



Factors influencing persistence of violence against children in Mjini Magharibi “B” District, Zanzibar, Tanzania

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the socio-economic factors influencing child violence at Mwanakwerekwe Shehia in Zanzibar. The study was guided by social learning theory and the social ecological model. A cross-sectional research design was utilized to gather data from 90 household heads (respondents) via interviews, focus group discussions, and documentary reviews. Respondents were selected randomly using simple random sampling from a population of 1,226, including all parents or guardians in Mwanakwerekwe Shehia. In addition, key informants such as community leaders were selected by purposive sampling. Descriptive statistical methods were used to analyze the demographic characteristics of respondents, and inferential analysis (multiple linear regression) was employed to examine socio-economic factors that influence the persistence of violence against children. The study observed that the socio-economic factors influencing violence against children (VAC) were household income ($p = 0.007$), child disability ($p = 0.003$), marital status of parents ($p = 0.002$), parental emotional bond level ($p = 0.000$), exposure to violent environments ($p = 0.001$), and uncontrolled media use ($p = 0.042$). These findings indicate that there is a statistically significant relationship between all the mentioned variables and violence against children in Zanzibar. To reduce child violence, the study recommends that the government should strengthen social support systems to provide support to families for their necessary needs. In addition, local government authorities should enhance awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the rights of children and the harmful effects of violence. Moreover, the government should strengthen law enforcement mechanisms to protect child rights and establish a clear mechanism for reporting and addressing violence.

Keywords: Child, Child Protection, Mjini Magharibi “B” District, Violence Against Children, Tanzania, Zanzibar

I. INTRODUCTION

Violence against Children (VAC) is a serious public health issue worldwide. It encompasses all forms of violence against people under 18 years, and perpetrators can be peers, caregivers, romantic partners, strangers and even parents. It includes sexual, physical, psychological, neglect, commercial or other exploitation. It occurs in all countries at all levels of development and affects children of all ages (World Health Organisation [WHO] & United Nations Children Fund [UNICEF], 2020).

It is estimated that globally, around one billion children aged between two and 17 suffered from physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in 2019. In 2015, 54% of children within the same age group encountered violence, with the highest prevalence rates in Africa, Asia, and North America, where at least 50% of children experienced violence in the past year (Hillis et al., 2016; WHO, 2020). Factors such as substance abuse, poor emotional connections, low educational attainment, ineffective parenting, family instability and separation, overpopulation, weak social cohesion, insufficient social protections, enforcement of discriminatory laws and policies, along with societal norms that accept violent behaviour, contribute to violence against children (Hillis et al., 2016).

Violence against children is more pronounced in less developed nations that have limited financial resources for strengthening child protection systems, inadequate infrastructure to ensure equal access to all children; increased instability from armed conflicts, natural disasters, political unrest as well as availability of infectious and chronic diseases that limit the ability of children to defend themselves (Schleussner et al., 2016; Crea et al., 2018; Kushitor & Boatemaa, 2018).

Exposure to violence in early childhood can greatly affect brain development and impair learning capabilities. It frequently results in a range of behavioural and emotional challenges. Children who experience violence are more prone to face legal issues and involve themselves in risky behaviours during adolescence and adulthood, including



substance abuse and unsafe sexual practices. Furthermore, individuals who witnessed or experienced abuse are at an increased risk of becoming either victims or perpetrators as they mature (United Republic of Tanzania [URT], 2024).

In Africa, based on a global prevalence study on violence conducted across 24 African countries, it was found that 50% of adolescents aged 15–17 experienced physical, sexual, or emotional abuse (Hillis et al., 2016). Additionally, UNICEF (2017) indicated that in 2016, half of the children aged 2-17 were subjected to one or more types of violence. Notably, a much higher percentage of younger children aged 2-14 faced any form of violence at 87%, compared to 51% of adolescents aged 15-17 (UNICEF, 2017).

In East Africa, the rate of violence against children (VAC) is notably higher in Kenya compared to Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania (Okova et al., 2025). The report indicates that nearly half of the females and more than half of the males reported experiencing violence in 2018, with physical violence being the most common type of childhood violence, impacting almost two out of five females and about half of the males. In Uganda, 40% of girls and 60% of boys aged 13 to 17 encountered violence in 2014, with a greater prevalence among boys than girls.

