

Women abuse and its effects on the family the case study of Mlowo ward in Mbozi district

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Women abuse, which is common in many communities in Tanzania, has adverse effects on the family. The practice of women abuses and its effects on the family has not been critically studied in Tanzania. The study investigated and examined the extent to which women abuse affected the family in Mlowo ward in Mbozi district, the research used the case study approach. The data was collected through documentary review, interviews, observation and focus group discussion. The findings indicated that women abuse included physical, psychological and social abuse. Physical abuses were punching with fists, beating with sticks, slapping, pushing, kicking and pinching. Psychological abuses involved scolding, threats of divorce and killing, preventing from visiting friends, insulting, and hatred. Social abuses involved some people hated and isolated abused women from talking with them. The underlying causes of women abuse included, cultural beliefs, practices and traditional customs governing control of family properties, in access of women to family decision making and gender division of labour between men and women. The immediate reasons that forced men to abuse women involved: women taking money and selling harvests secretly striving for economic independence, demand for equal sharing of family responsibilities and equal say in family decision making. The consequences of women abuse included negative effects on physical health, psychological and social effects. Moreover, the study found that women abuse had adverse effects on childcare and welfare in terms of depriving children's basic services and affection. It is recommended that, in order to effectively and efficiently eliminate women abuse in Mlowo ward and at the national level in general, there should be counseling services as primary measures of interventions for all stakeholders. Education of the community should focus on eradicating harmful cultural beliefs, practices and traditional customs that perpetuate abuses towards women and adversely affect children. At the same time support centres should be set up for temporary accommodation of the victims of abuse.