

**THE ROLE OF THE PRINT MEDIA IN REPORTING DEFILEMENT OF
MINORS IN KENYA: A CASE OF NATION NEWSPAPER BETWEEN JANUARY
TO JUNE 2005**

BY

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**A project submitted in partial fulfillment of the sequential for the award of Post
Graduate Diploma in Mass Communication.**

University of Nairobi

November 2005

DECLARATION

This research project is our original work and has not been presented for a degree or diploma in any other university.

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DEDICATION

To all Kenyans who value the lives of children and cherish their health,
while growing.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank all those who helped us accomplish this study.

We thank the University of Nairobi Administration for having given us a chance to pursue the Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication programme. We are specifically indebted to the Director School of Journalism, Ms. Wambui Kiai, whose pertinence, and understanding enabled us to get information and assistance whenever we needed it, Moses Araya of the school of journalism for his support and guidance, we appreciate his persistence and concern.

Our many thanks go to our lecturer and supervisor, Mr. Kamau Mubuu who lit the way for us.

We also appreciate and thank the public who participated in one way or another but in particular those who took their time to fill in the questionnaires. We honor our families for standing by our sides as we burn the midnight oil. May God bless you all!

We hope this work will trigger more research in the field of defilement of minors and the cause of media in highlighting and give prominence to the cases of defilement of minors.

ABSTRACT

In the recent past, sexual crimes have been on the increase in Kenya. The police report published in the Daily Nation July 18th 2005 edition qualifies this by stating that “ Rape becomes top crime in Kenya.” The report also reveals that defilement cases are now on the increase.

This study investigates how the Kenya print media handles the issue of defilement of minors. It is based on the premise that the media has a crucial role to play in reducing the incidences of defilement. The objective of the study was to examine the role of the print media in highlighting defilement of minor in Kenya. The significance accorded to news on defilement of minors, and the frequency of reporting are criterion used to determine whether the media sets the agenda in reporting cases of defilement

The content of the Daily Nation between January to June 2005 was examined with the purpose of revealing how the cases of defilement of minors have been reported. The content analysis investigated the significance accorded to the stories and the frequency of reporting. The survey elicited views from the public on what they perceive to be the role of the media in reporting and suggestions on how it can be improved.

The study of the Nation newspaper reveals that little is reported on defilement of minors. In the period under study, only two stories were placed in the section of the newspaper that highlights important national and international issues. The survey revealed that many people get information of national importance from the media. However, there was concern that the media needs to do more than merely mentioning the incidents.

The study concludes that although the press reports the defilement cases, they need to give the stories significant coverage in order to alert the society on how heinous defilement is, and what it does to the minors. Being the voiceless in the society the minors rely on the press to highlight their plight. It is recommended therefore that, the press should do more investigative reporting, and not just mere reporting.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Children in Kenya today face many problems ranging from poverty, diseases, inhibitive cultural practices, to physical, emotional and psychological abuse. This situation is aggravated by their age. Currently one rampant problem facing children is defilement. This study seeks to examine the role of print media in highlighting the defilement of minors in Kenya.

In spite of gross violation of children's rights, there are several national and international laws that protect them. The United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the Children's Act 2001, (the Kenya domesticated law) are examples.

Section 13 (1) of the Children's Act 2001 for example states:

"A child shall be entitled to protection from physical and physiological abuse, neglect and any other form of exploitation including sale, trafficking or abduction by any person."

Article 16A of the African charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child (ACRWC) also protects children against abuse in general and specifically;

"From all forms of abuse, inhuman or degrading treatment and especially physical or mental injury or abuse, neglect or maltreatment including sexual abuse."

However, in spite of conventions, legislation and law, children are a section in the society whose rights have continued to be violated. In addition to violation of basis rights, recent police statistics show the evidence that defilement of minors in particular is on the increase. According to the Standard Newspaper 2nd December 2004 edition, page 16, 1,087 sexual violence cases were recorded at the Nairobi Women's Hospital. 1,013 out of 1,087 cases (94%)

were girls and women, 77(six percent) were men and boys, and 439 (40%) were children under five years.

The Coalition on Violence against Women (COVAW) 2004 Annual report shows that defilement of minors is on the rise. According to the report, 9.6% of those defiled are under five years, and 23.1% are adolescents. It also states that out of the cases reported 4.1 are adults (over 18 years). The report shows that more children than adults are defiled.

The rise in cases of defilement and rape has promoted the debate on punishment of offenders both in the public and other forums. Ms. Njoki Ndung'u a nominated member of parliament for example, has openly advocated for punitive sentences. In the same vain, the parliament passed a motion, which paved the way for the debate on the sexual offence bill published in august 2004. The Bill proposes a maximum sentence of life imprisonment for child defilers and those who knowingly transmit HIV/AIDS virus to their partners. It also proposes a minimum sentence of three years for anyone making unsolicited and unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors.

Child sexual abuse has partly contributed to high rate of HIV/AIDS in children. In a special report titled "Rape becomes top crime in Kenya" published in the Daily Nation 18th July 2005 edition, doctors say that the myth that HIV- infected men who have sex with virgins can get cured, has caused many sexual assault cases on girls aged between three and fifteen.

Other than medics, lawyers and politicians openly speaking against the vice, the media has also given a notable contribution by reporting cases and publishing reports. Given current incidents and mounting speculation over the actual rates of child sexual abuse in Kenya, the media being the Fourth Estate has an authoritative voice to highlight the cases, and direct the society on the way forward. It is the coverage of defilement of minors by the media that this study sets out to analyze.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The mass media are vital channels in setting the agenda concerning issues that affect society. It sets the agenda for economic, political and social issues. Defilement of minors is among the central concerns that media should engage the public on. This is because of the implication of sexual abuse on children. The effects of defilement on children include: physical injury, physiological trauma, stigma, pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

The mass media being the Fourth Estate are in a better position and power to credibly report and expose cases on defilement. However in doing so, they also have the burden and responsibility of reporting accurately, informatively and without malice. On the other hand, they are obliged to protect the victims of defilement.

Given the current rise of child sexual incidences, the media are strategically placed because, they are in a position to: report cases of defilement, create awareness, campaign on abuse prevention and lobby and advocate for policy and legislative changes.

Though the media in Kenya plays a crucial role in highlighting the rise of cases of defilement of minors, they only tell the readers and audience the basic facts. The articles lack the in-depth reporting often associated with investigative journalism.

According to a report titled "Speaking of the unspeakable realities of child sexual abuse in Kenya, What Kenya's media said in 2004" published and compiled by CARE- Kenya, media reporting of child sexual abuse is not representative of the real situation. The report points out that the media has power to play a potential role than just case reporting.

Hypothetically, if the media creates awareness and lobby for policy and legislative change, the level of public awareness would probably increase. The society in general would be more prudent in caring for children's safety and rights. The society will also be empowered to search for a collective way of addressing the vice. On the other hand, if the media fails to engage

the public on the problem, there will be less campaign on prevention of child abuse and violation of their rights.

Against this backdrop, this study attempted to address the following questions:

- 1) What significance does the media attach to incidences of defilement of minors?
- 2) What are the trends in reporting on defilement by the Kenyan media
- 3) What influence has the media exerted in regard to issues of defilement in Kenya?

1.3 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

This research is timely and consistent with the government efforts to curb child sexual abuse.

Secondly, defilement of minors is a violation of the child's rights, and a crime against humanity.

There is therefore, need to address it and give it prominence among issues considered to be of national importance.

The increasing incidences of child sexual abuse require timely and appropriate intervention. This is because minors need to develop holistically if they have to play a positive role in the development of the nation in future. Part of this holistic approach therefore entails protection from sexual abuse and other forms of abuses. The media should therefore plays an important role in ensuring that, anything that threatens the holistic growth of the child is exposed.

