

**FACTORS INFLUENCING MEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN PARENTING IN MAYUGE
TOWN COUNCIL**

BY

NANGOBI CYNTHIA


REG NO: 19/U/28887

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION
OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

DECEMBER 2022

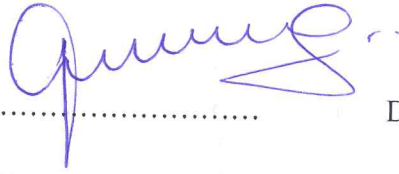
DECLARATION

I, NANGOBI CYNTHIA, hereby declare that this dissertation titled "Factors influencing Men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge Town council" is my original work and has never been submitted in any institution for grading.

Signature.....

Date ..12/DEC/2022

NANGOBI CYNTHIA

Signature.....

Date12/12/2022

 DR. LABAN MUSINGUZI KASHAIJA, PhD

Academic supervisor

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to the Almighty GOD, my family, friends and to all those that in one way or the other have contributed to its success.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to everyone who has supported me during my journey of writing my dissertation. Great thanks go to my father Mr. Mukisa Robert and mothers Namuwaya Susan and Nabirye Hadijja for the endless support they rendered to me during my academic journey.

I would like to send sincere appreciation to my supervisor DR. LABAN MUSINGUZI who has endlessly provided professional guidance to me throughout the research project. May the Almighty GOD bless you abundantly.

I also thank my respondents (fathers) in Mayuge Town Council for accepting to participate in my study .You were so instrumental to this success.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
DEDICATION.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
LIST OF ACRONYMS	vi
ABSTRACT.....	vii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Problem Statement.....	2
1.3 Main objective	3
1.4 Research Questions.....	3
1.5 Scope of the study.....	3
1.6 Significance of the study.....	4
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	5
2.0 Introduction.....	5
2.1 Conceptualization of Parenting.....	5
2.2 Social Norms and Parenting.....	7
2.3 Financial stability and Parenting.....	9
2.4 Gaps in the literature.....	11
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	12
3.0 Introduction.....	12
3.1 Research Design.....	12
3.2. Study approach.....	12
3.2 Study Area	13
3.3 Study Population.....	13
3.4 Sample size	13
3.5 Sample selection	14
3.6 Data Collection Methods	14

3.7 Data Management and Analysis	16
3.8 Ethical Consideration.....	16
3.9 Faced Challenges	17
CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	18
4.0 Introduction.....	18
4.1 Description of study participants	18
4.2 Understanding of parenting.....	19
4.3 Socio-cultural factors that influence men’s involvement in parenting	20
4.4 Economic factors that influence men’s involvement in parenting.....	26
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION	32
5.0 Introduction.....	32
5.1. Summary	32
5.2 Conclusion	33
5.3 Recommendations.....	33
REFERENCES.....	35
APPENDICES.....	41
Appendix I: In-depth interview guide.....	41
Appendix II: Focus group discussion guide.....	43
Appendix III: Key informant interview guide	45

LIST OF ACRONYMS

FGD Focus Group Discussion

IDI In-depth Interview

KII Key Informant Interview

LC Local Council

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to explore the factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council. The study specifically aimed to establish the socio-cultural factors and the economic factors that influence men involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council.

The study was purely qualitative in nature with 8 participants who were selected using simple random sampling to participate in data collection. Data were collected using face-to-face in-depth interviews with men. In addition, focus group discussion was conducted with one group comprising of men with children in the household. These were backed with four key informant interviews were conducted with 3 members of staff of the office of the LC1 and one cultural leader to get an overall picture of the factors influencing men's involvement in parenting. Key informants were selected purposively as they had to be knowledgeable about parenting

The study findings revealed a number of factors that influence men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council. These included both socio-cultural and economic factors; the socio-cultural factors included the need to take responsibility, weakness of women, polygamy and the need to instill moral discipline in children while the economic factors that influence men into parenting according to the findings include financial stability, employment, poverty as well as the levels of income of the man. The study further revealed that parenting styles of both men and women are different in that men are more incline into authoritative parenting of children.

Finally, the study recommends need for enlightening of men in regards to the changing roles on men in the family. This will better prepare men and encourage them to be present for their families as opposed to being absent. Providing men with information regarding parenting and the different roles will enable them to appreciate and embrace their roles as parents and main providers of the family. Secondly, parenting issues has more to do with showing love and compassion to the family and children as a result men should be educated on how to get involved in parenting affairs without necessarily being rich because at the end a poor present parent is better than a rich absent parent.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

In this chapter, I present the study background, problem statement, objectives, research questions, study scope, significance, justification and operational definitions.

1.1 Background

Parenting has been conceptualized differently by a number of scholars. Mawusi (2013) defined parenting as the process of raising and educating a child from birth or before until adulthood. Waldvogel & Ehlert (2016) defines parenting to refer to carrying out the responsibilities of raising and relating to children in such a manner that the child is well prepared to realize his or her full potential as a human being. Parenting is therefore a process of or supporting a child from birth to adulthood involving the physical, emotional, social and intellectual capabilities.

Globally, the discussion on parenting has evolved overtime with many scholars basing their argument within the societal as well as morale perspectives. In the work of Nomaguchi & Milkie, (2020) it is stated that parenting requires interpersonal skills and again make emotional demands which can have both positive and negative effects on the upbringing of the child.

In Western Europe, Nomaguchi & Milkie, (2020) contends that men use different patterns in their involvement in parenting of children. For instance, in Italy, France, Poland and Spain men are categorized as full-time parents as majority of them are fully engaged in rearing and supporting of their children and families. However in countries such as Brazil, the United States of America, and Canada men' parenting and parenthood involvement is based on the recognition of the rights of the child which implies explicit acknowledgement of paternity and obligations to the minors in their care Oláh, (2001).

In Sub Saharan Africa parenting and parenting styles are quite different from elsewhere in the world for instance Gauthier et al. (2021) pointed that men are mostly involved in what has been described as “communal parenting” whereby children are communally raised by every in the community. A man can discipline a child at any time he/she is involved in wrong doing regardless of the paternity of that child.

Researchers such as Mawusi(2013) emphasized that men's involvement in parenting in most African settings is influenced by the need for family stability. The author argues that family stability has decreased substantially as indicated in the increase in the rates of divorce therefore men are getting involved in parenting as means through which families can regain stability.

Similarly, Henz (2019) pointed that the need for extending love and affection in the early years of children has seen men taking up important roles in being ever present at least in the first five years of raising children however some scholars for instance Rollè et al.,(2019) emphasized that the involvement of men in parenting is not only influenced by the need for love and affection some actually see the idea as mandatory therefore they are obligated to provide support to the family.

From a sociological point of view, it is clear that parenting is fundamentally a social construction especially in the African context. For instance In the work of Williams, (2008) it was suggested that each generation mold its cultural ideal of parenting according to its own time and conditions. This therefore implies that parenthood can best be understood in the context of men getting involved in the provision of basic necessities to either their biological and non-biological children.

In Uganda, parenting is more of communal as opposed to individualism; this implies that children are everyone in the community is involved in rearing children especially in rural areas where having children is inclined to cultural norms. They are concerned with provision of basic needs, ensuring safety and nurturing morals and discipline. In a report by new vision written by (Kizza, 2021) entitled "Fatherhood is role no title "whose theme was achieving child wellbeing is a collaborative responsibility.

In Mayuge however, parenting is understood from a social context in that the head of the house is considered as the parent of all children whether or not they are biological children or not. Parenthood is considered as a social enterprise where by children are raised by every member of the family/community not necessarily their biological caregivers.

1.2 Problem Statement

The involvement of men in parenting has been a contested topic in the past years as men have been described by many researchers such as Craig et al. (2014) as absent when it comes to rearing children and providing support to the family structure. A number of factors have been

used to explain the reasons as to why men are less involved in parenting issues for instance Mawusi (2013) cited factors such as poverty, unemployment, and divorce as reasons as to why men are less likely to get involved into parenting affairs.

The changing roles of men however could be as a result of the widening gap created by gender roles for instance women are more involved in career related opportunities as opposed to rearing children, another possible explanation could be that the number of educated women could suggest a shift in parenting roles as more women are getting educated men are filling up the parenting gap created by these changes on the side of women. All of this is however has remained undocumented. This study will therefore shed more light on men parenting attributes as well as the factors responsible for their engagement in child rearing in Mayuge town council.

1.3 Main objective

The study aimed at exploring the factors influencing men's involvement in parent in Mayuge Town Council.

1.3.1 Specific Objective

1. To describe the socio-cultural factors that influence men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council
2. To examine the economic factors that influence men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the cultural factors that push men to get involved in parenting?
2. How do social factors influence men to get involved in parenting?
3. What are some of the economic factors that get men's involvement in parenting?

