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**Untold Realities Regarding the Alarming of Raping Cases at Zanzibar. A case of Urban
West Zanzibar**

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Untold Realities Regarding the Alarming of Raping Cases at Zanzibar. A case of Urban West Zanzibar

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Abstract

Purpose: The study was intended to evaluate the upsetting situation of raping cases in Zanzibar.

Methodology: It employed expressive design (N=283) with respondents completing fourteen items in questionnaires. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences was used to analyse data, where descriptive statistics and inferential statistics were used to scrutinize the data through mean scores and standard deviations.

Findings: The study found that socio-economic factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, low economic resources, and the absence of job opportunities, trusting Whitcraft, little schoolteachers' accountabilities, and having sex with a child are the real causes of widespread raping cases at Urban West District-Unguja.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: The study recommended that the Zanzibar revolutionary government ensure that the Zanzibar economy benefits every member of society, giving them the chance to link with the economy. Also, the government needs to make sure accountability is maintained for everyone associated with community welfare. Last of all, actions are taken to make sure perfect religious faith materializes to members of the community.

Keywords: Rape Case, Whitcraft, Accountability, Religion, Faith, Sex

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INTRODUCTION

Rape is a form of sexual violence that is committed against a person without their consent. It involves forceful or persuaded penetration of the penis or other part of the body to the vulva or anus; however, the vagina is the commonest route, while the anus and mouth are also used (Ogunlana, Nwosu, Fafolahan, Ogunsola, Sodeke, Adegoke & Govender, 2024). Rape is a worldwide crisis and provides the scariest type of health suffering (Aidonojie, Antai, John, Ibeh & Adebayo, 2024). Rape is the fourth most common crime against women in the world. Up to 7 in 10 Women around the world experience physical or sexual violence, especially rape, at some point in their lifetime (Singh, 2021; Iyanda, 2021). It is a type of incident that infringes human rights and has long-lasting sociological and physical consequences for victims and families. It is widely considered a stressful, social, mental, and physical problem (Ugwuanyi, Njeze, & Ogbozor, 2021; Dawodu & Amadasun, 2021; Rahman, Ether, & Islam, 2021; Tasnim, Sujana, Hossain, Amin, Hasan, & Islam, 2021). Presently, there is a frightening increase in the number of rape cases reported in many parts of the world. United Nations statistics on incidences of rape collected from government sources indicated that more than 250,000 cases of rape or attempted rape were recorded by the police annually (Dawodu & Amadasun, 2021). In many areas, most of the females were the victims of rape cases, while females and children were the victims of this menacing crime (Ogunlana et al., 2024).

The rape patterns went together with age. Most of the rape incidents involve people between 13 and 30 years old (Ogunlana et al., 2024). It is believed that in sub-Saharan Africa, nearly one out of three girls is the victim of rape incidence. Patterns and forms of rape incidence differ from one area to another. Literature reported familiar rape, friendship rape, married rape, gang rape, statutory rape, and child rape (Friis-Rødel, Leth & Astrup, 2021). Statutory rape is more recorded than other kinds of rape (Taquette, Monteiro, Rodrigues & Ramos, 2021)

Rape has many consequences. Some include poverty, labelling of being raped, sexual abuse, and having experienced multiple sexual partners (Stewart, 2025). Rape incidents also might cause idleness, using prohibited drugs, being sober from alcohol use, psychological problems, and a history of intimate partner violence (Fennell, 2025). Males and females can be the victims of rape. However, it seems that females are the most vulnerable to this menace (Aidonojie et al, 2024).

In some cases, rape is associated with other criminal behaviour, such as physical violence and the intentional killing of a woman or girl by a man (Waheed, 2025). The literature suggests that killing frequently arises owing to intimate partner violence, which mostly begins with numerous models of abuse, threats, heavy-handed behaviours, and final physical attack that may lead to killing (Madhana & Yugapriya, 2025). The most reported pattern of killing are intimate killing that normally happens as an extreme consequence of intimate partner violence; nonintimate killing which is done by a someone who is not closely connected to the victim; honour related killing which is done as a way to hold family respect when a woman is taken to have acted improperly (Waheed, 2025).