Studies in sexual abuse have focused on sexual related crimes in general, giving less attention to defilement of minor in particular. "Coverage of sex related crimes by the Kenya press between August and December 2004" by Amunga and Libafu (2004), and the CARE-Kenya /CRADLE report on sexual crime (January to December 2004) are some of examples where defilement cases are not singled out. Instead, the cases are bundled together with other sexual related crimes.

In "The coverage of sex related crimes by the Kenyan press: A content analysis of the coverage by the Daily Nation and the Standard Newspaper over a period of four months" Amunga and Libafu analyze in general, sex related crimes in the same period. They concentrate

on rape in general, defilement, crimes of passion and mutilation. This gives the picture that, in generalizing sexual crime the result is less specification of the defilement of minors.

The Care Kenya Report titled “speaking the unspeakable” relates of child sexual abuse in Kenya – what the Kenyans media said in 2004”, notes that the media has a role in highlighting child sexual abuse, a role it may choose to accept or oppose (pg. 18). The report also gives prominence to other forms of abuses facing children.

Conclusions are derived from the frequency of reporting and on actual language used and content of the articles. Our study on the other hand reviews the role that the media plays in highlighting cases of defilement from January to June 2005.

In “The Defilement Index Statistics reports on trend of sexual Abuse of the Girl Child in Kenya’s urban area”, entails reporting on frequency of defilement in certain areas in urban centers although it sheds light on where cases of defilement occur mostly, and by whom. It does not entail analysis of newspaper reporting.

The Kenya Crime survey 2002 by Augusta Muchai reveals that all crimes reported in Kenya can be categorized such as robbery, family related crime and others. While these are generalized, defilement of minors feature only in family related crimes therefore has no prominence in most reports dealing with crime.

This study therefore hopes to fill the gaps left by previous studies that focused on sex crimes in general and not on defilement of minors in particular.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

General objective

To examine the role the media has played in highlighting incidences of defilement of minor in Kenya.

Specific objectives

1. To examine the significance accorded to news on defilement of minors in Kenya
2. To establish frequency/trends in reporting on defilement of minors in Kenya.
3. To determine to the influence the media has created in reporting incidents of defilement of minors. .

4. Based on the findings, make appropriate recommendation on how the media can engage Kenyans on the issues.

CHAPTER TWO:

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1.5 HYPOTHETICAL ASSUMPTIONS:

The study is based on the assumptions that:

1. That the print media report incidents of defilement, but they are not accorded the significance they deserve.
2. That the public relies on the media as their main sources of information of importance.
3. That reported cases on defilement of minors by the print media are mere reporting and passing of information. The stories lack in-depth and investigative reporting

1.6 OPERATIONALIZATION OF CONCEPTS

- **Defilement:** Section 145 of the penal code, cap 63 (2). Any person who attempts to have unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl under the age of fourteen years is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for five years, with or without corporal punishment. Defilement is used in this study in this context.
- **Media:** this means print, film, broadcasting and internet. Books, magazines, newspapers fall under print media. Broadcasting media are radio, television, cable and satellite.
- **Minor:** using section 145 of the penal code cap 63 (2), a minor will be defined as a girl less than 14 years. In this study a minor is one who is less than 14 years. Defilement therefore as legally defined does not include any girl beyond 14 years. A girl who still up to 18 years may be termed as minors by other sections of the law.
- **Units of analysis:** determining who or what is going to be studied. It can be individual groups or documents (Demis, Nicholas, 43).

CHAPTER TWO:

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter we shall review relevant literature and discuss the theories that form the basis of this study.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

In "*Reporting Public problems: An Analysis of Today's Issues*" Robert Murphy reiterates that the job of a newspaper is to help its readers understand what is going on in the society so that people can reach intelligent decision about their public affairs (pg. 164). Robert Murphy's statement implies that newspapers are obliged to educate the public. However, newspapers can only play this role if they give articles that are not only duly informative, but educative and well investigated.

Citing crime news, Murphy says that such news should be given ample coverage because doing so would put the public on guard against the crime and its perpetrators (pg. 154). He declares that "it is the responsibility of the press to help the processes of justice under constant public selecting" (pg. 154).

Curtis MacDougall in *Interpretive Reporting*, emphasizes the importance of investigative reporting. He asserts that if the gather of the information is well informed, "he will at least be aware of the fact that an item of news is not an isolated incident but one incredibly linked to a chain of important events." (13). To interpret news therefore, he emphasizes that one has to recognize the particular events as part of a series with both a cause and an effect. He challenges the future reporters that other than just reporting, they will have to satisfy the ever increasing demand for investigative writing. The reporters will have to: "take the reader behind the scene of the days action, relate the news to the readers own framework and experience, make sense out of the fact, put factual news in perspective, put meaning into the news, point out the significance

of current events” (pg. 17) In essence, Macdougall is visioning the growth of the media industry where in-depth reporting will be norm rather than the exception.

Brian McNair in the *Sociology of Journalism*, links quality of articles to interpretation and effects (pg. 39). The well written, researched and informative article, is likely to have impact on the readers.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this study we shall use three theories of mass communication. They are: Agenda setting, gate keeping and social responsibility.

2.2.1 AGENDA SETTING

Agenda setting theory posits that the media- mainly mass media influences public opinion. What the media finds important will eventually be mirrored in what people think it is important. The audience learns how much importance to attach to a news item from the emphasis the media attach to a news item and from the emphasis the media puts on it. Several scholars have referred to the tenets of this theory in their writings.

Dennis McQuail in *Mass Communication Theory: An Introduction*, says that the public should understanding what is going on so that they can reach intelligent decisions about public affairs. About citing crime news he says that such news should be given ample coverage because in doing so it would put the public on guard against the crime and its perpetrator (pg. 154). Newspapers can only play this role if they give news what is not only informative, but educative and well investigated stories.

Curtis MacDougall in *Interpretative Reporting* reiterates the importance of investigative reporting analysis thus:“... If the gatherer of the information is well informed... he will at least be aware of the fact that an item of news is not an isolated incident but one inevitably linked to a

chain of important events". (pg. 13). He further challenges the future reporters that his duty will be more than just mere reporting. It will also involve satisfying the ever-increasing demand for investigate writing. Such a reporter will have the responsibility to investigate, give a true picture and to show directions to the mass on a particular issue.

Dennis McQuail and Sven Windahl in *Communication Models for the Study of Mass communication* state that: "The media simply by the fact of paying attention to some issues and neglecting others will have an effect on public opinion. People will tend to know about those things which the mass media deals with and adopt the order of priority assigned to different issues". (pg. 62)

2.2.2 GATE KEEPING

This theory posits that the gatekeeper decided what should pass through each gate section. He decides which information will go forward and which will not. Gatekeepers are also present in institutions and organizations. They are capable of controlling public knowledge of events by revealing some information and concealing others.

Gate keepers in media organizations gate keep by basing their judgment on news values, editorial policy of the organization, and availability of space for an article. In *Understanding Mass communication: A liberal Arts Perspective* (7th edition by Melvin L. De Fleur and Everett E. Dennis) says other issues that can influence gate keeping are seen as: organization policy, personal preference, definition of newsworthiness, nature of the target audience, and fourth estate obligations.

Gate keeping occurs at different level. First it starts with the journalist. In collecting news they decide what is newsworthy. The second level of gate keeping occurs in the newsroom. Not all the information gathered will be printed. The editor's filters the information and reduces its length by editing it to conform to the house style. This makes news censored to ensure that it is

legally safe. It is also refined to make it coherent and grammatically correct. Each of these activities is gate keeping to please the media houses but to deprive the public of the naked truth.

2.2.3 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THEORY OF THE PRESS

Dennis McQuail defines the theory as: "An assumption that the media do serve essential functions in society especially in relation to democratic politics... mainly in the sphere of information and the provision of a platform for diverse news, but also in matters of culture, an emphasis on maximum independence of media consistent with their obligation to society" (McQuail, pg. 116).