1.5 Scope of the study

The study focused on exploring the factors that influence men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council. In terms of content scope, the study restricted itself to the that factors that influence men to involve in parenting since men are generally seen as absent when it comes to family issues especially child rearing. It is important to explore what is exactly influencing

men to take up f parenting roles in areas such as Mayuge town council. The study will be conducted between July and November.

1.6 Significance of the study

The findings of this study will serve either to support or counter earlier findings on the factors that influence men's involvement in parenting. Understanding this will form a basis for proposing targeted interventions/sensitization about the importance of involving in parenting as well as raising families. This will further help to address the information gap on men's involvement in rearing children. The research report based on findings of this study is also expected to form a source of literature for future studies focusing on this subject.

This study will share context-specific evidence on the factors that influence men's involvement in parenting, while taking into account the distinct demographic characteristics of the intended study participants.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the review of related literature obtained from theoretical and empirical sources guided by the study objectives.

2.1 Conceptualization of Parenting

The concept of parenting is inherently multifaceted. As such there is need to understand the concept of parenting as well as the important role parents especially fathers play in the family as well as rearing children. A study conducted by Spiteri et al. (2014) pointed that parenting is a complex and multi-faceted life event. Its arrival brings about a distinctive blend of stresses and rewards. Similarly, Volling & Palkovitz(2021) they argue that fathers are parents too as most of them are involved in parenting as bread winners (sole providers of household basic needs) as such they are an important aspect of child rearing.

Some scholars for instance Rego (2015) emphasized that parenting is a form of interaction between parents and children in a daily life that will have an impact on the child's next life. In this context therefore, parenting is a fundamental need for a child's life because parenting can provide an experience for the child so that it changes emotionally, socially, and intellectually.

Parenting given to children can be in the form of attitudes, dispositions, habits, communication, and character display in daily life (Davis et al., 2018; Grau Grau et al., 2022; Waldvogel & Ehlert, 2016). This implies that the involvement of fathers in parenting children can have a significant impact on the growth of the child.

Fathers as parents clearly demonstrate love for their children contrary of the strict disciplinarian but importantly the way fathers demonstrate their love through daily care activities e.g., like preparing breakfast, buying desire books among others. All of these are indications of involvement on the side of men.

There is growing evidence of that men are taking a center stage in parenting issues as well as child up bringing as opposed to the past. For instance, Grau Grau et al (2022) postulate that men engaging in parenting has a positive outcomes on not only the children and family

themselves but also on the physical and psychological wellbeing of the fathers themselves. This implies that men's engagement in parenting goes beyond providing for the needs of their dependent there are psychological benefits of spending time with family as well as providing for the needs of loved ones.

Similarly, Diniz et al. (2021) emphasized that parenting is a social topic that has evolved over the last decades. According to the study, fathers in the context of parenting are being addressed as key source of family well-being and positive child developmental outcomes. Thus, indicating that the involvement of men in parenting regardless of the context in which they are involved in cannot be underestimated as they (men) are taking up new roles in the parenting discourse.

On the other hand Opondo et al., (2016) show that being a parent is more than provision of basic necessities for family moreover some go the extra mile of engaging in task oriented activities including providing physical comfort for the children. Additionally, Kılıç & Şahin (2018) indicate that the involvement of men in parenting has a direct impact on the child's cognitive development something that has a long term impact on the child's growth.

2.1.2 Parenting Styles

Parenting style according to Kuppens & Ceulemans, (2019) refers to the ways or techniques parents employ in the upbringing of their children. This view emphasizes on the ways initiated by parents in the general development of children. There are four major parenting styles including authoritarian, authoritative, permissive and uninvolved parenting.

2.1.3 Authoritarian Parenting Style

According to Echedom et al. (2018) authoritative parenting does not allow children to have much freedom to develop their choices. In such scenario, the children of such parents are always restricted, locked in doors and are not allowed to freely explore their surroundings. This type of parenting according to Nomaguchi & Milkie, (2020) is associated strict rules and punishment as well as controlling behaviors.

On the other hand Oláh, (2001) pointed that authoritative parents tend to show high acceptance and behavioral control, low psychological control, high responsiveness and warmth to their

children. Authoritative parenting is associated with positive outcomes such as self-reliance, social responsibility, positive adjustment and highly cooperative.

A study conducted by Smetana (2017) pointed that authoritative parents tend to direct the child in a rational situation based way in which both autonomy and conformity are important. They clearly set rules and use reasoning to enforce them, they support open communication and support child independence as well as expression of love and affection towards their children.

2.1.3 Authoritarian Parenting Style

Grau Grau et al. (2022) describe authoritarian parenting style as a combination of high control with low levels of warmth involvement, support, and emotional commitment to their child. Authoritarian parents according to Spiteri et al. (2014) are rejecting in nature, highly demanding, strongly commanding, psychologically and domineeringly controlling. Such parents therefore are often punitive and forceful in order to adhere to an absolute standard of behavior. Researchers such as Nomaguchi & Milkie (2020) emphasized that authoritarian parents believe that the child should do what they say as this is a way through which the child's behaviors and conduct are guided. This parenting style however is related to less optimal child outcomes including lower efficacy, more externalizing and internalizing problems as well as rebellion (Mawusi, 2013).

Authoritarian parenting style is described by many including Grau Grau et al. (2022) as worst parenting style as children are given less freedom to engage with their environment as well as make meaningful attachment. This explains why children of authoritarian parents are always slow and rebellious as well as struggle to follow rules and instructions.

2.2 Social Norms and Parenting

Socio cultural norms and values with regards to fathers' involvement in child care have change overtime affecting personal norms and behaviors (Bakermans-Kranenburg et al., 2019). Men are seen in many societal contexts as absent when it comes to performing parental duties however this narrative is changing since parenting and the different roles is taking a new dimension with men getting involved in every step of their families.

Churchill & Craig, (2021) pointed that the desire to prevent wrangles within household has caused men to get more involved in parenting of children as opposed to neglecting their roles.

Thus, implying that the more the father get involved in the family the higher the chances of avoiding conflicts in the household while at the same time promoting social cohesion.

Parenting conversations has seen a cultural transformation in which men are seen beyond being moral guardians, disciplinarian, and educators to financial providers and more recently as co parent who provide equal. This is what Perales et al. (2018) describe as new father ideal.

Using a large sample of men from different part of the world (Aydın Kılıç & Tezel Şahin, 2018; Bakermans-Kranenburg et al., 2019; Cabrera et al., 2018; Kisbu et al., 2022) pointed that the higher the fathers' traditional views the lower they tend to display involved parenting behaviors as they attribute childcare responsibilities to women and they are not motivated to participate in domestic chores.

Using a cross sectional methodological approach Albuja et al., (2019) mentioned that men's age, education, life satisfaction, value of child attributed by the father as well as masculinity are all factors that influence men's involvement in parenting. Basing on this it is clear that a man has to be in a position where they feel comfortable especially in meeting the desired goals of parenting while at the same time feel satisfied with the role of being a father this and other factors explain or influence their involvement.

The fathering skill which most men acquire from their fathers is an important factor that dictates how much love, care, protection and provision given to their families (Salami & Okeke, 2018). This happen because most of the fathers themselves did not experience positive parenting themselves.

2.2.1 Gendered roles and Parenting

Gendered roles refer to the messages that children receive from parents about how boys and girls should and should not behave (Morawska et al., 2021). In general, there is little evidence that parents use different broad styles of parenting (e.g., warmth, control) with boys and girls. Gendered parenting maybe expressed in specific parenting practices for instance Grau Grau et al., (2022) emphasized that the way men engaged with their children, the toys and dresses they buy are all influenced by gender role stereotypes.

According to Park & Banchevsky (2018) pointed that whereas women are perceived as having changed in their trait characteristics especially in the context of parenting becoming more

masculine and less feminine men on the other hand are seen as relatively stable and high on masculinity in handling executing their parenting roles. Thus, it can be concluded that both men and women exhibit different parenting styles especially with regards to raising their children with women taking a more masculine approach to handling parenting duties.

Studies have shown men to have undergone substantial change in their trait characteristics of parenting for instance Park & Banchevsky, (2018) using a paradigm modeled ask participants about the perceived traits attributes of mom and dads in the 1950, the present and in 2050. Their findings revealed that fathers were seen as having changed during this period and were expected to continue to change into the future with a greater likelihood that they possessed maternal traits (i.e., expressive, intuitive) and decreased likelihood that they possessed parental traits (e.g. ambitious, assertive).

With the current paradigm shift giving rise to strong feminist movements around the world we are likely to see men taking up more of parenting responsibilities in terms of taking care of children and family affairs in a more direct role as opposed to the current status quo which portray fathers as providers, role model and to some extent authoritarian.

