to look after my sister’s kid when I am also not in a good position, when I also cannot afford to look after my own child, you cannot expect me to look after that kid”.

The Doctor from Mulago hospital had this to say:

“Back then women never used to work for a living or have carriers, but today they have changed their mind-set they want to take charge of their lives and do not want to ask for any help. Women are in a hurry to jump on the fast track and do not want children, since they slow them down, they is an urgency to go with the world”.

7.7 Assessment of the potential improvement in future

The main goal for the organizations/institutions working with this problem is to reduce the number of abandoned new-born babies, hence one of the question asked during the interview sessions was where did the respondents see their work leading and if they detected any reduction of the abandoned children. The police officer thought that the problem is slightly decreasing because now women are aware that they could get arrested for abandoning their babies and that they could end up serve a long jail sentence, while the Doctor from Mulago hospital thought that there was hope as long as the people in the government made good decision and draw suitable policies for women and children. She thought that just now child abandonment does not seem so important, since it was in the shadows of infectious diseases like Malaria, HIV/AIDS, and TB.

“If the leaders think it is crucial to them, they will pick and prioritize and see if they can put a stop to it. so if they come forward and try to reduce the
unwanted pregnancies that is a way to reducing the burden, even though it is not the only point that mothers are dumping their children today they should have stopped it from way back. Someone must take initiative to address this issue and say "look here people this is a big deal", but there is still a little hope depending in which eyes you are looking at when it comes to such issues in this country.” (Doctor for Mulago Hospital)

But the Nun had another opinion about the issue, she said that:

“Seeing the numbers of children obtained by different organizations/institutions I can say that the problem is increasing because if it was decreasing the children would no longer fill the babies’ homes, but we still get those abandoned children in plenty, the problem is still here. (Nun)

"I think the situation could become better if the social and economic problem improves, otherwise I don’t see how we are coming out of it because one is having three children and are all living on the street and also the children have started having children who will also live on the streets they repeat the pattern” (The Nurse from Mulago Hospital”)

8.0 Discussion

In this chapter the research findings are discussed according to objectives, inferences to the study findings, scientific literature and recommendations capable of addressing the problem are drawn.

The twentieth century ushered in a new era in Kampala-Uganda where an excessive number of new-born children are abandoned by their mothers. Because of the many difficulties faced by these women, they are forced to ignore the fact that the existence of the future, the extension of the family and continuity of the whole society lies in their children.

Many organizations, which are working with this problem today, have as main goal to give these children a second chance to live; as well as preserving the human population. A minority of the children who get abandoned in Kampala are fortunate to be taken into children or foster homes. This process is made possible because organizations/institutions such as The Ugandan Police Force: Children and Family Unite, Sanyu Baby´s Home, Mulago Government Hospital, The Little Sisters of Saint Francis, ANPPACAN, Watoto Ministry and many more. These organizations work hard to ensure that the children’s safety and well-being is preserved.
Abandoned children usually spend their first day in life in pit latrines, by the road sides, or at the gates of orphanage and foster homes and dust bins. In recent, year the people working for Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions has realized a tremendous increase in new-born baby abandonment in Kampala, which is now estimated to be between 40 to 80 children per year (www.mcai.org.uk/whatwedo/projects/pastprojects/uganda.aspx). For example between January to April 2011 Watoto children homes throughout the country received 59 abandoned babies and by the end of April the numbers had increased to 144 babies and recently it had been reported that new babies have been received (http://watoto.com/about.us/new-arrivals). Furthermore Bulrush babies’ home; owned by Joyce Meyer Ministry also has witnessed an increase in infant abandonment. In January 2009 the home cared for 108 abandoned babies, but today it is forced to turn away some babies who are in need of shelter. (http://www.joycemeyer.org/OurMinistries/HandofHope/News/babybulrushes.htm

8.1 Hinders for future preventive strategies

In Kampala organizations/institutions and various community actors like the Local Councils (LC) were dedicated and determined to work together in order to decrease the number of abandoned new born babies. However, in quite an obvious manner the respondents expressed their disappointment in the government’s negligence towards this problem. Furthermore, they mentioned that hinders such as lack of financial resources, misinformation about their organizations in the community, poor flow of information, as well as lack of facilities to accommodate the rescued children made their work even harder than it already is. Nonetheless it is vital to take into consideration that governments’ measures are not distanced from the public, and that the relationship between governmental and organizations/institutions are considered crucial for the implementation of successful prevention strategies. As the Doctor from Mulago hospital pointed out, a lot of decision making depended on politicians, and that if they did consider this problem as their first priority a reduction of abandoned baby would occur. But on the other hand, it was pointed out that one of the major reason this problem was not prioritized; was that it is concealed in the shadows of infectious diseases like Malaria or HIV/AIDS and TB.