Elie Abel in an article titled "Hutchins revisited: Thirty-five years of Social responsibility theory" published in *The responsibility of Journalism* edited by Robert Schmuhl, traces the genesis of the social responsibility theory to the Hutchins commission of 1942. This Commission on freedom of press came up with set of standards for the press known as the social responsibility theory of the press. He reiterates that they are still relevant, and are timeless (pg. 41).

The first tenet of the theory is that the press should provide a truthful, comprehensive and intelligent account of events in a context that gives them meaning. It reiterates that the press has the goal of accuracy, striving to disseminate the truth about public affairs (pg. 41).

"It is no longer enough to report the facts truthfully. It is now necessary to report the truth about the facts... the press is exhorted to evaluate the truthfulness of conflicting sources, not merely to report... facts need to be placed in a context that gives them meaning ... merely setting down the facts is enough." (pg. 42)

This implies that the press should exhibit high level of professionalism by ensuring that there is accuracy, objectivity, balance and truth in upholding the truth. On the other hand articles should always be informative and in depth, put in their relevant context. Furthermore reporting

should not be for its own sake, but should be educative and should exhibit investigative attributes, in order to present a holistic picture of the situation. The media therefore has responsibility to play in the society. It should ensure that while giving information on one hand, it should also adhere to professional ethics and standard.

The second tenet is that the press must serve as a forum for exchange of comments and criticism. This means that the media should create forum for public debate, exchange of ideas and even accept opinion and views different from their own. The theory sets the opinion pages in newspaper as an indicator of vibrant acceptance of varied public opinion. The other indicator is publishing of views that differ with those of the media house. In other words the theory promotes the publishing of divergent views in news reporting.

This means that the media does not only have to inform, but also educate the public and provoke them to engage in a healthy interaction and exchange of views on important issues in the society. The channel of communication is two ways and not linear.

The third concept is that the press has an obligation to project a representative, true and honest picture of the constituent groups in society especially the minority groups (pg. 43). Minority groups are diverse. People can be minorities due to their race, sex, ethnicity, religion, age, physical status, educational level, and economic status. These, the theory portends, should also be given a "voice". The media should be the voice of the voiceless.

The fourth concept is that the press ought to provide full account of the day's investigations to its audience (pg. 45). The theory also suggests a multi pronged responsibility. This means the government has the responsibility to give information to the press so that the press can in turn give it back to the masses (pg. 45). This fourth concept promotes in-depth, investigate reporting in journalism. Discussions should go beyond the normal reporting to provide the context and other informative details that will enrich not only public debate but be a source of education.

Dennis McQuail in *Mass communication Theory: An introduction* reiterates the above principles and adds that: "The society and the public have a right to expect high standards of performance, intervention can be justified to secure public good. Journalists and media professionalism should be accountable to society as well as to employers and the market" (pg. 181)

2.2 SITE SELECTION AND DESIGN

The study consists of a survey of the *Nation Newspaper*. The survey was conducted in Nairobi which is the largest city in Kenya. Nairobi is therefore, Nairobi leads government administration offices and a number of organisations. It is a cosmopolitan city where many Kenyan ethnic groups cluster, and it is also a major political activities. Other than the already mentioned factors, Nairobi was selected as the site for the survey because of several reasons. First, it is the capital city and hence the responsibility of and interest on both print and electronic media is better placed than other parts of the country.

Secondly majority of media organisations are based in Nairobi therefore most of the prominent media organisations are based in Nairobi. Secondly, editors attached to various media houses. Thirdly, the public has access to a number of information sources they can read in libraries and watch TV in public halls and in their homes as well as in their private homes. Access to information is better in Nairobi than other parts of the country.

2.2 SAMPLE DESIGN AND SAMPLING

2.2.1 SAMPLE SIZE

The main data sources were newspaper and the study people. The study analysed 181 *Nation* newspapers January to June 2007 and the study people were the media professionals of reporting over the identified period. Nation newspaper is one of the largest and the most influential newspapers in the country.

CHAPTER THREE:

3.0 METHODOLOGY

In the last chapter, the focus was theoretical framework and literature review. This chapter focuses on the methodology that was used in the study.

3.1 SITE SELECTION AND DESCRIPTION

The study consists of a survey and content analysis of Nation Newspaper. The survey was conducted in Nairobi which is the capital city of Kenya. As a capital city therefore, Nairobi hosts government administration offices and international organization. It is a cosmopolitan city where many Kenyan ethnic groups converge for social economic and political activities. Other than the already mentioned factors, Nairobi was selected as the site for the survey because of several reasons; First; it is the capital city and therefore availability of information on both print and electronic media is better placed than other parts of the country.

Secondly majority of media headquarters are based in Nairobi. It was therefore easy to access prominent media practitioners such as correspondents, reporters, editors attached to top media houses. Thirdly the public can access information from information sources they can read in libraries and watch TV in public halls and listen to radio in *matatus* as well as in their private homes. Access to information therefore is better than in other parts of the country.

3.2 SAMPLE DESIGN AND SAMPLING PROCEDURE

3.2.1 SAMPLE SIZE

The main data sources were newspapers and views of people. The study analyzed 181 *Nation* newspapers January to June 2005 editions. The purpose was to establish trends of reporting over the identified period. Nation newspapers were singled out for the units of analysis on the content

analysis basis. Nation is used in the study because it is the market leader in the newspaper industry in Kenya.

The study also entailed survey using questionnaire. 35 questionnaires were distributed to various categories of respondents. 30 questionnaires were filled and analyzed. A representative sample was taken on the basis that reflects the opinion of the rest of the population. Sample was taken however was based on the objectives and purposes of the study.

3.2.2 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Mugenda, A. and Mugenda, O. "Research methods" defines sample procedure as procedure of selecting the subject or cases to be included in the sample" (pg. 44) In other words sampling procedure refers to how the sample was selected.

The study used non-probability purposive sampling method. Earl Babbie in "The Practice of Social Research" defines it as a sampling method in which researchers use his or her own judgment in the selection of sample members (pg. 207). Mugendas, in "Research Methods" define it as a sampling technique that allows a researcher to use cases that have the required information with respect to the objectives of his or her study. Cases or subjects are therefore handicapped because they are informative or they process the required characteristics (pg. 50)

The study elicited information on defilement of minors from various professionals. Health practitioners, teachers, police officers are examples of the professionals who handle case of defilement and therefore were purposively selected for this study.

Secondly, journalists handle cases of defilement when they are called upon to report on them either from the law counts, police or the general public. They are therefore important for this study because they not only make the public aware of cases of defilement, but they can also educate therefore playing an important role in the fight against his crime.

Newspapers were also selected because they contain cases of defilement of minors from courts, police or the public. The Nation was selected because it is widely read. It also emphasizes on social responsibility in its editorial policy, and was therefore likely to give ample coverage to social issues. The period selected was January to June to represent the reporting trend and a total of 181 copies were scrutinized.

On the survey, 30 questionnaires were filled. Out of these 8 were filled by key informants. These informants were: correspondents, reporters, editors from several media houses. The rest questionnaires were filled by; health practitioners, (doctors, nurses), parents, teachers, police officers and young people (aged between; 14-25) in primary, secondary, colleges and universities.

3.2.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research entailed survey and content analysis. Survey methods involves “scientific sampling and interviewing people to analyze the report what they said Demis, Nichols (pg. 10). In order to accomplish the survey, questionnaires were used.

In content analysis our main purpose was to study newspaper content. Mugendas in *Research Methods*, defines content analysis as “the systematic qualitative description of the composition of the object or material of study... involves observation and detailed description of objects, items or things that comprise the sample (pg. 174.)