2.3 Financial stability and Parenting

According to Salami & Okeke, (2018) the income levels of a man has a strong influence on the involvement in parenting issues. Using an ex post facto type of causal comparative research design, they reveal that the financial capacity of fathers is capable of determining how much they can afford in their expected roles. Similarly, Martin et al., (2021) indicates that the search for a good job in order to have enough money to take care of their families is one major reasons as to why some fathers are not involved in parenting affairs.

The increase interest in father's role in the family is the result of socio-economic changes such as the increase number of women in the labor force as well as increase diversity in family structures and dynamics (Diniz et al., 2021). The steady increase in the number of women in the labor market means that men must now step up in taking up parenting roles which are initially designed for women are being taken by men this explains the active involvement of men in parenthood issues.

A study conducted by Carrillo et al., (2016) show that the changing dynamics of the family structure has seen men engaged in embracing their roles as parents in a more positive way. One

of the explanations for this shift is that most men are financially equipped to take up responsibility of their children as a result they take pleasure in supporting their families however this cannot be said about men who are struggling financially as their study described such men as absent fathers. Roberts et al., (2014) postulates that when fathers are absent the family is more likely to be in poverty because the responsibility of making provisions for the family is mostly on the men who are considered as sole providers when it comes to family needs.

Fathers represent an important resource for children, ideally investing the time, money and emotional support that contributes to healthy child development Carlson & Magnuson (2011). This is because mothers are increasingly likely to be employed outside of home, and secondly father's role have expanded from primarily that of a bread winner who provides economic support to include more caregiving.

While there are a number of studies on parenting most of these have focus on women as the center of family responsibilities only a few studies have incorporated the role played by men in fatherhood. Even those that focus on men and parenting have used different methodological approach which is insufficient to explain the involvement of men in fatherhood issues. Moreover, some of these studies were conducted outside of Africa including Uganda.

2.3.1 Parenting and poverty

According to a study conducted by Mavungu (2013) the absence of a father can exacerbate poverty in the household. According to the authors if fathers neglect their responsibilities the family become vulnerable to falling into poverty. Similarly, Waldvogel & Ehlert, (2016) emphasized that unemployment and poverty affects the man's ability to live up to providers' expectations. This implies that the financial status of men as fathers in most cases determines their involvement in family issues thus most fathers retreat or are excluded from playing an active role in their children's lives.

Father involvement has emerge as a relevant social topic with fathers being address as a key source of family well-being and positive child development outcomes (Diniz et al., 2021). However there has been numerous changes in parenting roles as the involvement of men into parenting is in most cases determined by their financial status Kılıç & Şahin, (2018). In this regard it can be seen that modern-day parenting is mostly determined by the financial status of

men thus absent fathers are regarded as poor which those who are present are seen as financial stable and are able to take care of their families.

Similarly, Malinga & Ratele (2022) pointed that unemployment is also a determinant of men's involvement in parenting for instance men in low paid jobs and those who are unemployed have been characterized as absent fathers since they are constantly engaged in finding a balance between family and survival.

Factors such as economic stability has been highlighted by Henz (2019) as one of the factors that influence man's involvement into parenting. This is because financially stable men are more likely to take up responsibilities of their families compared to those with no economic stability. This however implies that the financial stability of a man strongly determines their involvement into their families as economically strapped men are unlikely to get involved in parenting activities.

2.4 Gaps in the literature

A review of the available literature reveals gaps and scenarios that are not sufficiently addressed. Most studies on men's involvement are quantitative, as a result certain aspect of parenting not are well addressed. Secondly, most of the available literature focus mainly on certain aspects of parenting in developed countries where the concept of parenting focuses mainly on father child relationship with limited focus on other issues like adoption, communal raising of children among others.

Finally, most of the studies about parenting are conducted outside of Uganda therefore they cannot sufficiently explain it while putting into consideration the Ugandan context of parenting. This therefore is the reason why undertaking this study was vital as it will enable the me to uncover the different understanding of parenting while at the same time draw comparison with previous studies.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the research design, description of the study, sample size and selection, how data was collected, and data presentation, method of data analysis and limitations of the study.

3.1 Research Design

The study used a case study as research design. Case study is a research design that is used to generate an in-depth multi-faceted understanding of a complex issue in its real-life context. The case in this study were individual men who actively engaged in rearing and raising as well as providing for the needs of their families and that of the children in Mayuge Town Council. This therefore calls for an investigation as to what factors are influencing these changes in parental involvement among the men in Mayuge. Case study therefore, enabled me to obtain detailed investigation of the subject matter such as a person, group, or phenomenon. In this study, case study allowed me to explore key characteristics of the respondents.

3.2. Study approach

The study adopted a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research is credited for being highly exhaustive and reliable in making exploration of experiences of individuals and communities (Kumar, 2015). Thus, it was used in this study to help me obtain a detailed and deeper understanding of the factors that influence men's involvement in parenting in the study area (Noble and Smith, 2015). The unit of analysis were men within the study area.

One of the advantages of using qualitative research was that it enabled me to obtain as much data as possible from a relatively small sample size. Qualitative research approach is more flexible than quantitative approach since it enabled the participants to express themselves while providing data.

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Mayuge town council which is located in on the Musita Mayuge, Lumino, Majanji Busia Road, about 14 kilometers southeast of Musita. This is about 28 kilometers south of Iganga, the nearest large town. Mayuge lies approximately 38 kilometers, east of Jinja, the largest city in Busoga sub-region Neighboring communities include Bugadi, Bukanya, Bukoto, Wandegeya, Bemba, Musita, and Ikulwe. I chose Mayuge town council as study area because men are taking up parental roles when it comes to taking care of children thus necessitating a study on the factors that influence their involvement in raising children.

3.3 Study Population

The study population comprised of men aged 26 -40 years who are parents and are residing in Mayuge town council. The study focused mainly on men who were having at least one child in the household. The study also included key informants that is to say members of local council as it was assumed, they interact with other children's parents and are parents too. The study population was characterized by individuals who were considered as household heads and their major livelihood activities was business including major and mini shops as well as boda boda transport.

3.4 Sample size

The study comprised of 8 participants who participated in the in-depth interviews. In addition to this, one focus group discussion was held with fathers who had missed the in-depth interviews. The sample size was determined by the principle of saturation. According to Creswell (2013) theoretical saturation is defined as data satisfaction, a point where no new information is obtained for further data. I conducted interviews until no new information was generated from any participant. This indicated that adequate data had been collected for a detailed analysis. Therefore, the sample size was determined at the 8th participant where no new information could be got as all of them were providing the same information during the in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

3.5 Sample selection

3.5.1 Selection of primary participants

Primary participants (fathers) were selected using simple random sampling .I got a list of men with children in their households from the local council leaders.I then selected them randomly using fish bowl method while applying simple random sampling without replacement .After reaching a number of 12 selected fathers out of 50, I then ,contacted them to conduct one on one indepth interviews.

3.5.2 Selection of key informants

The key informants were purposively selected. Purposive sampling is a strategy in which particular settings, persons or events are selected deliberately in order to provide important information that cannot be obtained from other choices (Maxwell, 1996). It is where the researcher includes cases or participants in the sample because they believe that they warrant inclusion. I chose men who had at least one child in a household or looking after their relatives' children, with a mean age of 26 years and average of 40 years, married or single and living in Mayuge Town Council. The assumption was that these men were knowledgeable about parenting. I used purposive sampling because it's less costly in terms of resources and time.

3.5.3 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The study included only men who had or where looking after their relatives' children. The study participants had to be of a mean age of 26years and an average of 40years. All these participants were residents of Mayuge Town Council. Men without children were excluded from this study.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

The collection methods included in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and key informants' interviews as discussed below.

3.6.1 In-Depth Interviews with fathers

Eight In-depth interviews were conducted with men (fathers) to obtain their views in relation to the factors that influence their involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council. This method enabled me to achieve the objectives of the study. The advantage of using in-depth interviews is that it helped one way or the other to obtain information relevant to the study. Prior to the interviews, informed consent was sought from the participants through the LC1 of the study area. After permission was sought to conduct interviews, I explained to the participants what the study was about and also provided them with a consent form before engaging them in the interview. The interviews were conducted in their residential homes. I ensured that the place for the interview was comfortable; privacy was guaranteed so that other members who were not part of the study were out of earshot. This was intended to enhance confidentiality. I spent some time talking about general issues before each interview as an approach to building trust and confidence among the participants. The interview questions focused on the factors that influence men to involve in parenting. Each interview took at least forty-five to sixty minutes. Deliberate effort was made to create informality

3.6.2 Focus group discussion with fathers

One Focus group discussion was conducted with fathers who had otherwise missed out on the in-depth interviews. This was done with the help of a focus group discussion guide. Furthermore, focus group discussion enabled participants to fully disclose the information related to the factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council. One of the advantages of using focus group discussion is that it helped me to gain an in-depth understanding of the participants and the information related to the subject matter and also learn about aspects which otherwise could not be disclosed in the in-depth interviews.

