The Impact Of Domestic Violence & Abuse
On Children & Adolescents

By Kudakwashe Nyakudya
Founding Director
Kahrmel Wellness
Qualified Psychiatric Nurse
Specialist in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry & Nutrition
MSc Child Psychology
Twitter: @KudaNyakudya / @KahrmelWellness

www.kahrmelwellness.com
Overview

My Story

My children’s experiences

What is Domestic Violence & Abuse?

Post-separation Domestic Violence & Abuse

The Impact Of DVA On Children & Adolescents

The Solution For Children

Kingdom Influence
What is Domestic Violence & Abuse?

Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA) is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse\(^1,2\).

It can include, but is not limited to, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, verbal, & financial abuse, that is used by one person (the perpetrator) to control & dominate another (the victim) with whom they have or have had a marital or family relationship\(^1,2\).

Though women are the main victims, the number of men affected has been increasing; the number of victims in teenage relationships, has also increased\(^1\).
### Type 1 DVA
- Perpetrated by intimate partners / one person
  - Physical
  - Sexual
  - Emotional
  - Psychological
  - Financial & economic

### Type 2 DVA
- Perpetrated by family members / a group of people
  - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
  - Forced Marriage (FM)
  - Early Child Marriages (ECM)
  - Honour Based Violence (HBV)
The Perpetrators

Perpetrators are the key agents of DVA, & are entirely accountable for all their behaviours.

There is no specific profile that can describe them, as they come from every calibre, level & group of society.

Though they appear to be “charming & respectable role models” to the society, they are a menace to their families.

Therefore, it is crucial for disclosures by victims to be taken seriously, & handled sensitively.

Principles for default marital counselling are not to be used in any situation involving DVA.
Post-separation Domestic Violence & Abuse?

Most life-threatening & dangerous phase for victims but highly misunderstood across board

Perpetrators’ relentlessly pursue their victims after separation through threats of & actual physical & non-physical violence abuse, as well as through legal proceedings\textsuperscript{3, 4, 5, 6}

Perpetrators will present themselves as “devoted dads” to professionals, the courts, society, & faith communities, yet committing PSDVA to their victims at the same time; reports of victims usually undermined & disregarded\textsuperscript{3, 5}

50% of DVA murders occur at the point victims are trying to flee\textsuperscript{4, 5}; more than 50% of those with child Contact have serious ongoing problems
Post-separation Domestic Violence & Abuse

Continuing to use their power & control perpetrators seek for:

1. Points of access to adult & child victims
2. Points of conflict with adult & child victims

They will use anyone, especially unwitting faith leaders, professionals, those in court proceedings

& will continually mask who they are, as they groom their targets
DVA has a DEVASTATING impact on PHYSICAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, MATERNAL HEALTH, CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS.
The Impact On MATERNAL HEALTH

DVA is a chief cause of miscarriages, still births, low birth weights, sexually transmitted infections, & other medical & mental health problems associated to pregnancy\textsuperscript{4, 15, 16}

DVA also a major factor leading to death in or related to pregnancy & child birth\textsuperscript{4, 16}

At least 30% of DVA cases start in pregnancy\textsuperscript{4, 15, 16}

Existing DVA may also get worse during pregnancy or after giving birth\textsuperscript{4, 16}
The Impact On
MATERNAL HEALTH

Antenatal DVA is related to high levels of both maternal antenatal & postnatal depression. It is also related to postnatal DVA, & both are associated with future behavioural & developmental problems in children under 5\(^1\)!\(^6\)

In this context of reproductive health is the existence of female genital mutilation (FGM)!\(^1\)\(^7\)

The physiological harm & suffering through FGM, has been found inter-related to DVA, with physical, emotional, & sexual abuse as subtypes of FGM!\(^1\)\(^7\)
The Impact On CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

DVA towards a mother is often connected to the DVA towards her children & impact on children begins in pregnancy\textsuperscript{3, 6, 18, 19}

An environment where a woman is abused is the most common context for a child to be abused, & a crucial indicator of risk\textsuperscript{21, 22}

Children do not only experience short lasting impact, but serious long-term multi-dimensional social, spiritual, health & developmental damage, with some turning into perpetrators or victims in their own adult hood\textsuperscript{3, 6, 19, 20}
The Impact On

CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS

Child victims exhibit aggressive behaviour, temper tantrums, sleep disturbance, anxiety & despondency\textsuperscript{3, 18}