3.2.4 DATA COLLECTION

Questionnaires were used to elicit the views of the general public, media practitioners and other professionals. The questionnaires are divided into two parts; Part one for non-media practitioners and Part two for media practitioners. It comprised of both open and closed ended questions.

The questionnaire also had a brief introduction containing the purpose of the study. The respondent was assured of confidentiality of all the information given because the study is intended purposely for academic purpose.

In content analysis, the units of analysis identified were newspapers. Articles on defilement of minors were sampled for the content analysis. All articles on defilement of minors from January to June 2005 were analyzed according to areas of interest. Placement in the newspapers, frequency of articles, and type of article was the main areas of classification of articles of defilement of minor.

Types of article here refer to whether they were news, features, editorials, commentary analysis, feedback, letters to the editor and special reports. Placement refers to the position of the story in the newspaper. Particular attention is given to front page which is head line page (page one), back page, page three and others. Findings were therefore logically grouped according to **placements, type of article and frequency.**

3.2.5 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Data was analyzed from both content of newspapers and the questionnaires. In content analysis, the total number of articles was noted according to placement, type and frequency. These three aspects show the significance accorded to issues regarded as important. Articles on page 1, 3 and back page are the most significant pages.

Data from questionnaires had two sections.. Responses from the close ended question were coded according to the nature of inquiry. The sequences were computerized and tabulated using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)

Open ended question responses were also coded according to responses of the respondents. They were first classified then coded. Finally they were analyzed using SPSS. In developing the questionnaire some of the key indicators in examining the role of the media in

reporting on the defilement of minors included the frequency of reporting, the placement and type of stories. These aspects formed an important basis for analysis.

3.3 PROBLEMS, CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATION

There were several problems encountered; firstly there was time factor. The time allocated for the study was short and therefore the sample size had to be small. Secondly there was financial constraint. This study was not funded. Therefore the researchers had to rely on their limited resources to finance the expensive exercise such as: Photocopying, printing and transport.

Other problems came from the actual data collection exercise. For example some members of the public who were approached to respond to the questionnaires were not willing to do so. Those who agreed wanted more time to fill the questions. These made the process slow and therefore set back on time while working on the project.

The study was also limited in several ways. First the content analysis of the Daily Nation was done between January to June 2005. If there was more time, opinion would have been received from other mainstream Daily Newspapers such as; The Standard, The Kenya Times and the People. They would have been analyzed to give a wide scope opinion. It would have also been more appropriate to collect views from a wider geographical area rather than Nairobi alone.

CHAPTER FOUR:

4.0 ANALYSIS

This chapter analyses the collected data.

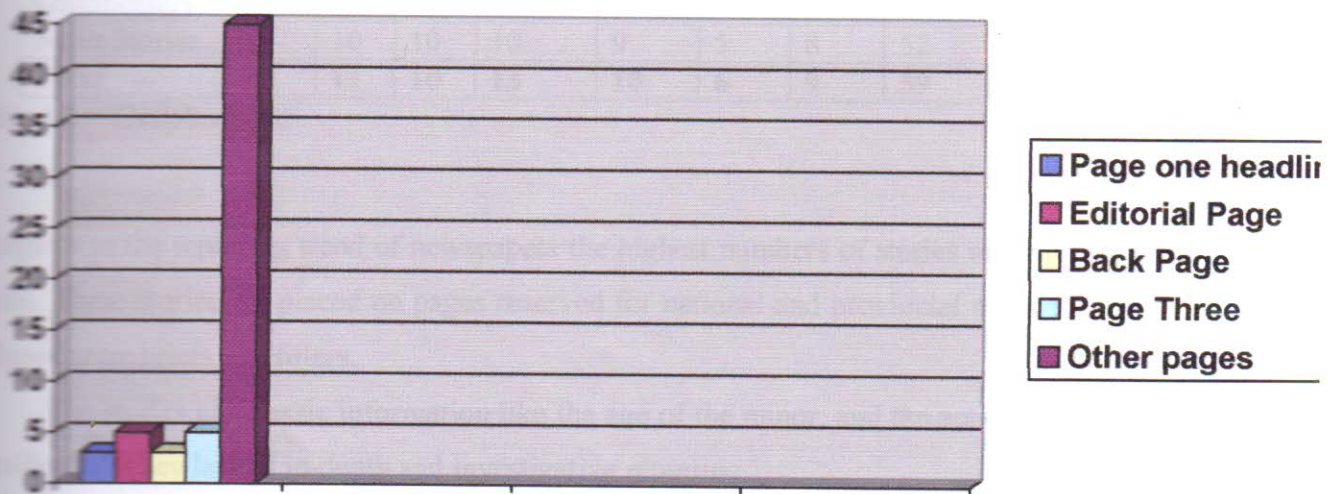
PLACEMENT OF STORIES

Page	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Total
Headlines	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Back Page	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Page three	0	0	2	1	1	0	4
Other	10	10	8	7	4	8	47
Total	11	10	13	10	6	9	59

Grand total -59

Table 4.1 = By Graph below

Graph 4.1



The number of stories defilement of minors are high in other pages, as compared to page one, page three, back page and editorial page.

Significant stories in newspapers are often placed on paper one, three, back page and on editorial pages. The placement of stories on defilement of minors in other page means that they are not given the prominence they deserve as seen in the analyses. This indicates that defilement of minor stories do not get national attention which they deserve.

Types of stories

Types of stories form January to June 2005

Graph 4.2



Type of Stories

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Total
Feature	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Special Report	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Editorial / Commentary	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
News Stories	10	10	10	9	5	8	52
Total	11	10	13	10	6	9	59

Table 4.2 = Graph above

In regards to the reporting trend of newspapers the highest numbers of stories reported are news stories. These stories are placed on pages reserved for national and provincial news. The stories analyzed were briefs and fillers.

The stories gave basic information like the age of the minor, and the action taken against the offender. They lacked in-depth and investigative reporting.

In the period covered (Jan-June 2005), there were only two feature stories on defilement of minors. This means that only two stories were educative and well researched. There were more stories that gave basic information than those that were educative.

Editorials are the voice or the position of a media houses regarding issues of national and international importance. In the period under study these were only **two**. There was also only one special report. Special reports are often detailed, investigated, informative and educative articles. The fact that only one special reporting was published denotes that, there was very little investigated report published.

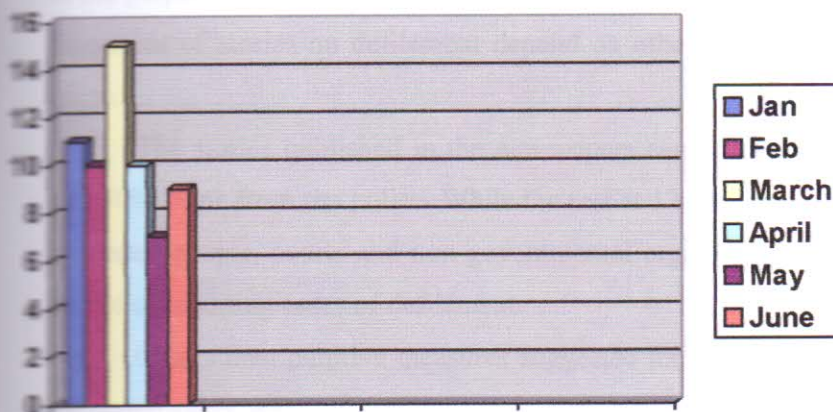
The media other than being the vehicle for communication are expected to educate as well as inform. It is therefore expected that stories on defilement of minors should not only be informative but educative as well. The newspapers are expected not only to highlight cases on defilement but also to educate the public by writing in-depth and well researched articles.