3.6.3 Key Informant interviews

Four (4) key informant interviews were done in this study. Three (3) key informants were members of staffs of the LC1 and one cultural leader. The advantage of using key informant interviews was that they provided the perspectives which otherwise could not be captured in in-depth interviews. Key informant interviews were considered useful in filling gaps and providing further explanations and information for this study. Every key informant was given

an identifier in form of numbers so as to ease understanding of statements that arise in the findings.

3.7 Data Management and Analysis

3.7.1 Data Management

The interviews and the focus group discussion were audio recorded. The audio recordings were stored on a personal flash disk to avoid loss and being corrupted as well as being accessed by other people. The audios were transcribed and translated into English. The transcripts and the notes taken during the interviews were written in my research book and kept in a safe cardboard until they were analyzed and a final report compiled.

3.7.2 Data Analysis

The collected data was analyzed qualitatively using thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a method for analyzing data that entails searching across a data set to identify, analyze, and report repeated patterns (Braun and Clarke ,2006). The first step of the analysis was transcribing the audio recorded interviews into verbatim. This was then followed by thorough, repeated and active reading through the transcripts to ensure accuracy. The second step was coding. This involved taking notes on potential data of interest and grouping them into key themes. This was done manually after reading through the transcripts and identifying the most recurring words which came to be known as codes. Lastly, coded data was examined to construct themes. This was done through analyzing, combining and comparing codes that related with one another to form a coherent meaningful story. Themes which came up included sociocultural and economic factors that influence men's involvement in parenting. The themes were further sub divided in to sub themes which included the need instill good morals among children, polygamy, level of income, employment among others.

3.8 Ethical Consideration

Research just like any other field is grounded and guided by a set of code of ethics. According to Collins Dictionary (1979) as cited by Ranjit Kumar, ethical means in accordance with principles of conduct that are considered correct, especially those of a given profession or group. For the purposes of this study the researcher considered the following ethical considerations. Verbal informed consent was sought from the social work department so as to

get approval to conduct the study. Respondent's information was kept confidential. This was done by keeping responses and other issues that arose from the study anonymous. Additionally, the study used pseudonyms to identify respondents with key phrases during data analysis. The purpose of the study was explained to the respondents so as to enhance their confidence and prevent withholding necessary information critical to the findings of the study.

3.9 Faced Challenges

Financial constraints have deterred the research progress thus causing irregularities and delays. This was minimized by me saving some funds to facilitate the study, especially during data collection.

Limited time factors might retard the anticipated scope of coverage, especially during in-depth interviews and discussion of findings. This was minimized by finishing the study on time by following the time frame.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings and their discussion. It provides a detailed description of study participants. This then followed by an overview of key findings using selected quotes from the data collected as well as referring back to the research objectives, research questions, and literature review. For the purpose of anonymity all the participants were given pseudonyms which are used throughout the study in order to protect their confidentiality and anonymity.

4.1 Description of study participants

The study had a total of eight (8) participants with a mean age of twenty-six (26) years and an average age of forty (40) years old. The study focused only on men who had children in the household some of which were taking care of children belonging to their relatives. Some of the participants professed a Christian religious affiliation while others professed a Muslim faith; they were from relatively poor background, affected by different forms of social problems such as poverty, others were mostly employed in the informal industry like boda boda riders and petty traders only few of the participants were formally employed. Some of the participants interviewed were married with children while others were single fathers. The study participants were men of who five (5) were married with while three (3) were single fathers.

Participant one was Joshua. He had two children at the time of the interview, was 26 years old and was married to one woman. He was a boda boda cyclist and of catholic faith.

Participant two was known as Michael aged 30. He had a two-month-old baby and a 6-year-old daughter. He was a married, protestant operating a small retail shop.

John a 28 years old single father with 2 children was participant three. He was a protestant and District Assistant Elections Officer.

Participant four was Ibra aged 27. He had one child, professed single and of Muslim faith. Ibra was a fish monger.

Participant five was Brian aged 40, with four children. He was a married, catholic man. Brian was a farmer.

Yusuf was participant six aged 35. He had three children, was married, of Anglican faith and a driver at the time of the interview.

Hassan who was participant seven aged 34, Muslim faith, and shop keeper with four children. Hassan was a single father during the time of the interview.

Bakker aged 40 years was participant number eight. He was a married Muslim man. He was a farmer with three children of ages 10-16 years.

4.2 Understanding of parenting

Parenting according to the participants had numerous aspects some of which include taking care of children, providing children with their basic and emotional needs. These include food, medical care, and shelter. In an interview with Yusuf, a father of three about how he understood parenting. He stated;

To me parenting is all about being present for my children and family. If I cannot be there for my children then I am not a good parent. so that means for me to become a good parent I must provide for my children basic needs like food, shelter, clothing which is the most important part of being a father.

Being a good parent is more than just having money. Brian, aged 40years, a farmer commented that;

I do not have lots of money but can use the little resources I have to provide for their needs. The most important aspect of me being apparent is that my kids are close to me and I am able to love them. to me that's all what parenting is about.
(Participant five).

Basing on these findings it's clear that there are different understandings of parenting. To some people providing basic needs for children like food, shelter, medical care is all that parenting is about. While others believe that being a parent goes beyond just providing basic needs. It has well includes taking care of children's emotional needs. This is similar to Grau Grau et al (2021) findings that indicated that being a good parent does not necessarily mean having lots of money, it has more to do with having the ability to provide emotional, social and psychological support to children. This can be providing support to children while doing homework, taking them out, attending their school activities like speech days among others

4.3 Socio-cultural factors that influence men's involvement in parenting

Men's involvement in parenting has received considerable attention from different scholars and stakeholders. While some believe that parenting is done mostly by women as they are mostly involved in rearing children as well as caring for them while the men take on providing role however there has been numerous changes in regards to the way men are involved in parenting children. According to the study, there are numerous factors that accounts for the changes in parenting roles with men taking the central role in making sure that children are raised under their watchful eyes. Some of these are presented in themes below.

4.3.1 The need to instill good morals and discipline in children.

During the interview with men, some of the participants revealed that the desire to instill good morals and discipline into their children/kids accounts for their engagement into parenting. The need to teach children their culture like language, dressing made it necessary for men to be part of raising their children. The participant's responses about the issue of discipline and morality included

We teach our children discipline and morals, and other housework chores as you know raising kids is not easy sometimes you leave the women to look after them (children) they will pick of behaviors that are not in line with your beliefs as a man that is why you see us as men taking charge of teaching our children the acceptable behavioral standards in the community (Brian, 40 years a father of four,).

Likewise, Michael a driver also indicated that men are more involved into parenting because of the decline in discipline among children some of them behave in whatever way they want without regards for any one. He stated;

As a father I try to teach my kids how to be discipline by guiding them on how to conduct they with people and also to always regard accord people the respect they deserve. Every time I get the chance, I explain to the importance of being a better human and that can only be achieved if a person follows certain standards like telling the truth and being honest.

The need to train/teach young children the acceptable morals and discipline within the society has seen many fathers take up parenting as a full-time activity as some of them believe that getting involved in rearing children is vital in terms of helping them learn certain behaviors which are deemed acceptable in the society/community. This is similar to Davis et al (2018) who indicated fathers play a central role in shaping children's behaviors and discipline

especially growing up with other people. Diniz et al. (2021) also emphasized that father's involvement in rearing children is very important as they are given the opportunity to develop and adopt the acceptable principles and acceptable morals in the society.

4.3.2 Polygamy as an influence in men's involvement in parenting

Some participants indicated that being in polygamous unions influence their involvement into parenting. According the study having many children in the family means that the responsibility cannot be left in the hands of women as a result man are getting involved in parenting. For instance, Yusuf, driver stated;

You know having many children means that you cannot leave the responsibilities of parenting to the women alone. Sometimes children can be stubborn at times so they need the watchful eyes of the father that is why you see us men taking the responsibility to make sure that as fathers we can ensure that keep a watchful eye on the way the children behave and how they go about their day to day routine as children (participant six).

Also, Hassan aged 34 years mentioned that;

Having many children has caused me to get involved in the ways these children are raised as you know these days there are so many bad things children do so if there is no man to look after them not only that there are things you need to teach these kids so that they don't learn bad behaviors and this is exactly the reason why I decided to co-parent with my wives in the same house even though I go to work every morning (participant seven).