In Tanzania, based on the VAC study, 28% of girls and 13% of boys experienced sexual violence, predominantly occurring within their homes. 73% of girls and 72% of boys faced physical violence primarily in the forms of being punched, whipped, or kicked, with the majority (60%) being targeted by a relative. One-quarter of children, regardless of sex, were subjected to various types of emotional abuse. Additionally, three out of four children aged 2 to 14 faced some form of abuse, with psychological abuse being more prevalent than physical abuse. Three-quarters of children experienced psychological violence while about half were subjected to physical punishment (URT, 2024). Also, between January and June of 2018, there were 6,376 reported incidents of child violence, which is an increase of 1,648 compared to the same period in 2017, with 91% of the reported cases being sexual violence and 9% classified as physical and psychological violence. Most of the incidents were domestic in nature, linked to inadequate care and parental guidance, a lack of knowledge regarding parenting and child care among parents and guardians, household poverty, beliefs in witchcraft, limited awareness of child rights and family breakdown (Ngaiza & Omari 2021).

In Zanzibar, more than 6% of girls (over 1 in 20 girls) and 9% of boys (at least 1 in 10 boys) surveyed stated that they had experienced at least one incident of sexual violence before turning 18. The most common forms of childhood sexual violence that were reported included attempted unwanted sexual intercourse, unwanted sexual touching, and coerced unwanted sex. According to reports, the most common places where sexual violence occurred for both boys and girls were in someone's home, at school or while commuting to and from school. A thorough understanding of factors influencing violence against children specifically at Mwanakwerekwe in Mjini Magharibi B District, Zanzibar is essential to inform policy makers, planners and all other stakeholders engaged in child protection to curb VAC in the country.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

Violence is a reality that many children in Zanzibar face. This violence often comes from parents, caregivers, teachers, strangers, and other adults in nurturing or authoritative roles who engage in aggressive behaviours. Such violent actions not only put children in danger but also violate their rights (UNICEF, 2017). To address this problem (VAC), the revolutionary government of Zanzibar has implemented policies such as the National Strategy for Growth and the Reduction of Poverty (MKUZA II), the National Plan of Action to End Violence against Women and Children (2017–2022), Children's Act (No.6) of 2011, place the prevention of and response to violence against children at the core of the National development agenda. Despite these efforts, incidents of violence against children continue to be a significant concern with enduring consequences for the children. In 2020, the Gender Desk Office reported a total of 1,146 cases of violence, with 84.1% being cases of sexual violence against children. Out of these cases, 899 (78.4%) involved girls, while 247 (21.6%) involved boys (Babune & Salum, 2024).

While various studies have been conducted in Zanzibar such as those examining the effectiveness of laws, strategies and national efforts to combat violence against children (Ahmed, 2016; Kheri, 2017; Marzuk, 2017), the role of health professionals in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse (Babune & Salum, 2024), and the knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding child abuse as well as studies on the economic factors influencing sexual violence against children in school settings (Msambila & Abdallah, 2021), still little is known on socio-economic factors influencing violence against children specifically at Mwanakwerekwe Shehia in Mjini Magharibi B District, Zanzibar.

1.2 Research Objectives

The study specifically examined the socio-economic factors influencing persistence of violence against children (VAC) at Mwanakwerekwe Shehia in Magharibi B District, Zanzibar.



II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Review

A theoretical framework for the study of child violence is Social Learning Theory and Social ecological model.

2.1.1 Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory was established by Albert Bandura in 1977. The theory integrates cognitive and behavioural approaches, emphasizing that people learn through observation, imitation, and modelling of others' behaviours in a social context (Bandura, 1977). Based on social learning theory, violent behaviours can be learned. Parents, caregivers or relatives do so because they encountered or witnessed violence at a young age.