The professionals who participated in this study claimed that new and innovative ways of reducing this escalating problem ought to be tested. They also lifted
forward inadequate collaboration between the organization and the government on the issue as well as the ineffectual ways of raising awareness among women of Kampala city. The majority of participant called for more governmental preventive work and other knowledge rising projects such as campaigns, mass-media and education. One of the respondents stated that in the past, the government had held a few health campaigns which produced positive result, but on the other hand she thought that more knowledge ought to be increased about Family Planning methods, to target single women, and young girls. Family planning could be defined as the use of birth control method for example contraceptives, sexuality education, comprehensive medical and social activities which enable individuals, including minors to determine freely when and how to have children. Married couples who wish to limit and space their children could also select the means by which this options may be achieved (http://ask.reference.com).

This kind of prevention has been also documented by Tones and Tillford (1994) as examples of successful media programs organized by The American University Medical Center in Beirut. These scientist contributed to the develop family-planning interventions to promote and educate women about the use of contraceptives in Beirut, and their study showed an striking increase of 42 to 37 per cent of women who started using contraceptives in the community due to information received through mass-media (Tones & Tillford 1994:245). The same authors reported that the success of Chinese family-planning program of “one child” was a combination of media and interpersonal persuasion (Ibid: 197). Nevertheless, as it was argued by the respondents that mass-media could spread awareness among large numbers of women, it is ought to be done in an effective way, since it requires a degree of literacy to read newspapers. Furthermore, in the grassroots and other low-literacy communities around Kampala city, Radio internet, and television facilities could be virtually nonexistent due to lack of high technology infrastructure.

Initially in this study, respondents recommended both short term and long term objectives in order to tackle the problem of abandoned children. The short-time objectives would be raising awareness in the society especially among women and teenagers, since they had the highest audience needed to be addressed in this area. The long-term objectives would be that community organizations i.e. NGOs/ institutions and the political sector together identify the problem of child
abandonment. The next step could be to mobilize economic resource, develop and implement strategies that could enable them to reaching the best solution in decrease this problem within the communities. The suggested theory chosen to supporting this idea is the Community Organization Theory. This theory could directly be applied to both communities and individuals and this is a very important since communities are constructed by individuals. According to Nutbeam, Harris and Wise (2010) Community Organization Theory consists of three models. The first model is known as Locality development or community participation whereby community residents identify the problem and set out to solve it (Nutbeam, Harris, and Wise: 28).

A similar method is today being used in Kampala, by Sanyu Babies Home and other organizations/institutions who frequently consult the chairmen of Local Councils (LC), about child-abandonment cases. The local councils (LC) collaborates with a substantial number of networks within communities, these networks which are essential for reporting child abandonment, child neglect and other forms of child-abuse. Additionally, they are a huge help in tracing the mothers who abandon by providing vital information to authorities. As the respondent from ANPPACAN reported, the technique has also been used by the general public, who reported cases direct through ANPPACANs help line or just walking in to their front desk and tell their stories.

The second model is Social Planning. This model is to be used by experts to identify a specific problem and apply action to solve it (Nutbeam, Harris, and Wise: 28). In this case it would serve better the political groups, and NGOs/ institutions, working together in identifying and solve the problem. The third model is social Action which is characterized by concern for processes which build community in favor of the most disadvantaged and which requires drastic changes. Those who are involved should strive solving a defined problem within the society (Ibid). The method of Social Action is appropriate as it would be used in helping abandoned children and the most deprived mothers in Kampala, since there are no conducive policies made to help them living a decent life.

A related model was identified by Campbell (2003), in a positive transformation in society which took place in Texas, when a public outrage broke up after thirteen cases of abandoned babies were publication in 1999. The results were the first “Abandoned Baby Laws” of Texas (Campbell, 2003:42). By identifying the problem and creating” Safe Havens for women to leave their infants; safety for
abandoned new-born babies was ensured. Some other related laws to “Abandoned Baby Law” offered education, and also ensured that the parent’s medical history was accessed, to be used in the children’s future health control (Ibid). In Campbell’s study all three models of Community Organization Theory were utilized: the locality development, social planning and social action. Unfortunately this is not the case in Kampala today. As it was put clearly by the respondent from Sanyu babies home, some mothers frequent asked the staff working at the babies’ home to take their babies; however they had to reject them since they could only facilitate children without a mother or relatives. According to Giordano (2007) this form of child abandonment is also regarded at most as misdemeanors, but as long as the child is left in the hands of an identifiable competent care giver rather than at a Burger King restaurant then it could be seen as acceptable in people eyes. However, he warns that this could in the long run only encourage mothers to neglect their children without thinking that their behavior being regarded as child abandonment (Giordano, 2007:30)