Frequency of Reporting

Table 4.3 Frequency of Reporting

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Total
NO	11	10	13	10	6	9	59
%	19%	17%	22%	17%	10%	15%	100%

Graph 4.3: Frequency of reporting per month from January to June 2005



Police statistic published in the Daily Nation July 18th 2005 edition shows the occurrence of crime in the country between January to June 2005. Rape cases between January to June, totaled to 1,314 cases. Cases on defilement of minors were reported generally under rape. This makes difficult to deduce the number of cases on defilement of minors reported to the police in order to highlight the heinous issue specifically.

In the same period, the number of articles written on defilement of minors totals to 59. In spite of the absence of reliable statistics on defilement of minors over the period of study, the number of articles is still low. This means that the incidence are not given ample coverage.

4.1 The Findings

The media persons interviewed agreed that stories on defilement of minors are important and are taken seriously. On table 4.4 (a) and table 4.4 (b) 25% of those interviewed agree that it's a big story and another 25% agreed that they are treated seriously.

On the frequency of reporting 50% of respondents said cases on defilement are reported daily, while another 50% said when a case arises reporting is both reactive. In table 4.4 (plain) the respondents interviewed revealed that stories are placed on page three, page one or any other depending on several issues. 25% said stories are placed on page three, 12.5% said page one, the rest revealed that it depended on other factors. The factors cited are: nature of defilement, age of the perpetrator, other stories of the day, general news, crime cases. This therefore reveals that placement of stories on defilement depend on other factors, but not on the seriousness of the crime.

The stories published in the newspapers came from various sources According to table 4.5, 50% come from the police. While the rest at 12.5% come from reporters at provincial level, interested people, courts and non-governmental organizations. The police are apparently a rich source of reporting cases of defilement.

Others than punitive measures suggested for defilers of minors, in table 4.6 respondents suggested other ways of treating information on defilement of minors. First, they suggest that journalists should be trained to investigate defilement stories. There is also the suggestion that there should be better co-operation between the government and the media

The respondents unanimously agreed that the media has an important role in reporting defilement of minors according to table 4.7. In the table 4.8 the news on media role in highlighting defilement of minors is as follows:-

- Media is in a better position to report important issues affecting the society.
- Media can educate the public on what is essential, and what steps to take incase defilement occurs.
- Media creates awareness by reporting.
- Plays an advocacy role just by reporting.
- Triggers reaction from the government.
- Media acts as a watch dog to the society.

Even though the content analysis reveals that stories on defilement are not given prominence through placement in the newspapers, in table 14, 37.5% of respondents suggest

page one as the preferred placements. This is an indicator that media practitioners should know that such stories are serious.

The devastating effects of sex violence are noted in table 4.9 but the suggestion that media should have special pages on sex violence is worth noting.

The self evaluation by media practitioners on how they conduct reporting reveals that the practitioners feel that they have done a good job. However, about 12.5% feel that the reporting is inadequate because they have to rely on courts and the police. Another 12.5% says cases are just reported, but they lack investigation.

The non media practitioner's respondents in the survey reveal that the mass media is the major source of information of national importance (table 5.1) and on defilement of minors (table 5.2, table 5.3). All these tables indicate that media set the agenda.

However they reveal that the frequency of the information varies. 22.7% said reports are regular and 27.3% said frequently. The rest revealed that the information is rare and only published occasionally (18.2% and 31.8% respectively). This means that the information is not frequent as is expected of such a serious issue.

The media creates an impact in the lives of the public just by reporting on defilement of minors. This is revealed by the respondent's reaction to the reported cases published in newspaper. Table 5.4 and 5.5 reveals a myriad of reaction.

However in table 5.4, other respondents feel the media is doing enough by creating awareness, passing information accurately. Other however feel that the information tends to be explicit not detailed and inadequate.

The media creates impact on the public just by reporting on the cases on defilement as evident in the reactions on table 5.5. Other than passing information, the media provokes the public to react and think of a possible solution. The respondents hence feel that punishment meted to the offenders should be heavier and the victim assisted. The media, the government and religious organization are also challenged to react to this issue and take up their responsibilities.

The non-media respondents think that the media is not giving defilement of minors an adequate coverage. 27.3% said the media was giving enough coverage, 68.2% on the other hand said it was not doing enough – table 5.6.

Analysis: on the findings: media practitioner

	Age of the respondent	Sex of the respondent	Marital status	Religion	Company/Organization	Your designation in the company	How long have you worked in the media industry	Highest level of education	How long have you worked in the media industry
N	6	8	8	7	8	8	8	8	8
Valid	6	8	8	7	8	8	8	8	8
Missing	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	27.67	1.38	1.50	1.00	2.25	2.38	5.163	3.50	4
Std. Deviation	7.58	.52	.53	.00	1.04	1.06	5.125	.93	5
Variance	57.47	.27	.29	.00	1.07	1.13	26.268	.86	255

How often does your organization report on defilement minors?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Daily	4	50.0	50.0	50.0
Others(frequently when cases arise)	4	50.0	50.0	100.0
Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.4 plain

How do you treat stories on defilement of minors?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Respect to minors rights	1	12.5	12.5	12.5
Give them a human face	1	12.5	12.5	25.0
It is a big story	2	25.0	25.0	50.0
Brief	1	12.5	12.5	62.5
As a special case	1	12.5	12.5	75.0
Quite seriously	2	25.0	25.0	100.0
Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.4 (a)

Where do you place such stories ?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
valid	Consideration to other stories of the day	1	12.5	14.3	14.3
	Crime	1	12.5	14.3	28.6
	News	1	12.5	14.3	42.9
	Depends on nature of defilement age perpetrator	1	12.5	14.3	57.1
	Lead stories	1	12.5	14.3	71.4
	On page three (third page)	2	25.0	28.6	100.0
	Total	7	87.5	100.0	
Missing	System	1	12.5		
Total		8	100.0		

Table 4.4(b)

Mention the sources of stories

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
valid	Our reporters at provincial level	1	12.5	12.5	12.5
	Interested people	1	12.5	12.5	25.0
	Police	4	50.0	50.0	75.0
	Children on NGOs	1	12.5	12.5	87.5
	Court reports	1	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.5

Give advice how information on defilement should be treated

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Identity of culprit should be concedered	1	12.5	12.5	12.5
With alot o respect	1	12.5	12.5	25.0
Journalists to be trained to investigate defilement stories	1	12.5	12.5	37.5
Be sensitive	1	12.5	12.5	50.0
Names of the victims should not be mentioned in the story	1	12.5	12.5	62.5
The accused face death penalty or be castrated	1	12.5	12.5	75.0
With seriousness it deserves	1	12.5	12.5	87.5
The govt should co-oporate with media	1	12.5	12.5	100.0
Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.6

Do you think media has a role in reporting defilement cases?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	8	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 4.7

How often does your organization report on defilement minors

Please explain

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Through media- crime can be known and dealt with accordingly	1	12.5	14.3	14.3
	Media is better placed to express important issues in societ	1	12.5	14.3	28.6
	To empower public to send the child defiled to the hospital	1	12.5	14.3	42.9
	Just by reporting, media help to fight defilement in society	1	12.5	14.3	57.1
	People need to know how to push for prosecution	1	12.5	14.3	71.4
	The govt can easily take action when media report cases	1	12.5	14.3	85.7
	Media acts as a Watch dog to the society	1	12.5	14.3	100.0
	Total	7	87.5	100.0	
Missing	System	1	12.5		
Total		8	100.0		

On what page would you prefer this information to appear?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Prominent page	1	12.5	14.3	14.3
	Page three	1	12.5	14.3	28.6
	On front pages	3	37.5	42.9	71.4
	See treatment of storie	1	12.5	14.3	85.7
	Feature pages so that detailed information is published.	1	12.5	14.3	100.0
	Total	7	87.5	100.0	
Missing	System	1	12.5		
Total		8	100.0		