2.1.2 Social-Ecological Model

The ecological systems theory was initially proposed by Urie Bronfenbrenner during the 1970s (Bronfenbrenner, 1977). This model is extensively used in public health to understand unsafe or unhealthy behaviours in humans and to change those behaviours by introducing targeted interventions or programs at various levels, including individual, interpersonal, community, and societal. The model posits that the factors contributing to violence are complex, interconnected and exist across multiple contextual levels such as individual, family, community and societal levels. At the individual level, personal and biological characteristics that heighten the risk of violence include younger age, lack of education, low socio-economic status and a history of abuse during childhood. Dynamics among family and peers that influence gender roles are associated with family levels, whereas the community level pertains to the environment in which social relationships occur. The societal level encompasses economic, health, educational and social policies that influence violence against children.

2.2 Empirical Review

2.2.1. Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Persistence against Children

A qualitative study, involving 49 participants conducted in Chakwama, Lusaka, Zambia by Chitundu et al. (2020) by using nine Focus Group Discussions (FDGs) found that parental negligence, heavy alcoholic intake by parents/guardians, parents' lack of control and having prostitute parents were the contributors of child sexual abuse among boys and girls.

Matto et al. (2025) conducted a study on an exploration of the drivers of child sexual abuse in Arusha and Arumeru districts, Tanzania. The study found that globalization and lifestyles, family poverty, excessive alcoholism, and drug abuse were found to contribute to CSA. The study further revealed that family conflict and separation, myths and traditional beliefs and practices were responsible for child sexual violence.

Mbunda and Nyaki (2024) in their study on "Community responses to child sexual abuse practices conducted in Kinondoni Municipality, Tanzania", found that belief in witchcraft is one of the factors for the increase of child sexual violence. Thus, some people abuse their own children or children of their relatives or neighbours for the sake of getting wealth and perceived high social status. A study conducted by UNICEF (2017) on "the drivers of violence against children and positive change in Tanzania," found that, socio-cultural beliefs and practices, child marriage, gender inequality and discrimination, witchcraft and superstition, traditional customs and ceremonies, transactional sex, alcoholism, globalization and decline of public morality, extreme poverty and ineffective responses to sexual violence were the drivers of violence against children.

Msambila and Abdallah (2021) conducted research on "economic factors influencing sexual violence against children in primary schools in the Urban District of Zanzibar, Tanzania." The study gathered information from the sample population through interviews using a semi-structured checklist guide. The findings revealed that poverty and a lack of essential resources for children were the economic factors contributing to the issues faced by primary school children. Children from impoverished families often struggle to meet their basic needs in a timely manner, creating opportunities for perpetrators of sexual violence to exploit these vulnerabilities. Moreover, poverty and economic pressures can heighten family conflicts and increase the risk of violence against children. Families experiencing financial difficulties may have limited access to resources and support networks, which can make them more susceptible to using violence as a method of exerting control (Tagwireyi & Fluks, 2023). Additionally, Maguire-Jack and Font (2017) indicate that both an individual's poverty level and the poverty of their surrounding neighbourhood are significant factors in child abuse.

A study by Ezekiel et al. (2017) investigating factors associated with child sexual abuse in Tanzania revealed factors for child abuse including poverty, ambitions and moral decline, prevalent myths and beliefs, urbanization, influence of foreign cultures, and inadequate parental supervision. Reports indicated that instances of sexual violence took place in the homes of perpetrators, as well as in unfinished buildings, religious schools, and entertainment venues where children could watch movies freely. Those responsible for these crimes were individuals in authoritative positions,



as well as those who had close relationships with and were trusted by the victims. Settings where child sexual abuse occurs often involve overcrowded living conditions and social gatherings that extend late into the night. Family structures and dynamics, including parenting styles and intergenerational transmission of violence, can influence the prevalence of violence against children. Research indicates that children from families with authoritarian or abusive parenting styles were more likely to experience violence (Mwakisiki, 2025).

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Study area

This study was conducted at Mwanakwerekwe Shehia which is found in Magharibi 'B' district in the Urban West Region in Unguja Island. According to Tanzania population census 2022, Mwanakwerekwe shehia had a total population of 19,729, whereby there were 9,529 males and 10,200 females, with a sex ratio of 93 and 1226 households.