8.2 Collaboration between organizations/institutions and with the government

Collaboration among organizations/institutions in Kampala was reported being both good, and also inevitable; since they could not survive working independently. Through their collaboration, decisions needed for both short and long term objectives to tackle the problem are made. For instance trace mothers, counseling them, trying to reunite children with their mother or extended relatives as well as sensitizing them about the consequences that could be faced if they were caught caring out this criminal act. Furthermore they did help each other to accommodate the children, since some of the organizations/institutions could only keep children up to four year of age. Others had no facilities to accommodate the rescued babies.

These organizations/institutions had several approaches of how to accomplish the work of preventing and reducing the problem of new-born abandonment. Taking ANAPPACAN for example its strategies were applied as follows:

Firstly they tried to reduce the impact of child abuse and abandonment by using the media to alert the government and the community of the existing problem in the communities.
Secondly they conducted training and gave the capacity to local leaders, government, institutions, community based organization in addressing the problems affecting children within their areas.

Thirdly they carried out advocacy of children rights at national and local levels and tried to inform the government to create a favorable legal environment for women and children who are experiencing abuse and poverty.

This way of working according to Cynthia Cohen (1990); was clearly envisioned by the founders of United Nations that the Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should play an active role within the UN structure 71 of chapter of the UN charter (Cohen: 137-147). She meant that it allowed the governments to take advantage of the expertise as well to provide the essential connection between the abstract deliberation of the government and the practical needs and wishes of the citizens (Ibid).

An affective theory suggested here is the Diffusion of Innovation. This theory when applied appropriately could benefit individual, groups and organizations/institutions. By spreading knowledge on existing new idea i.e. modern birth control methods among women of Kampala, and at the same time try into persuading them to adjust, a decision making process to adopt or reject could eventually begin. Subsequently an Implementation for those who chose to adapt might occur and this in turn could bring about Confirmation and reinforcement. (Muhiuddin Haider, 2005:2-3)

On organization level DOI could be essential in training all actors involved for example social worker, administrators, nurses, and care takers- In addition DOI together with FOMENT could be applied on higher level. As a synergy to DOI FOMENT model could contribute to new experience, changes in health communication and when incorporated into planning and management stages of public health and intervention programs (Ibid: 18-21). FOMENT together with DOI could be essential to reach out to politician, policy makers, donors, hospitals and law enforcement institutions for example it could help them to forge a better collaboration and make improved decisions for example enacting conducive policies needed to tackle the problem.

8.3 Early knowledge, motivations, and devotion

Almost the entire group of respondents learned about child abandonment long before they start working. Four of them were in their secondary school when they
first heard that new-born children were being abandoned, and their first job was just to work with this problem KASAM, sense of coherence is a theory which explains why some people are capable of handling stress and hazard better than the other. According to Antonovksy the way we perceived our environment, was decisive how we handled stress and hazards in our day to day life in other words it depended on in our comprehensibility (What we know and what we experience), hence we could clearly structure and organize our motivations in both negative and positive situations (Lindström & Eriksson 2005:411) During the interviews sessions, respondents spoke candidly about their work, how emotionally draining, unpredictable and tiresome it was, that one could not envisage how they managed cope with both their professional and own family problems. They also expressed their feeling openly by revealing how they felt seeing innocent babies suffer. But as trained professionals their priority was to rescue the babies first and deal with their own emotions latter. Here the behavioral instrumental of Kasam namely Manageability (What we can) would be applied, for this is a capability of handling positive and negative situations in an appropriate manner. According to Antonovskvy, this strength is not only required for ourselves but, also in relation with other people in the society (Ibid). Despite all hard work and heart breaking situations all respondents admitted that they still loved their work and were ready to continue for as long it takes. Meaningfulness (What we want) is a major element of Kasam, because it uplifts motivations which allow people to prevail when faced with negative situation, turning them into something positive (Ibid). Therefore this component KASAM goes hand in hand with the respondent’s dedication to their work. The love for children was mentioned as a motivation for carrying on, as well as knowing that they were doing something productive which made difference in their society.