Table 4.8

Give other views on sex violence

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Many cases are not reported	2	25.0	25.0	25.0
	Gvt to offer ARVs in medical centers in the country	1	12.5	12.5	37.5
	Let community open different cases on sex violence & report	1	12.5	12.5	50.0
	Its dehumanizing; physical & emotional development	3	37.5	37.5	87.5
	The media should have special pages for sex violence	1	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.9

Generally comment on the media reports on defilement of minors

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	The media reported well	3	37.5	42.9	42.9
	Reporting is in adequate-cause media relies on courts/Hosp	1	12.5	14.3	57.1
	It report positively	1	12.5	14.3	71.4
	Fairly	1	12.5	14.3	85.7
	No investigation they merely report cases	1	12.5	14.3	100.0
	Total	7	87.5	100.0	
Missing	System	1	12.5		
Total		8	100.0		

Bio Data Table: Media practitioners

Age of the respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	20	1	12.5	16.7	16.7
	22	1	12.5	16.7	33.3
	25	2	25.0	33.3	66.7
	35	1	12.5	16.7	83.3
	39	1	12.5	16.7	100.0
	Total	6	75.0	100.0	
Missing	System	2	25.0		
Total		8	100.0		

Sex of the respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	5	62.5	62.5	62.5
	Female	3	37.5	37.5	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Marital status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Single	4	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Married	4	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Religion

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Christian	7	87.5	100.0	100.0
Missing	System	1	12.5		
Total		8	100.0		

Company/Organizatio

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Kenya times	2	25.0	25.0	25.0
	Standard	3	37.5	37.5	62.5
	People daily	2	25.0	25.0	87.5
	The leader	1	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Your designation in the company

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Writer	2	25.0	25.0	25.0
	Editor	2	25.0	25.0	50.0
	Reporter	3	37.5	37.5	87.5
	Correspondent	1	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

How long have you worked in the media industry

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	.3	1	12.5	12.5	12.5
	1.0	2	25.0	25.0	37.5
	3.0	2	25.0	25.0	62.5
	8.0	1	12.5	12.5	75.0
	12.0	1	12.5	12.5	87.5
	13.0	1	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Highest level of education

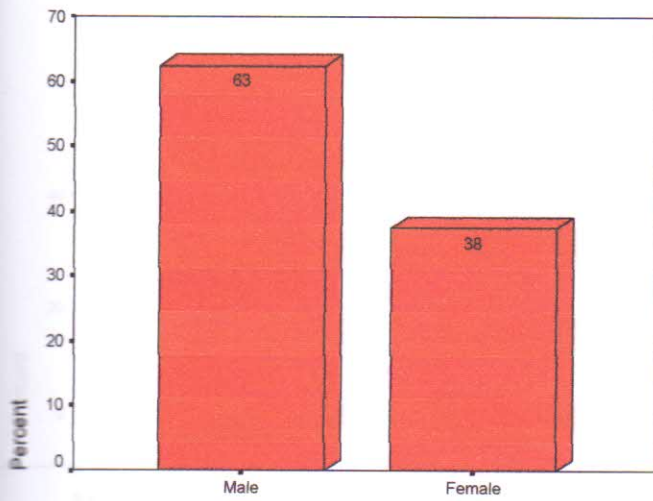
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Secondary level	2	25.0	25.0	25.0
	University level	6	75.0	75.0	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

How long have your company existed?

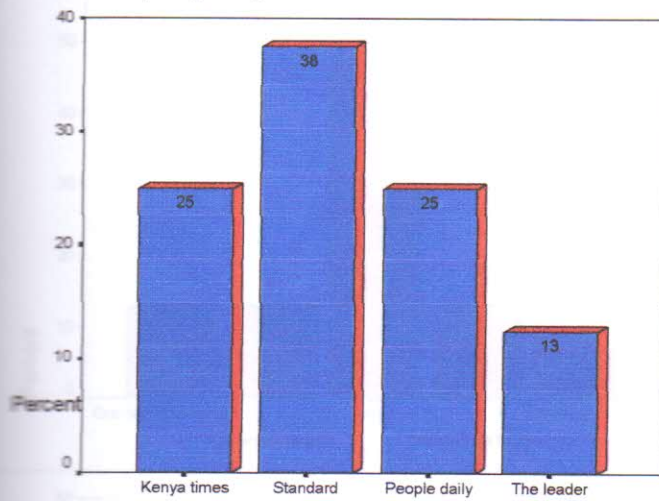
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	I dont know	2	25.0	25.0	25.0
	12	2	25.0	25.0	50.0
	23	1	12.5	12.5	62.5
	103	2	25.0	25.0	87.5
	113	1	12.5	12.5	100.0
	Total	8	100.0	100.0	

Bar Charts (5.0)

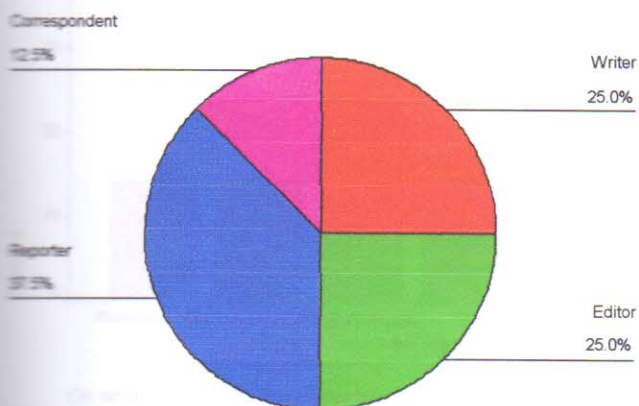
Sex of the respondent



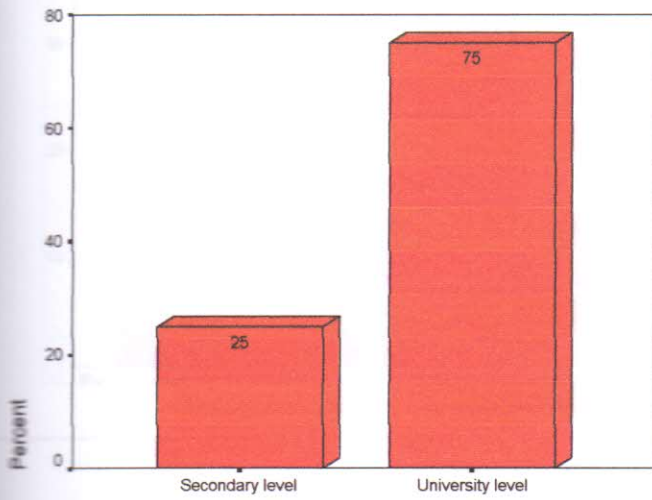
Company/Organization



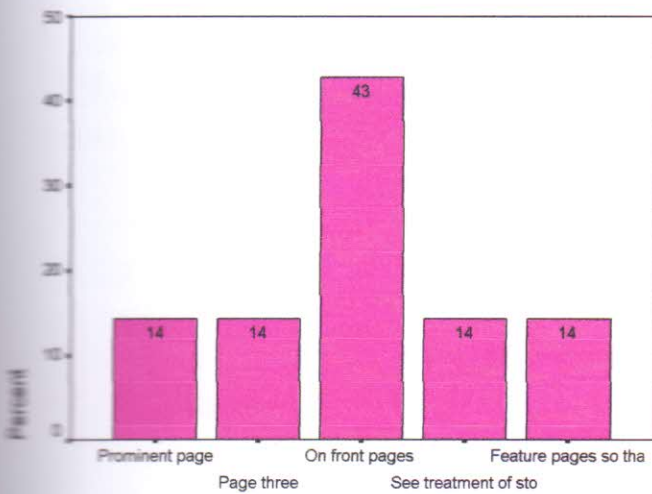
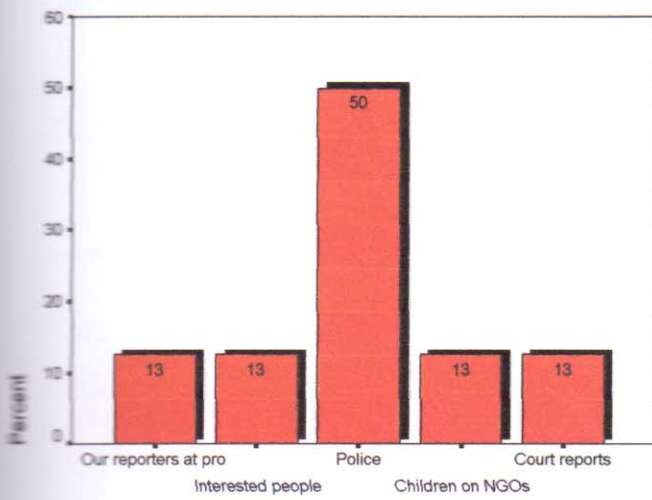
Your designation in the company