In some cases, the onset of young children’s health problems, such as asthma, allergies & mental illnesses are reported to be associated with exposure to DVA in childhood, compromising their emotional & psychological development\textsuperscript{3, 18}

Where there is post separation contact, children endure PSDVA resulting in tragedies like murder, abductions, sexual abuse, physical assaults, neglect & emotional & psychological harm\textsuperscript{3, 4, 5, 7, 20}
The Impact On
CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS STATISTICS

Children are more likely to display abusive behaviour after their exposure to DVA has ended

About 50,500 children reported to NSPCC monthly to be living in a home with known DVA, but only 50-54% known to Social Services. In 91% of cases, both the mother and her children are victims, & 93.8% of perpetrators are male (64% father; 25% mother’s partner).
The Impact On
CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS STATISTICS

62% of children exposed to DVA are directly harmed; 46% of them severely harmed

25%, both boys and girls, exhibited abusive behaviours, 62% towards their mothers & 52% towards their siblings - rarely towards their perpetrator

52% suffer behavioural problems, 39% - difficulties in school, & 60% felt responsible for DVA
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening\textsuperscript{26, 27}

Activities may involve \textbf{physical contact} like rape or oral sex, or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing\textsuperscript{26, 27}

Activities are also \textbf{non-contact} like involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to act in sexually inappropriate ways, & grooming a child in preparation for abuse\textsuperscript{26, 27}
SPIRITUAL ABUSE

Coercion and control of one individual by another in a spiritual context - the victim experiences spiritual abuse as a deeply emotional personal attack.

Includes:

- manipulation and exploitation
- enforced accountability
- Censorship of decision making
- requirements for secrecy & silence
- abuser claiming a ‘divine’ position
- pressure to conform
- misuse of religious texts
- imposed belief system
- requirement of outright obedience to the abuser
- isolation from others outside the abuse context
- misusing teachings to control victim’s behaviour
Safeguarding & promoting the welfare of child victims of domestic violence & abuse is primary.

Children need protection from existing / potential harm.

Ensuring children live in a safe environment with positive parenting enables them to thrive in their multi-dimensional growth & development.

The safety & empowerment of the non-abusive parent is the most effective method of safeguarding children.
Restoration of child victims must focus on full rebuilding of every area of their lives devastated by domestic violence & abuse.

Complete restoration will nurture growth & development, removing damages of domestic violence & abuse, while instating & preserving goodness.

Children need education on the vital precepts of life, as well as observe demonstrations of positive role models in their faith community.
THE SOLUTION FOR CHILDREN

prevention

Helping children achieve complete restoration is a preventative approach for protecting them from becoming future perpetrators / victims.

It reduces the impact of long term multi-faceted damage of domestic violence & abuse, & post separation domestic violence & abuse.

“Prevention is better than cure”.

Using restoration as a preventative method, proactively builds strong & vibrant future generations.
THE SOLUTION FOR CHILDREN

Children also need to be assured that they are not to blame for the perpetrator’s behaviours.

Perpetrators need to be held accountable for abusing child victims, & children must be assured that stern action has been taken against their perpetrators.

Legal proceedings, under civil/criminal law, involvement of agencies like social services & police, & introduction of contact with the abusive parent, can bring untoward problems for children.
KINGDOM INFLUENCE

Genesis 1:28

Focus on qualitative fruitfulness & multiplication – nurture your children to be the best seed they can be to their generation & to society.

GOD’S ORIGINAL IDEA was for man to be in God’s image (character) before exercising dominion

Parenting must be engineered to nurture children into the image (character) of God before they exercise dominion through their God ordained purpose

Many biblical heroes were under 20
KINGDOM INFLUENCE
Isaiah 60:1-3

Deep darkness covers the earth & that darkness is also found in our families.

We overcome darkness by increasing the quality of light.

The light & glory of God both rely on your righteousness, & are a result of your righteousness.
KINGDOM INFLUENCE

Matthew 13:33

There is a clash between the Kingdom of Heaven & the kingdom of darkness; & that clash manifests in our culture.

It began at the fall of Adam, & the legacy of the fall exists in our lives today.

The Kingdom of Heaven mindset on parenting counteracts the cultures & social ills caused by kingdom of darkness.

Taking the character of yeast, we can change our BIG society one family at a time – beginning with our own.
References

References


EXPERIENCE THE FULLNESS OF LIFE

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