8.4 Children`s rights

According to the researcher Terry Philpot, abandoned children are bound to faced major problems in future; they could range from physical and psychological problems to social problems (Terry Philpot, 2006:24-25). Therefore abandoning infants, and exposing them to harsh weather conditions straight after birth or physically abusing them could kill or make them contract life threatening illnesses, as well as leading to psychological disorder both in their childhood and in adulthood.
Likewise Gheorghe et al (1997-2008), stated that abandonment of newborns occurs throughout the world and that it often leads to the death of infants. These actions according to United Nation Children Convention deprives children their fundamental rights to life, good health as well as live with their parent who could give them love and care as enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights. Respectively the resent President of Uganda has also expressed the importance of children rights and pointed out that the government of Uganda had been influenced by the language of the Global Movement with a new emphasis on the basic rights of the children rather than their needs and that children rights must be seen as the cutting age of human rights (Kristen & Cheney, 2007: 54)

From the respondents point of view; a law has been implemented to protect the children against abandonment and other forms of abuse however, it is not being utilized properly. Thus there is an urgent need to address these shortcomings in the legal system that fail to protect the rights of children. Laws are perceived being the greatest force in enforcing human rights when implemented and practiced properly; so grave efforts are need to be taken into consideration when formulating them so that they could be enforced to achieve their goals.

8.5 Positive effects

Although the topic of new-born baby abandonment is both sad and complicated; this study was not only intended for negative outcomes, but rather the intension was to see if there could be light at the end of the dark tunnel. When the social worker from Watoto was asked about the benefits of working with abandoned children she explained that there were many, but first and foremost was the rescuing of children to safety. Secondly to be able to follow their development from unhealthy and apathetic into health and joyful child was an enormous accomplishment for staff. However the biggest accomplishment of all was seeing the children graduating out of the university and other educational institutions, getting jobs and becoming strong and health productive members of the society. Here the theory of empowerment could be applied, for it could not be easy for these children growing up knowing that they were unwanted and abandoned and at the same time focus on their studies. Likewise it could not be easy for the staff working with these children to accomplish the task of educating and empowering them. The theory of empowerment contributes not only to behavior change but when it is applied to public health interventions, empowerment is used by health promoters to encourage people to participate in the process of decision making.
and this allows them to pursue a course of action (Holland S, 2007:127). According to Laverack (2005), the concept of empowerment is to help people gain back their self-esteem through supporting their power from within in the course of a collective action (ibid:28). In addition empowerment helps people to increase their sense of value, control and belonging as well as gain control over their lives. Thus in so many ways the children raised by these organizations are not only saved from living on the streets of Kampala or from dying but they are also empowered so that they could live a dignified life in future and that is done through giving them good education.

Researchers Crockenberg, et al (2008); also highlighted the characteristics of abandoned children by mentioning that, most studies on institutionalized children show that nearly every aspect of their early environment is deficient. Consequently, it is usually difficult to define their early social-emotional relationship, diet, nutrition, medical care and their psycho social deprivation. For these reasons there might be a long term delays in physical growth, mental and academic performance, internalizing and externalizing behavior problems, as well as social and peer relationship (Crockenberg et al, 2008:3-4).

8.6 Factors behind abandonment

When conducting this study it was not only important to recognize the reason why women carry out this act, but also to identify the root cause, in order to understand why women would carry a child for nine month and then eventually wish get rid of it. According De Mause (1976), both infanticide and new born baby abandonment has existed since 318 AD. The reason then was lack of adequate contraceptives techniques, and medical knowledge for abortion (Corby, 2006:17).However it could be argued that this is not the same problem being faced in Kampala today, but rather the incorrect way of speeding the knowledge among women of Kampala. After the findings were analyzed and interpreted all evidence showed that the root cause of new born baby abandonment derived from; political, social, cultural, and economic issues.

When it comes to political and economic issues it is arguable, that the Ugandan government has a major role to play in eliminating new born baby abandonment and protecting their right: which according to organizations/institution this has long been neglected by the government. Apparently there is a fundamental need to conceptualize infant abandonment and a new form of relationship between families, organization/institutions and the government has to be created. For
instance a system of basic type of social welfare for mothers and children could be constituted. Social welfare is defined as a state or a condition of human well-being that exists when social problems are managed, human needs are met and when social opportunities are maximized (James Midgley; 1997: 5). Social welfare provides health-care services, education programs, housing, financial help and other social help to members of the community. However, for women and children Kampala this kind of opportunity does not exist. One respondent specifically suggested that the government should practice a welfare system like the one used in the United Kingdom where by the mothers are given allowances to take care of their children until they are 18 years old. According to Midgley societies which failed to provide primary goods and other means by which people could realize their potential, often have high rate of crime and violence. This is due to the fact that people always seek alternatives and illegitimate means for improving their social position (Ibid). Likewise, Mullander argued that issues like domestic violence and poverty in which most women as find themselves in, were behind the new born babies abandonment (Philpot:25). In Kampala and the whole of Uganda women are underrepresented on the labor market due to traditional norms. Women are meant to stay at home looking after children and doing domestic work. However, in the recent years, women have become more independent and want to support themselves. Unfortunately, job opportunities are few and many women are struggling to earn decent income to support themselves and their children. As the Nun from Little sisters of Saint Francis evidently put it, the problem of infant abandonment is surrounded mostly by ignorance and unemployment; which in turn leads to vicious cycle of poverty.

