

ABSTRACT

The study was carried out at Ggaba village which is located in Kampala district, about 7 km west of Kampala city along Ggaba road. It focused on the resident's explanatory models of domestic violence and its effects on health seeking behaviors. In Uganda, the domestic violence rate is currently at (39%). Thus domestic violence among married couples was rampant in Uganda.

Main objective: The main objective of the study was to describe explanatory models of domestic violence and its effects on health seeking behaviors of residents of Ggaba, Kampala, Uganda.

Methodology: A descriptive cross-sectional study was therefore carried out involving 48 respondents in Ggaba Village. Data was collected using focus group discussions. The data was then analyzed thematically according to the specific objectives of the study.

Results: The results of the findings indicated that all the respondents were knowledgeable about DV and 25 (52.1%) understood domestic violence as a misunderstanding between couples which may result into physical violence or harm. females(27%) surpassed male counter parts agreeing on misunderstanding. Respondents were further aware of the factors leading to domestic violence. Females (14.6%) surpassed males agreeing on polygamy. However both equally agreed on forced sexual intercourse (4.2) and 12 (25%). Respondents also had positive attitudes towards early reporting of domestic violence. However female(45.8%) counter parts surpassed males agreeing on reporting immediately. However, there existed various factors which hindered early reporting of DV cases to authorities. Females (25%) surpassed males mentioning fear of reprisal beatings.

Conclusion and recommendations: In conclusion, the study revealed that most respondents possessed adequate knowledge and positive attitudes towards domestic violence. However, various factors contrived to cause DV among couples and even late reporting of cases. The researcher therefore recommended that the government, concerned NGO'S and health ministry should ensure national wide sensitization on domestic violence and ensure that leaders carry out their responsibilities efficiently to decrease on domestic violence prevalence.