Therefore, Magharibi "B" district with all 34 Shehia has a total population of 344,517, sex ratio of 90, with 71,015 households, and 4.9 average household size. This area has been selected because it is among the districts which have high number of cases of violence against children (Hamdan, 2022).

3.2 Research Design

This study employed a cross-sectional design to assess factors influencing persistence of violence against children in Mjini magharibi "B" district, Zanzibar, Tanzania. This design was chosen by researchers because of its ability to facilitate data collection at a single point in time, making it both efficient and cost-effective.

3.3. Sampling and Sample Size

Both probability and non-probability sampling were used. Simple random sampling was used to select respondents particularly heads of households. Purposive sampling technique was used to select key informants such as Shehia leaders including Community development officer. The study employed a sample size of 90 respondents which involved heads of households.

3.4 Data Collection and Analysis

Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected from both primary and secondary sources through semi structured interview, documentary review and focus group discussion. Primary data were collected direct to community members who were residing at Mwanakwerekwe Shehia. Additional data were obtained from key informants such as community development officer and police officer. Secondary data were obtained through reviewing relevant documents including books, journals, research reports both published and unpublished related to violence against children.

In data analysis, both descriptive and inferential statistical analysis were used. The descriptive analysis, were used to provide general summary and features of the data such as frequencies, mean and standard deviation of demographic characteristics of respondents. Multiple Linear regression was used to analyse the social-economic factors influencing persistence of violence against children in Mwanakwerekwe Shehia. Linear regression was used to examine Multiple factors associated with violence against children.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n X_n \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation i}$$

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \beta_7 X_7 + \beta_8 X_8 + \epsilon \dots \dots \dots \text{Equation ii}$$

Where:

Y = Violence against Children (Dependent variable)

X₁ to X₇ = Independent variables

β₀ = Intercept (constant)

β₁ = Beta coefficients (measuring the influence of each independent variable)

ε = Error term (random disturbances)

Table 1*Description and Measurement of Variables*

Variable	Name	Description	Measurement Scale	Expected Effect
Dependent Variables (Y)				
Y	VIOLENCE	Violence against Children	Frequency and severity of violence experienced by children)	+ / -
Independent Variables (X)				
X ₁	INCOME	Level of Income	Amount in Tanzanian Shillings	+ / -
X ₂	PEER	Peer pressure	Dummy 1 =peer influence 0 =otherwise	+ / -
X ₃	DISABILITY	Disability/ or chronic illness	Dummy 1= Disability 2= Otherwise	+ / -
X ₄	MARITAL	Marital status	1 =Married 0 =Otherwise	+/-
X ₅	PARENTAL	Parent bond level	Dummy variable 1 =close supervision, 0 = not (Otherwise)	+ / -
X ₆	BREAKDOWN	Family break down	Dummy variable 1=family breakdown 2 =Otherwise	+/-
X ₇	ENVIRONMENT	Exposure to Violence	Dummy variable 1=Exposed to danger environment , 2=otherwise	+/-
X ₈	MEDIA USE	Un limited media use	Dummy 1=Unlimited 0=Otherwise	

IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings

4.1.1 Gender of the Respondents

Out of the total respondents, majority (63%) of the respondents were female. This implies that many females are aware of child violence, which may be due to their major responsibility of taking care of children compared to males. The same results were obtained by a report by Gewirtz and Finkelhor (2020) on child sexual abuse and assault, that mothers are more sensitive to matters related to sexual abuse than fathers.

4.1.2 Marital Status of the Respondents

The results from Table 2 show that majority (52.2%) of the respondents were married. These findings indicate that married people are most responsible in taking care of children and are also easy to identify violence against them. This result is similar to study conducted by Doyle et al. (2012) on the sexual behaviour of adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa, the study reported that married people are emotionally affected much by matters related to any abuse against children.

4.1.3 Age of Respondents

The results in Table 2, indicate that, majority (57%) of the respondents were 40 years and above. This indicates that the aged people have much experience and highly responsible in taking care of children rather than young ages. This result aligns with study conducted by Gershoff et al. (2018) on the strength of the causal evidence against physical punishment of children and its implications for parents, which revealed that parents have much experience on taking care of their children compared to people who do not have children.