Social and cultural issues were also perceived as being causes behind the problem root cause to this problem. There is evidence that social support is beneficial to health and that isolation leads to ill health and negative effect both physically and psychologically. Social support is defined as resources provided by others persons which makes an individual to believe that [s]he is cared of and loved, esteemed, valued and belongs to social network of communication and mutual obligation (Marmot & Wilkinson:148). In this study it was reported that many young girls were neglected by their parents and banished from their homes after they had become pregnant. This was mentioned as yet another reason for child-abandoning. The lack of social support could drive younger girls to abandon their babies since they end being alone, homeless and with no financial resources. These girls may
decide to migrate to a big city like Kampala, in search of a new life. As a result they might find themselves mixed up in bad relationships with people who only want to exploit them and later desert them, left only with one decision of giving birth and abandon the child. According to Marmot and Wilkinson the ability to develop positive social relations depended on an individual’s relation with his/her mother and father. It is described that unhappy and disrupted relationship with parents might lead into ill health, excessive stress and destructive behaviors (Marmot & Wilkinson 2006:150).

In her study, Cesario (2003) also claimed, that apart from the factors like poverty, population, labor, political climate and ideologies as issue behind a woman’s decision making process to abandon their new-born babies; cultural traits such as religious beliefs could also provide a moral basis for human action and shape paradigms of what is an acceptable behavior in a given society at a particular point of time (Cesario: 33). Some religious groups like the Catholic Church are extremely conservative when it came to the use of contraceptives and abortion, and they discouraged their congregation from using these methods. From the Nuns perspective, abortion was a taboo both in a religious and the human rights sense. She would therefore not expect anyone who understood human rights to encourage these methods. Abortion refers to the interruption of pregnancy or termination of pregnancy (Bengtsson 1992: 8). The Nun further argued the contraceptives create bigger problem like infertility and prolonged bleeding, and this argument was also supported by the Doctor from Mulago hospital. Similarly it was stated by NiraYuval that the use of high-tech forms as contraceptives could have immediate effect on women’s lives and that many women suffer from gynecological conditions (NiraYuval, 1996:22). She also argued that it was important to put in mind that formal and informal grouping as both religious, and national could exercise pressure and sometimes force, on how women should or should not have children (Ibid).

In short it was not only religious group’s which controlled women reproductive issues, but also they are other dynamics, surrounding their decision making.

8.7 Mother profile

According to respondents, runaway teenagers who probably had left without their parent’s consent do not dare to go back home with a baby. This is supported by Thompson et al (2008) who examined the problem, she compared non-homeless youth to homeless runaway girls and found a higher rate of high risk sexual
behavior, early sexual debut, tendency of having multiple sex partners, and using less contraceptives methods (Thompson et al 2008:2). The homeless runaway girls also tend to have sex when they are intoxicated and may to a higher degree exchange sex for money, drugs and shelter. In addition these young girls usually were found to be less economically, physically and emotionally mature to care for an infant (Ibid: 2). Remarkably Uganda is one of the African countries with a high degree of geographical mobility of the youth in form of rural-urban migration. According to the UN report (1999) as cited in MFPED Report November 2006, youth migrants in Africa is three times as many as other migrants, and from the UBOS, youth population in urban centers rose from 15 percent in 1991, 17 percent in 2000 while reducing from 87 percent to 83 percent in rural areas over the same period (www.ubos.org). The labor force survey also showed that urban unemployment rate for the youth (12%) was about seven times the rural one (1.7%).

The other groups pointed out in this in this study as being able to abandon their new-born babies were, the adult first time mothers who got abandoned by their partners and left with no financial help, as well as young girls who got raped or incest. The latter is seen as a curse and therefore put a shame not only on girl but also on the whole family. This opinion is supported by Boswell (1990) cited by Corby who also believes that, shame is always involved in carrying out this cruel act. He claims that some of the children are born as a results of incestuous actions end up being abandoned (Corby 2006:17), and according to Butler & Burton (1990) sexual abuse, and child-abandonment is linked to the victimization of girls who get pregnant on a young age. Second the family dynamics of incest victims are both connected with adolescent mothers growing up in dysfunction homes, and patriarchal power within their family structure (Butler & Burton: 73).