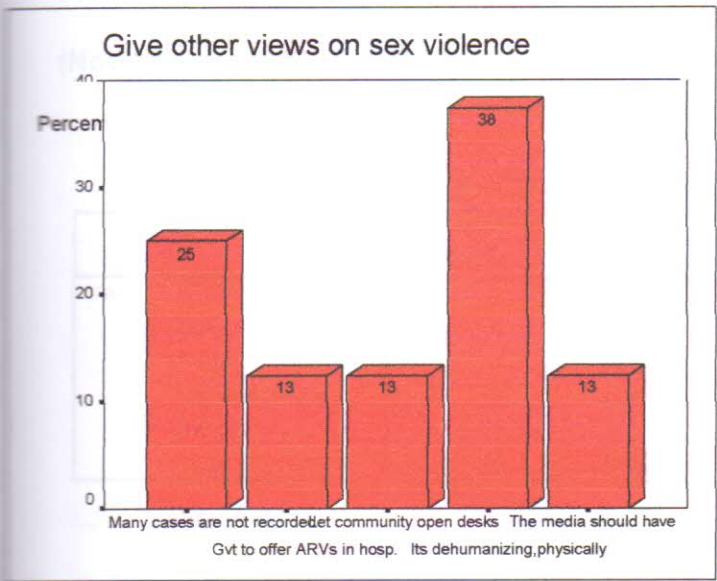
Highest level of education



Mention the sources of stories



On what page would you prefer this information to appear



Frequencies-Non Media practitioners

(Note: picked table for Analysis on outer Numbering)

Table 9-Sources of information National importance?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	KTN	1	4.5	4.5	4.5
	Daily newspapers	6	27.3	27.3	31.8
	Radio	4	18.2	18.2	50.0
	General media	10	45.5	45.5	95.5
	School	1	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	22	100.0	100.0	

Table 5.1

Table 10-Sources of news on defilement of minors from the media.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	20	90.9	90.9	90.9
	No	2	9.1	9.1	100.0
	Total	22	100.0	100.0	

Table: 5.2

Table 11-If yes, from what source?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Television	10	45.5	47.6	47.6
	Newspapers	4	18.2	19.0	66.7
	Journalist	1	4.5	4.8	71.4
	Radio	3	13.6	14.3	85.7
	Members of public	2	9.1	9.5	95.2
	Mass media	1	4.5	4.8	100.0
	Total	21	95.5	100.0	
Missing	System	1	4.5		
Total		22	100.0		

Table: 5.3

Table 12-If No where else?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Television	1	4.5	25.0	25.0
	Newspapers	2	9.1	50.0	75.0
	Members of public	1	4.5	25.0	100.0
	Total	4	18.2	100.0	
Missing	System	18	81.8		
Total		22	100.0		

Table: 5.4

Table 15-Reaction to information on defilement of minors.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Disturbed/Upsetting/Horrible	13	59.1	65.0	65.0
	Castration	1	4.5	5.0	70.0
	It shows how immoral the Kenyan society is	1	4.5	5.0	75.0
	High rate of HIV in the society	2	9.1	10.0	85.0
	Highest punishment to the offenders should be given	1	4.5	5.0	90.0
	The religion, Govt, media & society has neglected it reponsibi	1	4.5	5.0	95.0
	The victim should be given immediate assistance	1	4.5	5.0	100.0
	Total	20	90.9	100.0	
Missing	System	2	9.1		
Total		22	100.0		
	Feel dignity of women lowered	1	4.5	5.0	65.0
	It is a convenient way of passing the information	1	4.5	5.0	70.0
	It is Alarming ashaming and emotional	2	9.1	10.0	80.0
	Parents have created problems to their children	2	9.1	10.0	90.0
	Rape is reported when cases escalates	2	9.1	10.0	100.0
	Total	20	90.9	100.0	
Missing	System	2	9.1		
Total		22	100.0		

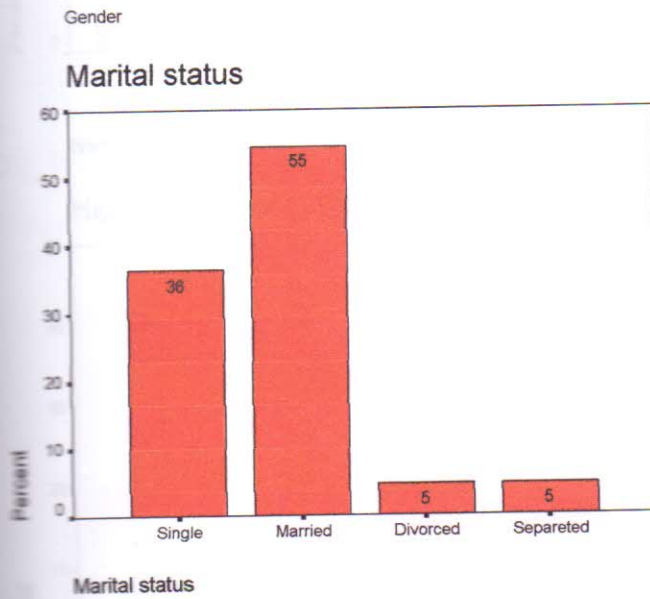
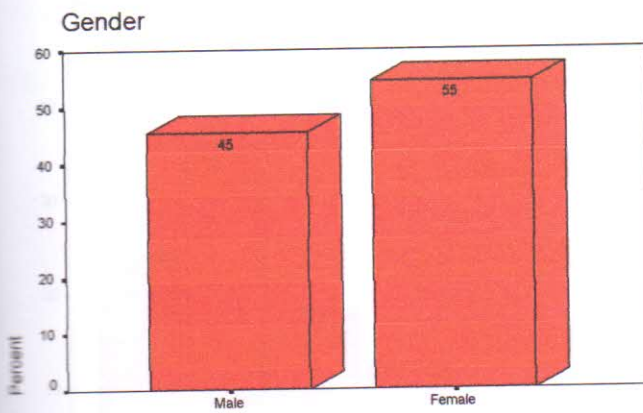
Table 5.5

Table 19-Is media giving adequate coverage on defilement of minors?

