

## **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND THE PREVENTIVE ROLE OF PARENTS: THE CASE OF KINONDONI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study aimed at assessing the preventive role of parents in child sexual abuse in Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania. The factors studied were knowledge and awareness, protective measures used by parents to protect their children from sexual abuse and the effects of work related activities on parenting. The study employed a case study design with questionnaire. Focus group discussion and documentation review as the main data collection methods. This study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches and 105 parents were interviewed. The major finding of the study revealed that, about 99% of the respondents had knowledge about child sexual abuse. However, the majority of those who admitted to having knowledge about child sexual abuse, about 81.6% of them mentioned rape as the major type, and only 18.4% respondents were able to mention the other types of child sexual abuse such as watching sexual acts, showing pornography to children, sexual touching, encouraging children to take part in a sexual acts and distribution child abuse images. Protective measures used by parents were as follows, telling children to avoid risky environments (38.4%), controlled access to sexual content in the media such as television (29.4%), and speaking to children about sex and sexuality (17.6%). When assessing the adequacy of time for proper child upbringing it was found out that, the majority of the parents with higher level of education believed that the time they got to spend with their children was not adequate for proper parenting and assurance of the child's safety. On the contrary, the unemployed parents and the stay home parents believed that the time was adequate for provision of safe and a protective environment for their children from being sexually abused. There is need to get male parents to get more involved in parenting. The study further recommends that, parents take a leading role preventing child sexual abuse.