Basing on Yusuf and Hassan's statements it clear that polygamy or having many children is a vital factor that pushes men to involve themselves in raising their children

Findings from the key informants indicated that living with many children in the household will always need men to be at the center of parenting. One of the key informants stated;

These days it hard to raise children without the help of men and I would understand totally if you are seeing men taking the center role in raising the kids. I think that how it supposed to be when you have more than one child it always not easy for a woman to do the parenting alone there is obviously a role man can play and that is why we are seeing these changes (key informant two)

Having large family means that the task of raising children cannot be left in the hands of women alone. In some societies polygamy provide opportunity for men to get involved in the running of the family in this way they are able to engage in parenting as well as providing for the needs

of the children. Polygamy has a strong influence on men especially in the running of the day-to-day family affairs. There is a high demand on men to step up to their roles as fathers/parents to help train children in a way that will help them become responsible adults.

This collaborates with some literature which portrays men as vital in raising children since they are seen as enforcers of positive behaviors and they are believed to be the main providers (Williams, 2008). The need to provide for the basic needs of the family as well as instilling positive values in the household has pushed men to get involved in parenting affairs as opposed to being absent. These findings corresponds with those of Grau Grau et al. (2022) who emphasized that men play a in vital role parenting especially in providing basic needs as well as the necessary training of children to become responsible adults.

4.3.3 The need for Peace in the family

During the interviews, some participants mentioned that the feeling of being at peace and the respect given to them especially by the women at home means them getting involved in parenting of children. According to the study findings the feeling of peace and respect in the household urges men to embrace their roles in the house the respect received from the women is vital in influencing them to get involved in parenting of children. For instance, Joshua, a father of two stated;

As a man I like being at peace with myself and the people around me especially my wife and children. My wife gives me a lot of peace she plays her role as a mother to the children and in return I take responsibility for the needs of the family my engagement in parenting is just a reward to her for being a loving and respectful woman and I will always be there for her and the kids because they are the most important element in my life (participant one).

Basing on Joshua's comment it's clear that the need for peace and stability in a home is driving men to get involved in raising children as the more aman is involved the higher the chances of peace prevailing in the home and Vis versa

Findings from the focus group discussion further revealed that peace and respect play a vital role in men involvement in raising children. For instance, one of the participants stated;

While raising children as a man, am responsible for my children's school fees, uniform, buying food for example a sack of posho. My wife respects me in a way that it makes me feel proud to be a parent and that is why I take responsibility to provide the things the need as a token of appreciation for treating me respectfully.

You also know that as men the only thing that makes us take responsibility especially in families is peace without it you see us chasing different things at the expense of caring for children (FGD.Participant two).

This therefore means involvement of men in raising children is attributed to the amount of peace and respect in the household. In households where peace and respect are the order of the day tend to have men that embrace parenting roles including caring and providing for the necessary needs of the household. According to the study participants, the amount of peace and respect given men meant that they feel and get the urge to become responsible parents to their children and the entire household. Existing literature indicate that peace and harmony in the household has a strong influence in the way in which men get involved in the affairs of the family (Nomaguchi & Milkie, 2020). Getting involved in rearing children as men has a lot to do with the setup of the family as Gauthier et al. (2021) puts it that the level of harmony including peace and respect has a strong influence in men taking their responsibility of parenting.

4.3.4 Weakness of women to look after children

Participants also consider women as weak as a result parenting role cannot be left in their hands. According to the participants there are limitations in the parenting skills of women as a result it is difficult to let them take up the role of rearing children. John aged 28 years stated;

Personally, I don't like over straining my wife because women are naturally weak if you leave them to look after the children with all other household chores that is too much for them to handle and I don't see it as the right thing to do that is why as a man, I let the women handle what she can while I take direct control of the children because my presence in their lives will change so many things including their behaviors.

This means taking care of children is a co responsibility for both women and men.

Another participant mentioned that leaving children in the care of women who are deemed as soft and compromising when it comes to enforcing certain behaviors and training pushes him to get involved in their daily lives.

Personally, I feel much better when I get involved in my kids everything. I don't mind bathing him, eating together I can feed my kid, sleep with my son. I am also responsible for teaching my kids the manners I want them to take and this why I let the woman play her role in other family affairs. Another thing is women compromise a lot if she instructs the child to do household chores and the child refuse, she won't do anything instead she will do it herself I don't see that as a

good way of raising children that is why I see them as weak especially in raising children (Bakker, aged 40years).

According to Martin's argument, men are so instrumental in teaching children good behavior as they are sometimes uncompromising and can punish them where necessary to instill fear for involving in bad behavior.

Findings from the key informant interviews also revealed that men are getting involved in parenting because they view parenting skills of women as permissive in that they are afraid to engage children in certain tasks even though it necessary for their development. One key informant stated;

Men are involved in raising children because of the way they are being trained by their mothers you find that a child is given simple instructions by the mother and they simply declined to do what he/she is asked to do. This kind of behavior is not acceptable otherwise how will be able to make such a child responsible. Now that is why men are taking up parenting roles, we need to create a better future for the children by training them well (key informant four).

This means men are getting involved in rearing children as a means to fill the gap that women cannot. This is seen in the fact that most mothers are not so hard on children in terms of how they behave and tend to fear and respect their fathers.

The parenting styles of women was scrutinized by the study participants who believed that failure to impose punishment to children who disobey instructions is seen as weakness on the side of men. The findings further indicated that women are described as permissive parents who are soft and cannot provide certain training to the children this provides grounds for men to step into parenting roles. The permissive parenting style of women which is seen by some men as inappropriate to raise children or even care for them is what prompts the participants to labeled women as weak when it comes of running family issues. However, there is a stark contradiction between these findings and those of Smetana (2017) that's pointed that within family contexts children gradually internalize social standards and expectations a process that facilitates greater self-regulation skills and responsibility for their own behaviors. This view point is a justification that permissive parenting does not necessarily mean women are but rather a step towards initiating children into the freedom of self-discovery.

4.3.5 The need to take responsibility as a factor that influence parenting among men

The study further revealed that the need to look after the family and general household affairs has pushed men to embrace parenting duties. According to the participants the affairs of the home cannot be left in the hands of the women alone thus they step up to take responsibility for their families including the young ones. Ibra aged 27 years, father of two stated;

Raising children is not an easy thing my dear. It's a gradual thing. Me as a single father, I do a lot of things in raising my children. These are paying their school fees, buying them scholastics materials like books, uniforms, pens, bags etc. also buy them food, take them to hospital if they fall sick, offer them guidance in their daily life, take them out, teach them good manners and to respect people.

Another participant indicated that children are a gift from God so as a father it is my responsibility to take care of my family especially my children and this I have done and will continue to do until they are able to be on their own. For instance, Bakker,40 years stated;

Men are breadwinners, protectors of the family. This is because they are responsible for caring for their families in terms of economic and other needs. We are not expected to involve ourselves in helping women with house work or domestic chores. If a man is found cooking food for his wife the community would say the woman bewitched him. Although some men do it freely nowadays but the few who have attended school and been sensitized about raising children but still community still blames the education system of Uganda that it has spoilt their tradition.

This was further emphasized in the focus group discussion when one of the participants stated that the need to take responsibility of the household is the driving factor for men to involve in parenting. The participant stated;

When you found a family as a man you should know that it comes with responsibility. I in my family I pay school fees for my children, buy them food, ensure that they are physically and emotionally well with no disease. I make sure all their basic needs are met on time and they are living satisfactory life (FGD. Participant four)"

Based on the above discussion responsibility emerged as one of the reasons for men to engage in parenting especially in regards of meeting the needs of their households and that of the children. The participants suggest that raising a family comes with a great deal of responsibilities. This explains why men are stepping up to taking parenting roles in the family.

These findings are in agreement with those of Craig et al (2014) which pointed that the desire of men to ensure that the family including children is well taken care of the leading factor for

engaging in parenting Taking responsibility of the family cannot be left in the hands of women who are already occupied with other household duties thus there is need to step-up and take care of other needs which are more suitable for men. In addition, the findings of this study are still in line with those of Spiteri et al. (2014) who argue that men are taking up parenting roles due to the increasing household demands and responsibilities this has created a gap which is being filled by men who are stepping up to taking responsibilities of parenting.

4.4 Economic factors that influence men's involvement in parenting

Numerous questions have been asked in regards to the commitment of men in relation to taking up parenting roles. Some authors including Smetana, (2017) believe that parenting has more to do with the level economic stability due to the changing trends. Parenting roles according to the study is influenced by a number of factors such as financial stability, poverty, work/employment as well as level of income. Overtime men have neglected parenting roles due to various difficulties some of which are economy related. The study therefore sought to explore the economic factors that influence men's involvement in raising children. The findings are presented below.