4.1.4 Education Status of the Respondents

The results Table 2 show majority (42%) of respondents had secondary education and above. This result reveals that most of respondents who were aware of child violence were educated. This result is consistent with the study done by Gewirtz and Finkelhor (2020) which reported that educated people were much aware of child rights.

**Table 2***Demographic Characteristics of the Sample Respondents*

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	56	63
Female	34	37
Total	90	100.0
Marital status		
Single	28	31.1
Married	47	52.2
Widow/ widower	8	8.9
Divorce	7	7.8
Total	90	100.0
Age		
Below 18 years	7	8
18- 28 years	10	11
29- 39 years	22	24
40 and above	51	57
Total	90	100.0
Education level		
No formal education	08	09
Primary education	12	13
Secondary education	32	36
Tertiary education	38	42
Total	90	100.0

4.2 Descriptive Analysis for Socio - Economic Factors that Influence Persistence of Violence against Children

The descriptive results indicate that the means percentage of 72, this implies that most of respondents reported these factors are mostly significant for persistence of child violence in Zanzibar. The standard deviation of 19, implies that, there is moderate variability. Therefore, all factors contribute to child violence however; they differ on level of contribution. Example household income, child disability, marital status of parent or guardian, exposure to violence, family breakdown and uncontrolled media use have been reported as significant factors while parental emotion bond level, and peer pressure are seen as moderate factors since they do not contribute much to persistence of child violence.

The following are the multiple responses results from Table 3 and figure 1, indicating the factors that contribute to persistence of child violence in Zanzibar.

4.2.1 Household Income

The results from multiple responses from Table 3, indicate that the issue of income was mentioned several times by many respondents (72%) that, lower income families can contribute a child to being exposed to violence example a girl was associated with sexual violence. Low-income conditions often weaken parental supervision as caregivers engage in multiple informal jobs, leaving children unsupervised and vulnerable to abuse. This result is supported by Msambila and Abdallah (2021) that economic stress within impoverished households reduces tension of taking care children.

4.2.2 Child disability

The result from Table 3 indicates that majority (86%) of respondents reported that, child's disability can be a risk factor for child abuse, as these children are at a significantly higher risk of maltreatment than their peers without disabilities. This result is similar to Stalker and McArthur (2012) that when children have problems with, communication, vision, hearing or physical functioning, they face difficulties of protecting themselves against any form of abuse.

4.2.3 Marital Status of Parents

The result from Table 3, indicates that marital status was a major significant factor. It was highlighted by the majority (82%) of the respondents. This implies that marital aggression among married couples puts children's physical safety at risk. Also, single-parent families or divorce increases the likelihood of child abuse. Moreover, the absence of one parent often leads to increased economic and psychological strain on the caregiver, which can indirectly affect parenting quality and children's overall well-being. This result is consistent with a study conducted by Lamela and Figueiredo (2017), on the comparison study between married parents and divorced parents. The result revealed that children reared by divorced parents had a higher likelihood of experiencing physical abuse.

4.2.4 Parental Emotion Bond Level

The result from Table 3 indicates that, parental emotional bond has a moderate influence to the persistence of child violence, this was mentioned by 53% of the respondents. Generally, parental emotional bond level can be a significant source of children's vulnerability to violence when the relationship between parents and children is weak, inconsistent, or emotionally distant. A low level of parental emotional bonding often results in feelings of neglect, insecurity and lack of attachment, which can make children more susceptible to both physical and emotional abuse. When parents fail to express affection, empathy, or consistent care, children may seek emotional connection elsewhere, sometimes exposing them to exploitative or violent relationships outside the home. This result aligns with Whitcombe-Dobbs (2020) who observed that if parents are not well bonded in parenting their children, the possibility of their children to be abused is high.

4.2.5 Exposure to Violence environment

The result from Table 3, indicates that, when children live in an environment exposed to violence, the probability of being abused is high. The result from Table 3 indicates 91% of the respondents reported that children exposed to violence, crime, or abuse in their homes, schools, and communities are more likely to be violated. Also, they are more likely to become perpetrators of violence when they become adults. A similar result was reported by Chitundu et al. (2020) on Community Attitudes towards Child Sexual Abuse in Zambia.