Doctor from Mulago Hospital gives a solution to this problem of unwanted pregnancy by suggesting the use of dual contraception (combining the use of use pills and condoms) and the legalization of abortion as being a very important aspect to be considered when trying to decrease this problem of child abandonment. She further proposed that a use of dual contraception should be recommended to especially young girls, since they are prone to rape and incest, this in turn may save them from the jeopardy of contracting SDTs and un-wanted pregnancy. According to Bengtsson (1992) un-planned pregnancy indicates the
failures of the use of pregnancy prevention, and thus becomes related to individual, social, and health factor (Bengtsson1992:8).
The respondents in this study also stated that HIV/AIDS was another reason given as why women abandoned their new born babies. They all revealed that most of the children rescued in Kampala were tested HIV positive. Likewise it was reported in study done Zabina et al, (2003–2004), that approximately 10–50 per cent of infants born to HIV-positive mothers were abandoned at maternity hospitals. However in their study it was reported that although this was primary reason seen for infant abandonment on the whole, the finding indicated that new-born baby abandonment was “a general problem” in society and that factors influencing HIV-positive mothers to abandon were similar to those of HIV-negative mothers. (Zabina et al: 164-167).Therefore it could be argued that being an HIV-positive alone is not a sound reason for infant abandonment, but when combined with other factor could lead to a mothers decision making to abandon.

8.8 Society changes and accountability

Major changes within the Ugandan civil society especially in Kampala were discussed and the majority of respondents thought that their society had change rapidly moving from the communal kind to a liberal individualized system which also they called the Western culture. According to the Nun the more people get educated the more they adopted Western values. This however has tremendously contributed to the problem of child-abandonment. In the past relatives used to take care of each other, but over the recent years people have lost their sense of solidarity. The social worker from Sanyu babies home believed that the increased standard of living was the reason why people hade became so egoistic and could not help their friend, neighbors or relative, since they could only afford to look after their own. From Buchanan (2000) point of view, our concerned today is the deteriorating of the quality of community life; and that public health problem are the symptoms of this disintegration, Thus the important part of healing process would be nourishing the bonds of the community and strengthen our mutual capacity to discern value that defines the common good (David Buchanan, 2000:125). He also claims that participation in social practices that promotes civility, redefine and expand the boundaries of social solidarity (Ibid: 127).
Finally the question of who was to be held responsible for child-abandonment had to be inquired. The majority thought that the government was to be blamed, since it should be identifying this problem and intervene or help with financial resources as well raising awareness. Hence the negligence from the government has led an increase in the rates of abandoned and homeless children on the streets of Kampala. In addition the government has not helped to reduce unemployment among women by job and other money generating projects, not even conducive policies which benefits women and children. Conversely, some put the blame on society as whole since women themselves ought to practice safe sex, men should provide for their families instead of abandoning them and parent should sensitize their children on sexual relation and not disown them when they get pregnant.

9.0 Recommendations

The preceding discussion highlighted the reasons respectively and issues the behind the new-born baby abandonment in Kampala-Uganda. Among many reasons given, the inability of the Ugandan government to tackle this problem was the most criticized by all respondents, and in order to fulfill their commitments and to achieve and responsibility of their participation in this study, significant suggestions were uttered and they are as follows:

Parent should be sensitized on how to respect children rights, so that they could take good care of their children

All women should be informed about family-planning method and services whenever they go to a gynecologist. Women who are very poor should be provided with free contraceptives, and abortion should be legalized.

Abortion and family-planning services should be a part of the national health major priority if problem is to be reduced.

The government ought to take responsibility and give funds to organizations who are working with abandoned babies, engage in massive interventions, do more health campaigns, and use mass media, billboards as well as advertisements to make the family-planning massage came out strongly.

Young mothers, need both moral and financial support, hence the government should make better policies which benefits mothers and children and it should also provide financial help or programs which activate money to poor and single mothers in order to ensure that their social and economic conditions are improved.
Sex education should be provided in schools, since a lot about child-abandonment is about women being ignorant and support groups should be formed to help younger teenagers who gets pregnant and run away from home or who get chased away from their parents, so that they could get strength to keep their babies instead of abandoning them.

Research funded by the government in this issue is also crucial, since child abandonment is a major problem all over the world, but there are a few scholars who have done research surrounding this issue.