4.4.1 Financial stability as a factor that influence men to involve in parenting

During our discussions, participants said that being stable financially is helping them to take up parenting as they are able to provide for the necessities of their families. To some participants financial stability is all that is needed for their involvement in raising children. Brian, a farmer aged 40 years stated;

Financial stability does matter a lot while I am performing my parental roles. This is because most of the things in a family or done to raise children need money to be solved. Payment of school fees, medical bills, buying food all need financial stability. To a large extent financial stability matters in parenting although on the other hand there are things that don't necessarily require money for example manners, God fearing, respecting oneself and others.

Basing on Brian's comment, money is key for men's involvement in raising children. This is because most of the needs of children need financial muscle to be provided.

Another participant mentioned that raising children requires one to be financially stable especially with the increasing cost of living. Hassan, a shop keeper stated;

We need money to raise our children very well. Its money that can be used to pay school fees, buy food, clothes for the children. When a father doesn't have money even his children don't have full trust in him and his words because he cannot provide for their basic needs. It's money that can enable me take my children to better schools, take them for trips and ensure that they are psychologically ok. Secondly, we need time to sit and share with our children. We are leaving in a generation where we hardly have no time to play or have discussions with our children. Not because we don't want but because we are chasing after money.

This means that finance plays a major role in men's involvement in raising children.

In the focus group discussion participants emphasized the issue of financial stability as the main requirement for men to be involved in parenting. For instance, of participants stated;

There is no denying that money plays a big part in marriage. Lack of financial stability can bring tension in even the best relationships. People divorce because of money problems and this affects the way children are raised. Lack of money is the leading cause of stress within a relationship. When you, as an individual, are stressed, you bring this home with you and into the home hence causing tension between the whole families (FGD, participant five)"

Findings from the key informant further revealed being financially stable has a lot of influence on the way men involve in parenting. Key informant one stated;

Yes, financial stability matters while am raising and caring for children. Financial stability is essential to create a happy home. Of course, we all know it's beneficial to have money, and life can be very hard without it. We all know how it can significantly impact on family life and influence the relationship with our children. It is also critical in the development of a child. As I told you earlier there are things that require money for example you can't talk to the school where your child goes to study for free. We need money to pay rent, buy clothes even the bible says money can do everything.

This means that having money or being financially stable has a strong influence on men being involved in raising children as one of the arguments put forward by the participants suggests that with money one can easily bond well with the family as well as providing household needs and that of the children. The issue of financial stability also plays a big role in men's involvement in parenting. This is crucial due to the fact that there are some instances where having money plays a vital role in the way some men get involved in parenting. This is in agreement with Mawusi (2013) who pointed out that men who are financially stable are more likely to engage in raising children because they find it easy to provide the needs and are better placed to provide the necessary support to their families as opposed to those without financial stability.

4.4.2 Employment as a factor that influence men's involvement in parenting

The study revealed that having a source of income in form of employment is helping men to embrace parenting. According to participants parenting makes more meaning when one is employed as they are able to be more involved with their children. Franklin, a shop keeper stated;

If I have a job, it means I have full access to income and when I access income, I can provide each and everything for my children. This can be through payment of school fees, buying food for them. Having what to do can really boost the morale to be a good parent because you know there is nothing to worry about especially when the family is okay.

This means that having an earning job can affect the level at which men get involved in raising their children.

The findings further revealed that having work has enabled men to take active role in rearing children. For instance, John aged 34 years, father of three stated;

Having a job is also important when it comes to me and looking after my children. When I have a job, my children have complete trust in me because they know I can provide whatever they need. If they want to go out, I can take them, buy them bread, Ice cream, yoghurt and other needs of their interest.

During an interview with one of the key informants, I found out that employment plays a significant role in men's involvement in raising children. He stated;

*I tell you men with jobs really can become good parents as a matter of fact they are the best. Parenting cannot be done without money that is why you see those without money run away but with jobs are always present and available for their children and family in general (**key informant three**).*

This clearly shows that employment is a strong determinant of men involvement in parenting as some are unsure of how to fulfill the ever demanding and increasing roles of being a parent. From the discussion above it can be seen that men who are employed are more inclined into getting involved into parenting because of the general feeling of being able to provide for the needs of their families. Previous studies have associated having a source of income in form of employment to successful parenting (Kuppens & Ceulemans, 2019). For instance, men who are employed are more likely to engage in parenting compared to those who are unemployed.

These findings corresponds with those of Macon et al. (2017) who stated that the level of men engagement in parenting is strongly influenced by the type of employment one is engaged in

as those in informal employment are likely to pay less attention to their families and versa versa.

4.4.3 Poverty as a factor that influence men's involvement in parenting

The study findings also revealed that men are involved in parenting due to failure to provide for their family. According to the participants the absence of money and basic needs is enough to push men to engage men into parenting. This was perceived from the fact that men who are looking forward to financial stability have little or no time to involve in rearing their children. This is because most of the time they are looking for ways of accumulating their wealth. Basing on the participants comments it's a matter of fact that poor men are more involved in their children's affairs because with the little resources, they have a lot of time to spend with their children this getting involved in their daily life activities.

Men who are involved in raising children are not financially stable. Finance plays some part in raising children but not all. Some tasks don't need money to be done for example do you need money to buy discipline for your children or order and godliness in a home? Definitely no! This just explains that parenting is not only for economically stable men (Michael, 30years, father of four).

Another participant suggested that parenting or being involved in raising children does not necessarily mean a man should be rich in finances. Yusuf stated;

From my view, raising children is not only for men with financial stability. It for every man who has a loving heart and feels his children should enjoy a better life as well. Look at me! I am not financially well but I make sure I take part in every step of life of my children. In this town of ours I have seen many rich men who don't take care of their children, they are drug abusers and misfit in the community. Yet you can find Avery poor man with little or no resources but raising children of noble character so in my opinion parenting is for everyone.

This therefore means that parenting has a lot more than just provision of basic needs

Findings from the focus group discussion revealed that parenting does not necessarily mean one has to be rich or poor as many men have perform such role when they are poor. One participant commented;

No, every man is capable of raising their children. Rich or poor, all are fully responsible for their children's welfare. We have seen very rich men's children becoming a problem in the town council. They are the drug abusers, school dropout and are busy disturbing us yet they are from well to do families

These findings provide a different view of men's involvement in parenting. While some believe that raising children and providing for the needs of the family requires a man to be financially stable however there are some individuals who suggest that parenting has less to do with financial stability as one can still be a successful parent even though they are poor. While there is no associated literature to back these findings, they however make a case for the fact that every man is capable of performing parental duties it all comes down to the how one handles pressure arising from having children and the need to provide basic needs.

4.4.4 Level of income an influencing factor for men's involvement in parenting

Some participants also revealed that the income levels of a man can determine their involvement in raising their children. According to the findings some men mostly engage in raising children because they have high income levels. Hassan, a shop keeper stated;

One of the economic factors is my level of income, when my income level is stable, I can perform all my parental duties with no or little stress. This is because I can ably provide all basic needs for my children. But if I don't have money, I don't even want to be close to my children as they may demand for many things that I cannot even afford at the moment.

This means to some men their involvement in raising children and family affairs is dictated by their levels of income.

Another participant mentioned that the higher the level of income the more men get involved in parenting of children. For instance, Ibra ,27years stated;

I personally I care for my children because it's my responsibility. I also do this to keep my name. I don't want my children to become nuisance to the community because they were not raised well. This thus pushes me to fight tooth and nail to see things in line. My income plays a big role in how I fulfill my parental roles and obligation.

In the key informant interview one of the members' commented having stable income can go a long way in easing parenting roles for men. One of the key informants stated;

When you have money that is stable taking care of parenting needs can never be a problem because you are in control of the affairs of the household including the welfare of the children which according to me is the most important aspect of parenting (key informant two).

Income levels according to the findings is vital in men's involvement in parenting as the participants suggests that having stable source of income is enough for men to be involved in parenting. The findings further revealed that there is difficulty in regards to stepping up to the role of being a parent when there is limitation in the way income flows into the family. Similarly some literature such as Malinga & Ratele, (2022) cited that the level of income in the house can determine whether or not a man will get involved in taking different parenting roles. In some instances, the limited flow of income or income instability will cause men to adopt authoritarian parenting style which involves being uncompromising to children and the family.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

The study was guided by two objectives which were to explore the socio-cultural factors that influence men involvement in parenting, while the other objective was to describe the socio-economic factors that influence men involvement in parenting. These were guided by the research questions which have been answered. The summary, conclusion and recommendations are presented below

5.1. Summary

The study findings revealed that the need by participants to instill good morals and discipline in children through teaching them their culture, language, respect for elders, the need to maintain peace in a home, weakness of women to look after children were some of the factors that influence men's involvement in parenting. The study further revealed that polygamy, the need to reduce on tasks in the household equally influence men to be involved in parenting. Additionally, the findings revealed that the community perceives men as the sole bread winners and protectors of the family this explains their involvement in parenting issues with specific focus on providing for the basic needs of the household.