4.2.6: Family breakdown

The result from Table 3, indicates that family breakdown is also a major factor for the persistence of children's violence. 71% of the respondents highlighted it as a major factor. This implies that family breakdown can expose children to violence when children are witnessing or experiencing abuse between their parents. In addition, when children are put in the middle of their parents' conflicts. The instability and stress associated with family breakdown can increase aggressive behaviours in children and make them more vulnerable to future violence (Mooney et al., 2009).

4.2.7 Uncontrolled media use

The result from Table 3, indicates that uncontrolled media use, can expose children to violence, that children may be watching action videos, and think this is real. When children are not limited or supervised in their use of media, they are more likely to be exposed to violent content, which can contribute to increased risks of child violence and behavioural aggression. Unrestricted media exposure including social media, television, online games, and streaming platforms can expose children to violence. Continuous exposure to such content can desensitize them to violence or even normalize aggressive behaviours. This result was similarly reported by Browne and Hamilton (2005), that children learn bad habits from free media. Therefore, the probability of acquiring and practicing or being influenced to practice is high.

Table 3

Multiple Responses: Socio- Economic Factors that Influence Persistence of Violence against Children

Factor	Responses (N)	Percentages (%)	Mean	Standard Deviation
Household Income	80	72	72	19
Child Disability	95	86	72	19
Marital Status of Parents	90	82	72	19
Parental Emotion Bond Level	58	53	72	19
Exposure to Violence	100	91	72	19
Peer Pressure	32	34	72	19
Family Breakdown	75	71	72	19
Uncontrolled Media Use	98	89	72	19

4.3 Regression Analysis of Socio-Economic Factors Influencing the Persistence of Violence against Children

4.3.1 Household Income

The results from Table 4 show that household income has a p-value of 0.007, indicating that, it is a significant factor for persistence of violence against children, meaning that differences in income levels are associated with the occurrence of child violence. The study found that lower-income families have a significantly greater risk of child abuse. This result is similar to the study conducted by Font and Maguire-Jack (2020) which reported that, the income level can be a push factor to child abuse.

One of focus group discussion member reported.....

"Most of children specifically girls are being abused due to family income, most of them are going to street to find money for food and other needs" July, 2025



4.3.2 Child Disability

The result from Table 4 indicates that, child disability level has a p-value of 0.003, showing it is a significant factor, meaning that the disability can limit children to protect themselves from abuse. This may verify that children with disability are at increased risk of experiencing abuse. Physical functioning of the body will influence their vulnerability. This result aligns with Norman et al. (2012), who revealed the long-term health consequences of child physical abuse and emotional abuse. Similarly, Fang et al. (2022) revealed that children with disability, as a group, have a nearly four times higher risk of experiencing violence than their non-disabled peers.

One of Community development officer reported

"Children with disabilities that hinder their ability to walk or run are at increased risk of becoming victims of child violence "August, 2025

4.3.3 Marital Status of Parents

The results from Table 4, indicate that, marital status has a p-value of 0.002, indicating high significance, meaning that single parent specifically single mothers, their children have got high risk of violence from their step fathers. This result is similar to study conducted by Schneider (2017) who revealed that Black mothers' transitions to being single are associated with the risk for child abuse. One of Shehia leaders reported:

"We are concerned because whenever mothers are raising children alone and later get married again, the probability of children to experience violence from new fathers is high. August, 2025

4.3.4 Parental Emotion Bond Level

The report from Table 4, indicates that, child supervision has a p-value of 0.000, indicating a significant factor to child violence. This implies that when parents maintain strong emotion bonds, close supervision and consistent communication with their children, the chances of child abuse are reduced. This result is consistent with a study conducted by Sousa et al. (2011) which revealed that, strong and positive emotional bond between a parent and child is associated with a lower incidence of child abuse, as it improves parent-child communication, leading to positive interactions and enhancing a safer environment for the child.

