

# Negligence of children in the midst of family and sexual violence

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# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Background of Family & sexual violence in PNG
3. Relevant laws and policies on family and sexual violence in PNG
4. Negligence of children
5. Challenges
6. Conclusion

## Introduction & background on fsv in PNG

- In PNG, cases of gender violence are deeply rooted in structural relationships including marriage relationships, kinship ties, church groups, socioeconomic settings and others.
- These relationship structures include customary rights (Gibbs, 2016) that set out specific roles for men and women. For example, women are expected to focus on household chores while men are expected to build houses. Generally, men expect women to do household tasks despite other assignments they have.

## Introduction & background on fsv in PNG

- ✓ Gender inequality and exclusion as per the United Nation PNG Human Development Report (Banks, et al, 2014) can also be viewed through four dimensions: rural/urban divide, provincial and district variations, differences by gender and differences derived from wealth.
- ✓ These are important dimensions that must be considered as they provide a space where gender inequality can be explored within a context that suits the experiences of those living within these identified dimensions.

## Relevant laws and policies on family and sexual violence in PNG

- ✓ Child and family protection is one of the key development priorities of the country.
- ✓ PNG's national development plans include Vision 2050, Development Strategic Plan (2010 -2030) and Medium-Term Development Plan III, 2018.
- ✓ GoPNG also established specific policy and legal framework including the National Child Protection Policy (NCPC) and the Lukautim Pikinini Act 2015 (LPA) to address child protection issues in the country.

- However, despite the formulation of standards to address issues of child and family protection and
- Although PNG is a signatory to a number of the UN Conventions comprising the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), PNG's determination to address issues of child and family protection are persistent and continue to trail behind other countries in the Asia and Pacific Regions.

## Negligence of children in the midst of FSV

✓ Children neglected in two main ways;

1. Within the family

- Parents caught up in violence neglect children

2. Service centres lack special services for children

- FSV Police stations

- FSC

- Schools

- Hospitals

- Safe houses

# Challenges

- **Lack of support systems**
- Many women are supporting others while also dealing with their own experiences of violence, and the research revealed the critical role that neighbours, family members, other survivors, **schools**, and churches play in assisting those experiencing FSV.
- The gap between formal systems of support and the reality for **most low income families whose children tend to fall out of the education system** because of the immediate and longer-term impact of FSV.

## Conclusion and recommendations

GoPNG should;

- ✓ Work in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to implement laws and policies to provide effective and efficient services for children who are exposed to fsv:
  1. Establish preventative measures to protect children from fsv-e.g establish family centres to run workshops or trainings to parents on the development stages of a child from conception to young adult
  2. Provide school counselors in all schools in the country
  3. Provide community centres in all LLGs to provide training on childcare

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Tenkyu tru!