These findings corresponds with those of Grau Grau et al. (2022) who emphasized that men are the main bread winners of the family. Their role as protector, responsible, the enforcer of morals and discipline in the household is the influence in their involvement in parenting. The need to fulfill of these roles coupled with the changing trends in parenting of children accounts for the involvement of men in parenting.

The second objective was to describe the socio-economic factors that influence men involvement in parenting. In this objective, it was revealed that financial stability and poverty were some of the factors that influence men involvement in raising children. The findings further revealed that employment and the level of income of the man equally play a role in their parenting involvement. Under this theme poverty was defended as a motivation for men to be involved in parenting as men tend to draw inspiration from poor families especially men who

are ever present for their families and are able to provide their basic needs and that of the family.

These findings corresponds with those of (Hofferth et al.,2015). According to the authors parenting and men involvement in raising children has a lot to do with their economic status. For instance, high economic status of some men could suggest getting involved in rearing of children while low economic status would push men to become absent fathers. However, one argument put forward by Shorey et al. (2019) is that any man can get involved in parenting regardless of their economic status thus having money or stable income while it is vital in parenting issues men with less income however can equally involve in the rearing of children.

5.2 Conclusion

While there are numerous factors that influence men involvement in parenting most of them are embedded under two main themes which include socio-cultural and socio-economic factors. The study discovered that there is more to men involvement in parenting than financial stability. For instance, one can still be poor while being involved in the day-to-day caring and loving of their family. Therefore, the involvement of men in parenting is vital for children to learn good morals and discipline as stated in the findings.

5.3 Recommendations

Since time immemorial, raising children has been more concerned with women .Few men have been seen involved in rearing children. This has been due to different factors such as tradition, the fact that men are employed and lack time to involve in children's affairs .basing on the findings of this study I recommend the following actions

There is need for enlightening of men in regards to the changing roles on men in the family. This will better prepare men and encourage them to be present for their families as opposed to being absent. Providing men with information regarding parenting and the different roles will enable them to appreciate and embrace their roles as parents and main providers of the family.

Men should embrace positive parenting which involves giving children guidance and discipline, not as a punishment but to make them better individuals. They should remind children of the consequences of their actions and positively acknowledge desirable behavior. Men should be their children's role models by demonstrating honesty, humility and responsibility

Parenting issues has more to do with showing love and compassion to the family and children as a result man should be educated on how to get involved in parenting affairs without necessarily being rich because at the end a poor present parent is better than a rich absent parent. This is because a father being actively involved in his children's life has positive results to their overall wellbeing. Therefore, men should set apart time to do things together with their children. This can include attending school events together, playing, and eating food with them.

There is need to adopt flexible parenting styles especially among men for instance whether the man is rich or poor one should adopt permissive parenting style as opposed to being authoritarian and cause children and the entire household to be fearful of being associated with you as a man/parent in the house.

REFERENCES

- Albuja, A. F., Sanchez, D. T., Lee, S. J., Lee, J. Y., & Yadava, S. (2019). The effect of paternal cues in prenatal care settings on men's involvement intentions. *PLOS ONE*, *14*(5), e0216454. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0216454>
- Aydın Kılıç, Z. N., & Tezel Şahin, F. (2018). Okul Öncesi Dönemde Çocuğu Olan Babaların Çocuklarının Hayatına Katılımı. *OPUS Uluslararası Toplum Araştırmaları Dergisi*. <https://doi.org/10.26466/opus.477012>
- Bakermans-Kranenburg, M. J., Lotz, A., Alyousefi-van Dijk, K., & IJzendoorn, M. (2019). Birth of a Father: Fathering in the First 1,000 Days. *Child Development Perspectives*, *13*(4), 247–253. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12347>
- Cabrera, N. J., Volling, B. L., & Barr, R. (2018). Fathers Are Parents, Too! Widening the Lens on Parenting for Children's Development. *Child Development Perspectives*, *12*(3), 152–157. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdep.12275>
- Carlson, M. J., & Magnuson, K. A. (2011). Low-Income Fathers' Influence on Children. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, *635*(1), 95–116. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716210393853>
- Carrillo, S., Bermúdez, M. E., Suárez, L., Gutiérrez, M. C., & Delgado, X. (2016). Father's Perceptions of their Role and Involvement in the Family: A Qualitative Study in a Colombian Sample / Percepciones del padre sobre su rol e involucramiento en la familia: un estudio cualitativo en una muestra colombiana. *Revista Costarricense de Psicología*, *35*(2), 101–118. <https://doi.org/10.22544/rcps.v35i02.03>

- Churchill, B., & Craig, L. (2021). Men's and women's changing attitudes towards fatherhood and working fathers in Australia. *Current Sociology*, 001139212110127. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00113921211012737>
- Craig, L., Powell, A., & Smyth, C. (2014). Towards intensive parenting? Changes in the composition and determinants of mothers' and fathers' time with children 1992-2006: Towards intensive parenting? *The British Journal of Sociology*, 65(3), 555–579. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-4446.12035>
- Davis, J., Vaughan, C., Nankinga, J., Davidson, L., Kigodi, H., Alalo, E., Comrie-Thomson, L., & Luchters, S. (2018). Expectant fathers' participation in antenatal care services in Papua New Guinea: A qualitative inquiry. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 18(1), 138. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-018-1759-4>
- Diniz, E., Brandão, T., Monteiro, L., & Veríssimo, M. (2021). Father Involvement During Early Childhood: A Systematic Review of the Literature. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 13(1), 77–99. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jftr.12410>
- Gauthier, A. H., Bryson, C., Fadel, L., Haux, T., Koops, J., & Mynarska, M. (2021). Exploring the concept of intensive parenting in a three-country study. *Demographic Research*, 44, 333–348. <https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2021.44.13>
- Grau Grau, M., las Heras Maestro, M., & Riley Bowles, H. (Eds.). (2022). *Engaged Fatherhood for Men, Families and Gender Equality: Healthcare, Social Policy, and Work Perspectives*. Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75645-1>

- Henz, U. (2019). Fathers' involvement with their children in the United Kingdom: Recent trends and class differences. *Demographic Research*, 40, 865–896. <https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2019.40.30>
- Hofferth, S., Fisher, K., & Glorieux, I. (2015). Men's family involvement across industrial nations: Introduction to special section. *Family Science*, 6(1), 240–242. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19424620.2015.1086206>
- Kisbu, Y., Akçınar, B., Kuşcul, G. H., Bozok, M., Turunç, G., & Fişek, G. (2022). Protective and risk factors associated with involved fatherhood in a traditional culture. *Family Relations*, fare.12679. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12679>
- Kuppens, S., & Ceulemans, E. (2019). Parenting Styles: A Closer Look at a Well-Known Concept. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 28(1), 168–181. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-018-1242-x>
- Macon, T. A., Tamis-LeMonda, C. S., Cabrera, N. J., & McFadden, K. E. (2017). Predictors of Father Investment of Time and Finances: The Specificity of Resources, Relationships, and Parenting Beliefs. *Journal of Family Issues*, 38(18), 2642–2662. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X17710282>
- Malinga, M., & Ratele, K. (2022). Fatherhood Among Marginalised Work-Seeking Men in South Africa. In M. Grau Grau, M. las Heras Maestro, & H. Riley Bowles (Eds.), *Engaged Fatherhood for Men, Families and Gender Equality* (pp. 265–278). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-75645-1_15
- Martin, S. L., Matare, C. R., Kayanda, R. A., Owoputi, I., Kazoba, A., Bezner Kerr, R., Nnally, L., Khan, M., Locklear, K. H., Dearden, K. A., & Dickin, K. L. (2021). Engaging

- fathers to improve complementary feeding is acceptable and feasible in the Lake Zone, Tanzania. *Maternal & Child Nutrition*, 17(S1). <https://doi.org/10.1111/mcn.13144>
- Mawusi, P. (2013). Parenting and Culture – Evidence from Some African Communities. In M. L. Seidl-De-Moura (Ed.), *Parenting in South American and African Contexts*. InTech. <https://doi.org/10.5772/56967>
- Morawska, A., Baker, S., & Johnston, S. (2021). “The parent trap”: Gender stereotypes and parenting roles in an Australian parenting website. *Australian Journal of Psychology*, 73(3), 272–281. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00049530.2021.1906162>
- Nomaguchi, K., & Milkie, M. A. (2020). Parenthood and Well-Being: A Decade in Review. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 82(1), 198–223. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jomf.12646>
- Oláh, L. Sz. (2001). Gender and family stability: Dissolution of the first parental union in Sweden and Hungary. *Demographic Research*, 4, 29–96. <https://doi.org/10.4054/DemRes.2001.4.2>
- Opondo, C., Redshaw, M., Savage-McGlynn, E., & Quigley, M. A. (2016). Father involvement in early child-rearing and behavioural outcomes in their pre-adolescent children: Evidence from the ALSPAC UK birth cohort. *BMJ Open*, 6(11), e012034. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2016-012034>
- Park, B., & Banchevsky, S. (2018). Leveraging the Social Role of *Dad* to Change Gender Stereotypes of Men. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 44(9), 1380–1394. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0146167218768794>