10.0 Conclusion

This study showed that the mutual goals of organizations/institutions were to rescue abandoned babies, to facilitate them in children’s home; or find adoptive parent who could give them love; care and education, to trace mothers or family members and to try re-uniting them. The biggest challenges for the organizations/institutions were the lack of financial resources, misinformation about the work of the organizations/institutions in the community, and the poor information flow, as well as lack of facilities to accommodate abandoned children, and poor collaboration with the government.

In this study women who abandon their baby were described as adolescents who run away from home or who are thrown out of their home by their parents after they had become pregnant. The other groups consisted of adult women who are first time mothers who get abandoned by her partner without any source of income as well as prostitutes. Furthermore the factors behind child-abandonment were based on political, social, economic and cultural factors.

As an author of this study, my conclusion is that the organization/institutions are doing a very good job, but it seems that just now they have reached a dead end. Today the organization/institution are mostly maintaining the situation and are not able to advance to further and important improvement such as getting to the women before they abandon their children. Therefore there is an acute need for new and radical approaches to the problem, for example increased governmental funding and co-working with organizations/institutions. More interventions are needed, as well as family planning and the legalization of abortion. Since religious leader have got a big platform in the Ugandan society to address important issue, they ought to be sensitized on family-planning and abortion issues, so that they could start taking stand for these issues within their congregations. They should
start encouraging women to protect themselves from un-wanted pregnancies and this in due time might help to decrease the rates of abandoned new-born children. The government ought to provide women of Kampala and the entire country with proper scientific based on information on birth control issues. Furthermore there is a need for conducive policies which create jobs and other money generating projects for women to enable them to provide for themselves and their children. Lastly, the welfare support for poor women and young girls as well as helping them with free condoms and contraceptive pills is essential for reducing the problem.
References

Books


Dahlgren E, Winkvist A (2007) Qualitative Methodology for International Public Health

Kvalle S, Brinkmann S (2009), Learning the Craft of Qualitative Research Interviewing 2nd Ed Los Angeles, Sage Publication, cop: 179


Websites
http://www.createdforacouse.com/2008/08/sanyu-babies-home-orphanage-kampala.html,
http://w.w.w.allafrica.com/stories/200810040029.html
http://w.w.w.prb.org.
http://wwwdfi.gov.uk.country profile
http://www3nationalgeographic.com/places/countries/country_uganda.html
http://watoto.com/about.us/new-arrivals
http://wwwjoycemeyer.org/OurMinistries/HandofHope/News/babylbulrushes.htm
http://www.trueknowledge.com
**Articles and Journals**


Davis N. Y, Women and the Biological Reproduction of the Nation, Women´s Studies Forum Vol.19 Nos ½. Printed in USA.


Giordano S, (2007), Crimes and misdemeanors: *The case of child abandonment*. Published by bmj. Downloaded on August 7, 2011. [http://jme.bmj.com/content/33/1/28.full.pdf](http://jme.bmj.com/content/33/1/28.full.pdf)


Lindström B & Eriksson M(2005) Glossary Salutogenesis. [http://jech.bmj.com/content/59/6/440.full.pdf+html](http://jech.bmj.com/content/59/6/440.full.pdf+html)

Thompson, S, et al (2008), Runaway and Pregnant; *Risk Factors Associated with Pregnancy in a National Sample of Runaway/Homeless Female Adolescents*. University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work, Center of Social Work Research 1717 W.6th St Suite 335, Austin TX 78703. NIH Published Access Author Manuscript.


http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?
http://reliefweb.int/site/reliefweb.int/files/resource


UPPAP (December, 2002), *Deepening the Understanding of Poverty Report*. http://economics.ouls.ox.ac.uk/14069/


Appendix A

Interview Guide

Section A. Personal data
Name?
Age?
Gender?
Marital Status?
Education level?
Professional?

Section B. Questions about the organization.
What is the name of your organization?
When was it grounded?
Who grounded it?
How long has this organization been operating here in Kampala?
How did you learn about this organization?
Can you please tell me in details, the purpose of this organization here in Kampala?
What are the children right
How is this organization financed?
How do you distribute your resources?
How do you distribute the work among the staff?
What are the strategies used to raise awareness about this issue among the women of Kampala?
Which kind of issues does this organization mainly deal with?
Could you please tell me which other organizations, NGOs you collaborate with?
Does your organization get help from the government?
How is your collaboration with the government on the issue of child abandonment, and other abuse?
Does your organization have like homes to facilitate abandoned children or any schools?
What are sort of challenges do this organization experience when doing this work?
How do you go about tracing women who abandon their new-born babies?
Section C. Personal question on the issue about child abandonment.