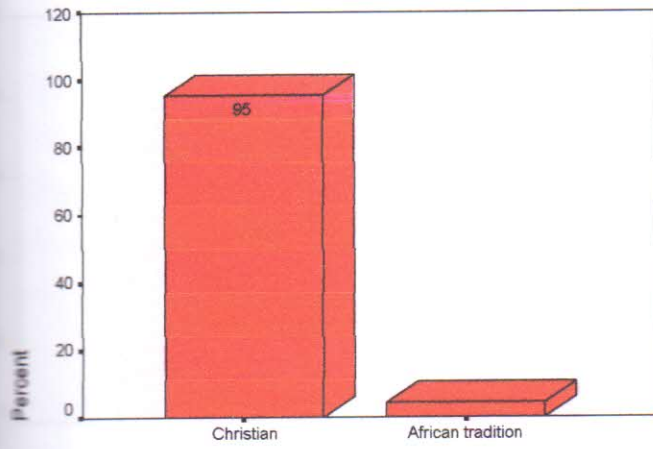
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	6	27.3	28.6	28.6
	No	15	68.2	71.4	100.0
	Total	21	95.5	100.0	
Missing	System	1	4.5		
Total		22	100.0		

Table 5.6

Bar Charts (5.7)

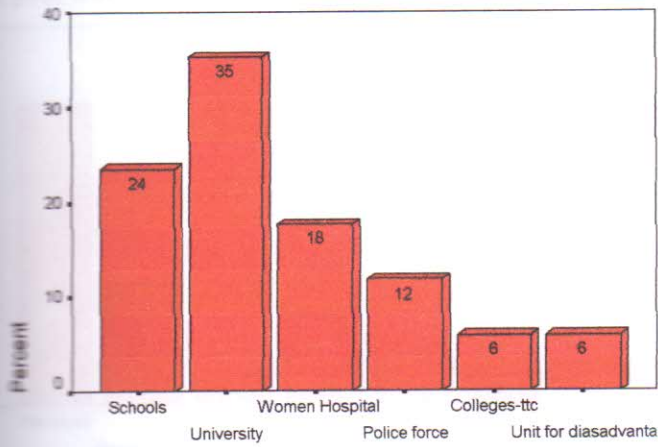


Religion



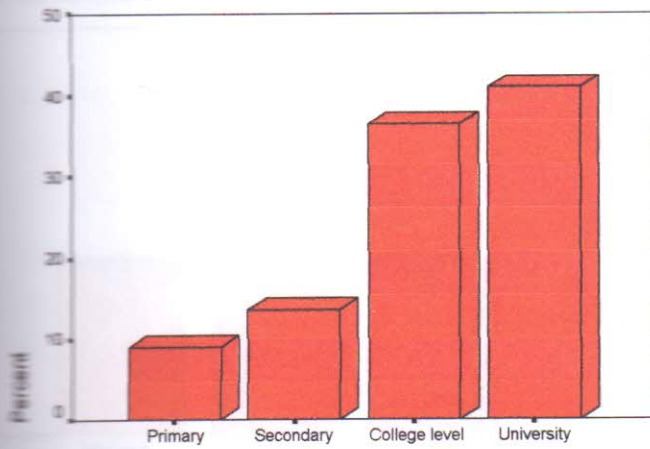
Religion

Name of the institution



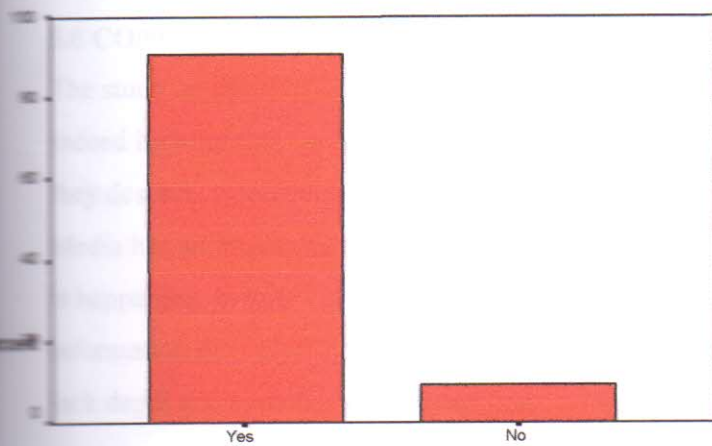
Name of the institution

Highest level of education Attained



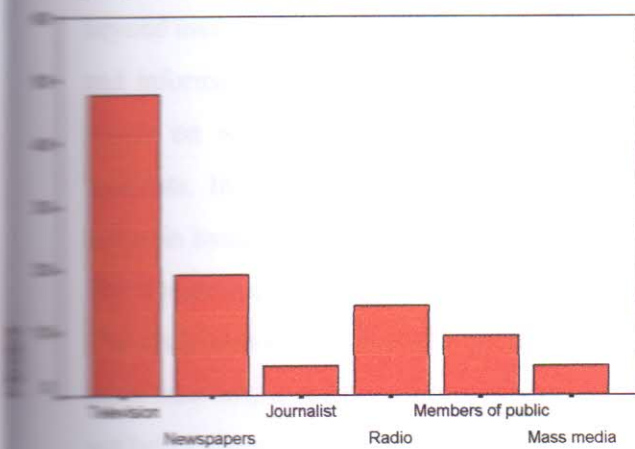
Highest level of education Attained

Do you get news on defilement of minors from the media?



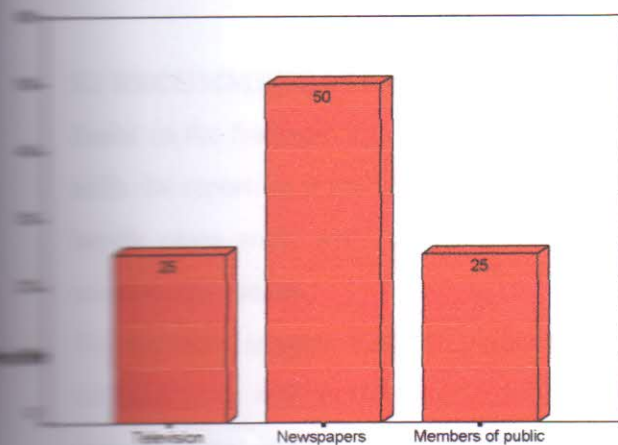
Do you get news on defilement of minors from the media?

If yes, from what source?



If yes, from what source?

If No where else?



If No where else?

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study on the role of the media in highlighting defilement of minors reveals that the media is indeed highlighting the incidents. However the media is not giving such stories the prominence they deserve: through page placement, frequency and the type of stories.

Media has an important role in highlighting the cases. First, they enable the society to know what is happening, in this way they act as the chief source of information for the society. However, the information they give more often than not tends to be basically giving information therefore they lack depth and evidence of investigation.

In the stories highlighted, however, evoke a lot of emotion and rage from the public. It arouses the feeling of the public to act in order to curb the vice. The articles should however move beyond mere provocation of emotions. They should also engage the intellect by having educative and informative information; such as statistics and servereness. This will enable the public to decide on what direction to take whether medical or legal, and what to do in case of such incidents. In this regard they will be equipping the public with the knowledge to take quick action in handling cases of defilement.

The reporting of cases is also reactive. It is done depending on reported cases.

The study also reveals that although, the Nation is a leading newspaper in the print media, more often than not, it merely reports cases of defilement of minors. This leaves the defilement issue not being given the prominence it deserves.

The greater percentage of stories reported neither fall in the prominent pages (1,3, back page). They are put in other pages as fillers.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study we recommend that, journalist should be restrained and given skills for reporting investigative stories on defilement of minors. The skills will enable them to handle cases well, write well researched and educative articles on this important issue that concerns the nation.

We therefore suggest that the media should be more pro-active by ensuring that they pass information as well as educate the public. They can do this by setting a section or a column on such important news with the aim of reducing them. In this case with or without receiving fresh cases, they will still be able to educate the public consistently.

Media houses need to strengthen reporting in courts and their relationship with police. Other than giving basic details on judgments in courts, we suggest that a feature stories or special reports on defilement of minor can be written to give more information. In finding, we suggest that, Police being a part of law-enforcement system, can help the media personnel by give essential information on the situation, and can boost media reports. If the media plays its role in the society well, then the public will be empowered to debate, advocate and agitate for appropriate laws and other ways forward in regards to curbing if not eliminating altogether the defilement of minor in the society.

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