- Perales, F., Jarallah, Y., & Baxter, J. (2018). Men's and Women's Gender-Role Attitudes across the Transition to Parenthood: Accounting for Child's Gender. *Social Forces*, 97(1), 251–276. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soy015>
- Rego, T. (2015). The Concept of Authoritative Parenting and Its Effects on Academic Achievement. *Journal of Psychology & Clinical Psychiatry*, 3(6). <https://doi.org/10.15406/jpcpy.2015.03.00172>
- Roberts, D., Coakley, T. M., Washington, T. J., & Kelley, A. (2014). Fathers' Perspectives on Supports and Barriers That Affect Their Fatherhood Role. *SAGE Open*, 4(1), 215824401452181. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244014521818>
- Salami, I. A., & Okeke, C. I. O. (2018). Absent fathers' socio-economic status and perceptions of fatherhood as related to developmental challenges faced by children in South Africa. *South African Journal of Childhood Education*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.4102/sajce.V8i1.522>
- Shorey, S., Ang, L., Goh, E. C. L., & Gandhi, M. (2019). Factors influencing paternal involvement during infancy: A prospective longitudinal study. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 75(2), 357–367. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.13848>
- Smetana, J. G. (2017). Current research on parenting styles, dimensions, and beliefs. *Current Opinion in Psychology*, 15, 19–25. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsy.2017.02.012>
- Spiteri, G., Borg Xuereb, R., Carrick-Sen, D., Kaner, E., & Martin, C. R. (2014). Preparation for parenthood: A concept analysis. *Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology*, 32(2), 148–165. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02646838.2013.869578>

- U. Echedom, A., Nwankwo, T. V., & U. Nwankwo, E. (2018). Influence of Authoritative, Authoritarian, Permissive, and the Uninvolved Parenting Styles on the Reading Attitudes of Students in Anambra State, Nigeria. *JOURNAL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES*, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.15640/jlis.v6n2a1>
- Volling, B. L., & Palkovitz, R. (2021). Fathering: New perspectives, paradigms, and possibilities. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 22(3), 427–432. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000354>
- Waldvogel, P., & Ehlert, U. (2016). Contemporary Fatherhood and Its Consequences for Paternal Psychological Well-being – A Cross-sectional Study of Fathers in Central Europe. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 4. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2016.00199>
- Williams, S. (2008). What is Fatherhood?: Searching for the Reflexive Father. *Sociology*, 42(3), 487–502. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038508088837>

APPENDICES

Appendix I: In-depth interview guide

(To be administered to men who are fathers)

Factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council

INTRODUCTION AND INFORMED CONSENT

Good day to you. My name is Nangobi Cynthia. I am a third-year student at Makerere University pursuing a Bachelors of Social Work and Social Administration Degree. I would like to request you to engage in an interview with reference to my dissertation titled "factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council". You have been selected to participate in this study not because there something known about you or your family. Please note that this is an entirely voluntary process and you are free to stop the interview at any moment. I will be using an interview guide that has been approved by my dissertation supervisor at Makerere University.

Please answer the questions as best as you can.

The interview is expected to last 30 minutes. However, feel free to take your time to answer the questions. I am here for as long as you need to answer the questions in this interview.

Here is a tape recorder that will record all our conversations. I will transcribe these conversations later on and use them for research purposes. All the information you give in this interview will be used for my research project only. It will not be shared with other parties. All the transcripts and the recording will be destroyed once the information of this interview is transcribed. Details about you and your family will be kept in the strictest confidence. I may use quotes from the interview but your name or any other identifying details will not be given to anyone. Please sign or put your fingerprint here to confirm that:

- (i) You are older than 18 years of age on this day
- (ii) You fully understand everything I have said about this study and interview
- (iii) You freely agree to participate in this interview

..... [Signature or Fingerprint and Date]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Age
2. Marital status.....
3. Occupation
4. Religious affiliation

Socio-cultural factors that influence men's involvement in parenthood

1. How do men fulfill the task of parenting?
2. What are some of the characteristics of men who engage in parenting?
3. Does the gender of the child matter when exhibiting parental roles?
4. If yes! Comment on the importance of building father-child relation?
5. Generally what factors do you consider when rearing children as a man?

Economic factors that influence men's involvement in Parenting

6. Would you say that men who are involved in parenting affairs are financial stable?
What about men who are not financially stable?

Probe for the respondent to justify their answer

7. What would push a man to engage in caring for his family? Does financial stability matter when executing parenting roles? If yes! Why so?
8. Comment on the economic factors that influence men to engage in parenting activities

Thank you for your time

Appendix II: Focus group discussion guide

(To be administered to selected respondents)

Factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council

INTRODUCTION AND INFORMED CONSENT

Good day to you. My name is Nangobi Cynthia. I am a third-year student at Makerere University pursuing a Bachelors of Social Work and Social Administration Degree. I would like to request you to engage in an interview with reference to my dissertation titled "factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council". You have been selected to participate in this study not because there something known about you or your family. Please note that this is an entirely voluntary process and you are free to stop the interview at any moment. I will be using an interview guide that has been approved by my dissertation supervisor at Makerere University.

Please answer the questions as best as you can.

The interview is expected to last 30 minutes. However, feel free to take your time to answer the questions. I am here for as long as you need to answer the questions in this interview.

Here is a tape recorder that will record all our conversations. I will transcribe these conversations later on and use them for research purposes. All the information you give in this interview will be used for my research project only. It will not be shared with other parties. All the transcripts and the recording will be destroyed once the information of this interview is transcribed. Details about you and your family will be kept in the strictest confidence. I may use quotes from the interview but your name or any other identifying details will not be given to anyone. Please sign or put your fingerprint here to confirm that:

- (i) You are older than 18 years of age on this day
- (ii) You fully understand everything I have said about this study and interview
- (iii) You freely agree to participate in this interview

..... [Signature or Fingerprint and Date]

Consent Process.

As a group, we are going to go over the informed consent form before we start our focus group to be sure that you understand why we are having this focus group discussion and to be sure that you voluntarily want to participate.

- I hope to learn from you the issues related to the factors that influence men' involvement in parenthood. Similarly, most of us here have one way or the other had children. I hope to learn more about parenting.
- In this discussion, we are not trying to get everyone to agree or achieve consensus, rather, we are gathering information. It is okay if you have different opinions and ideas than the person in the group.

Focus group ground rules

- The focus group discussion will last for about one and half hours. (60-90 minutes)
- Feel at home.
- Refreshments are available.

Focus Group questions

1. Comment on some of the attributes of men who engage in raising children? **Probe for different parenting styles**
2. Why do men prefer certain gender in child rearing? **Probe to understand the different gender roles**
3. Comment on the importance of building strong father child relationship?
4. Comment on the reason as to why men are getting involved in raising children?
5. What are some of the economic factors that push men to be involved in parenting?
6. Suggest ways in which men can be better parents
7. Generally, what are the factors that push men into raising children?

Appendix III: Key informant interview guide

Factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council

(To be administered to the LC1)

INTRODUCTION AND INFORMED CONSENT

Good day to you. My name is Nangobi Cynthia. I am a third-year student at Makerere University pursuing a Bachelors of Social Work and Social Administration Degree. I would like to request you to engage in an interview with reference to my dissertation titled "factors influencing men's involvement in parenting in Mayuge town council". You have been selected to participate in this study because you are a father and knowledgeable about parenting in this area. Please note that this is an entirely voluntary process and you are free to stop the interview at any moment. I will be using an interview guide that has been approved by my dissertation supervisor at Makerere University.

Please answer the questions as best as you can.

The interview is expected to last 30 minutes. However, feel free to take your time to answer the questions. I am here for as long as you need to answer the questions in this interview.

Here is a tape recorder that will record all our conversations. I will transcribe these conversations later on and use them for research purposes. All the information you give in this interview will be used for my research project only. It will not be shared with other parties. All the transcripts

Questions

1. What are some of the attributes of men who engage in taking care of their children and their family?
2. How is parenting done in this area? Probe to understand whether other people are involved in raising children of others
3. As a father! Why do you think it's important to be involved in rearing children?
4. Do you think raising children is only for men with economic stability?
5. If yes! Please explain why you think men with economic stability are more involved in raising children? What about those men without resource stability?