One of focus group member reported:

"We have been observing that, when parents are close to their children, children get room to talk more openly and share their problems. This situation reduces chances of abuse because if there is any indicator of violence, children feel free to share to their parents" August, 2025

4.3.5 Exposure to Violence

The result from table 4 indicates that, exposure to violence has p value of 0.001, showing that, it is a significant factor. This implies that children who are residing in overcrowded household and high crime rates are more exposed to physical and emotional abuse. A similar result was reported by Cohen et al. (2009) in their study on Understanding Children's Exposure to Violence. One of Key informant (Community Development Officer reported ...

"Children who grow up witnessing violence are at higher risk of being abused and becoming perpetrators of violence because such environments are dangerous to their life" July 2025

4.3.6 Peer Pressure and Family Breakdown

The results from Table 4 indicate that, peer pressure and family breakdown are both have p-values greater than 0.05, showing that these factors have a statistically significant influence to child violence. Children may still be exposed to violence due to peer influence, either through direct advice or by observing violence among their friends, which aligns with social learning theory that emphasizes the role of modelling in shaping behaviour (Bandura & Walter, 1977). Similarly, when family breakdown does not show a strong statistical effect, it can still contribute indirectly to child vulnerability, particularly when separated or divorced parents fail to provide adequate care, supervision, and emotional support.

4.3.7 Uncontrolled Media Use

The result from Table 4 indicates that uncontrolled media use to children has a p-value of 0.04. Therefore, uncontrolled media use is statistically significant. This implies that when children have unlimited use of different programs in media through Information and communication technology (ICT) tools such as television, mobile phones and tablets. In addition, children can watch movies and be attracted to bad behaviours. Repeated exposure to such material can normalize bad behaviours, since they cannot distinguish between real-life consequences and action movies. This result is similar to a study conducted by Finkelhor et al. (2024), on the prevalence of child sexual abuse due to online media. Also, one respondent reported:

“ Nowadays children are highly exposed to various forms of media, through which they learn different behaviours for instance some television programs (movies) show scene of children being subjected to sexual violence for financial gain, then they can also be attracted to get money in such ways” August, 2025

Table 4

Regression Analysis of Socio-Economic Factors Influencing the Persistence of Violence against Children

Model					
Model	R Square	Adjusted R square			
1	0.7712	0.75656			
Regression Coefficients					
Model	Unstandardized coefficients	Standardized coefficients		t	P -value
	B	Std. error			
Constant)	-340.90	221.18			.000
Household income	3.783	4.34		2.759	.007
Peer pressure	98.07	15.22		1.907	.058
Disability	6.21	4.33		3.121	.003
Marital Status	7.346	5.44		3.573	.002
Parent emotion Bond level	0.352	0.273		3.170	.000
Family breakdown	0.114	0.015		1.873	.063
Exposure to violence environment	0.672	0.198		3.392	.001
Un controlled Media use	0.8123	2.012		2.06	0.042

4.2.8 Fitness of the Model

Table 4 further indicates that, the model is better because R square is closer to 1.0 also when R² is high Adjusted R decreases. According to Gujarati and Porter (2009), a higher R² value signifies that the model explains more of the dependent variable's variation, indicating a better fit. Although the Adjusted R² slightly decreases as R² increases, it remains relatively high, confirming the model's robustness and explanatory power (Wooldridge, 2016). The results from Table 3 indicates that, most independent variables included in the model were good predictors of child violence such as the household income, child disability, parental emotion bond level, family breakdown and child exposure to violence because all of them were significant at P< 0.05) except two variables which are peer pressure and family breakdown.

V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The study concludes that, the major factors influencing persistence of violence against children (VAC) at Mwanakwerekwe Shehia in Mjini Magharibi “B” district in Zanzibar are low household income, child disability, marital status of parents, parental emotional bond level, children's exposure to environment of violence and unlimited media use.

5.2 Recommendations

The study recommends that the government should strengthen social support systems to provide support for families for their necessary needs. In addition, local government authorities should enhance awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the rights of children and the harmful effects of violence. Moreover, the government should strengthen the law enforcement on protecting children's rights and ensure that a clear mechanism for reporting and addressing violence is established. Furthermore, Parents should make sure that they keep enough time, balance between their work and family so as to raise their children in good behaviours. Lastly, parental control over media should be improved in order to prevent children from imitating bad actions.

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