Can you please tell me when you first learned about this problem of women who abandon their children?

Why do you think mother abandon their new-born babies?

What do you perceive as the underlying issues behind this act?

Could you please give me a suggestion of how organizations/institutions or government could manage to solve this problem?

Have you personally ever handle a case of an abandoned child?

Is child-abandonment taken as a crime in Uganda?

So what happen to those parents who abuse their children are taken to court and get punished?

Where do you see your work leading in the near future? Do you see any increase or a decrease of this problem?

About the use of condoms I understand that some men here in Uganda discourage it. Could do please tell me something about this?

Does religion plays a role in this issue?

In your work, have you ever seen any of these children getting reunited with their biological parents?

Who do you think should be held responsible for this problem?

How long do you intend to keep on doing this work?

Thank you very much and good luck with your work.

11.2 Appendix B

Cover Letter

Copy 1

Dear Respondent,

(Working in organizations with the problems around abandoned newborn children)

My name is Anna Ssendi and was born and raised here in Uganda, but the last twenty years I have been living in Malmö Sweden. Just now, I am completing my Master Degree in Public Health at the Malmö University Hospital the faculty of health and society and doing research for my final thesis. Throughout my studies at Malmö University I have become more aware and interested in international
issues concerning both women and children all around the world, especially in poor countries. For example, the matter which caught my attention about women in Kampala who abandon their new-born babies on streets, at hospital or in pit toilets leaving them to die come to my knowledge I decided to investigate it further. Various sources have suggested that an estimated number of 40-80 children are reported being abandoned every year by their mother in Kampala. Among the most frequently assumption, mental illness (psychosocial problem), being a victim of sexual violation, lack of information on family-planning and teenage pregnancy, are thought to be reason why women carry out this cruel act. Hence study is intended to investigate the organizations/institution work with this issue on a daily basis, rescuing and facilitating these children as well as meeting the women who abandon their babies. I therefore seek your consent to ask you a few questions about this problem for my study. The decision has already been made that the interview sessions will be conducted without any mediator from any authority, however I seek your permission for the interview to be recorded, since this will give me a chance later on to listen and reflect to what has been said and enable me to carefully and accurately interpret and analyze the data. I also want to ensure you that the collected material will not contain any personal data of people interviewed and will be kept and in a safe place until the project have been completed then all information will be destroyed.

**Letter of Consent**

I have read the information letter; I have also been orally informed of its content.

I ................................................................................... hereby agree to take part in this interview conducted by Anna Ssendi a student of Public health at the faculty of Health and Society at the Malmö University Sweden.

Date........................................................................
Name........................................................................

Signature....................................................................

**Cover Letter**

Copy 2
Dear Sir/Madam

(Chef of the organization working with the problems around abandoned newborn children)

My name is Anna Ssendi and was born and raised here in Uganda, but the last twenty years I have been living in Malmö Sweden. Just now I am completing my Master Degree in Public Health at the Malmö University Hospital the faculty of health and society and doing research for my final thesis. Throughout my studies at Malmö University I have become more aware and interested in international issues concerning both women and children all around the world, especially in poor countries. For example the matter which caught my attention about women in Kampala who abandon their new-born babies on streets, at hospital or in pit toilets leaving them to die come to my knowledge I decided to investigate it further. Various sources have suggested that an estimated number of 40-80 children are reported being abandoned every year by their mother in Kampala. Among the most frequently assumption, mental illness (psychosocial problem), being a victim of sexual violation, lack of information on family-planning and teenage pregnancy, are thought to be reason why women carry out this cruel act. Hence study is intended to investigate the organizations/institution work with this issue on a daily basis, rescuing and facilitating these children as well as meeting the women who abandon their babies. I therefore seek your consent to ask you a few questions about this problem for my study. The decision has already been made that the interview sessions will be conducted without any mediator from any authority, however I seek your permission for the interview to be recorded, since this will give me a chance later on to listen and reflect to what has been said and enable me to carefully and accurately interpret and analyze the data. I also want to ensure you that the collected material will not contain any personal data of people interviewed and will be kept and in a safe place until the project have been completed then all information will be destroyed.

Letter of Consent

I have read the information letter; I have also been orally informed of its content.
I ...................................................................................................................... hereby agree to give
permission to Anna Ssendi a student of Public health at the faculty of Health and
Society at the Malmö University Sweden to conduct her interview on some of
the employee of this organization

Date............................................ Name of the chief..............................

Signature..............................................
11.3 Appendix C

Map of Uganda

No higher resolution available.
Ug-map.PNG (330 × 354 pixels, file size: 21 KB, MIME type: image/png)