In some situations, rape incidents are associated with the use of alcohol. Alcohol is taken as a stimulant factor that induces someone to be a victim or perpetrator of rape incidents. Because of abusive alcohol, victims' knowledge of sex activities becomes very limited. This situation makes the victim be seen as a source of rape incidents, and therefore, the community tends to blame the victim for the incident (Kerr, Kasimanickam, Bradford, Bae, & Parks, 2025). In addition, as a

source of incidence, it is undermining victim credibility and deterring rape reporting. On the other side, because of intoxication, the use of a condom is not considered something that results in unexpected pregnancy and transmissible disease such as HIV (Davis, Neilson & Stappenbeck, 2024).

In other circumstances, rape incidents are taking place in a friendly manner. This is the situation where two friends are in a dating relationship, but one forces sex without the consent of the other. This kind of rape is sometimes called date rape, where the victim and the perpetrator are or were in a romantic and warm relationship. Rape of this kind normally occurred in hotels, softly lit cafes, and the house of a common friend, which are somewhat alike. Agents like alcohol and drugs were mostly utilised in these cases (Tanoli, Rasheed, Bibi, Shafay, Iqbal & Samad, 2022). Shockingly, street children have undergone all types of sexual abuse, including rape, at a rate of nine times (Ally & Paul, 2022).

Any criminal act is expected to face criminal justice. In rape cases, age and gender are substantial factors in how the criminal justice system is experienced. Younger women and girls were excessively affected not only by sexual violence cases but were also more likely to meet the criminal justice system compared to men and older women. Men and older women, in most cases, were not meeting with the criminal justice system even though they reported rape incidents. If it happened, they were not necessarily more likely to achieve a conviction (Walker, Hester, McPhee, Patsios, Williams, Bates & Rumney, 2021).

As a European country, England has a rampant prevalence of rape cases. This menace extended not only to men and female groups, but they extended to other groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and transsexual. The British government had realized that some of the vulnerable victims of rape cases, such as those with poor mental health, are not getting criminal justice. Black people, minority ethnic groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and transsexual people are played down within the criminal justice system. It was unveiled that these groups are not looking for criminal justice as a return for being raped, as white ethnic groups do. In this way, the British government had taken some serious measures to make sure criminal justice materialized for those ethnic groups (Walker, Hester, McPhee, Patsios, Williams, Bates & Rumney, 2021).

The same happened in Denmark, where stranger rape is common than the other kind of rape. Unlike other types of rape, stranger rape was reported to the police more often. Police records commented that there are twice as many strange rape cases as other kinds of rape in Denmark. When the stranger rape is excised, threats and violence are more often materialized against raped women. In addition, the use of condoms is not much considered by rapist since force was much applied. (Friis-Rødel, Leth & Astrup, 2021).

In Asian countries, India, for example, has experienced an increase in attempted sexual assaults on women, especially as rape cases are intensified and frequently reported. It is believed that because of so many reasons, some other cases of rapes are not reported. Women's sexual harassment in India is rising alarmingly and endangers the safety of the community (Ali & Adnan, 2025). In 2018, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported one rape case every 15 minutes in India. Furthermore, according to the NCRB data, in a single day, more than 91 rape cases were reported in the country (JK Pillai, Rajeevi, Rajkumar, Joshua George & Greeshma, 2022).

Additionally, Bangladesh has encountered the same story of a terrifying increase in rape incidents throughout the last three years. Data from Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), which is a Bangladesh organization associated with legal aid and human rights, indicated that rape cases have increased by 122%. From this menace, the Bangladesh government announced the death penalty as the maximum punishment for rape cases as a serious step to halt this cruel crime (Tasnim, Sujan, Hossain, Amin, Hasan, & Islam, 2021). Conversely, this measure could not show any result in reducing the rape incidences. Ironically, rape cases increased, and many women feared reporting their cases because of social stigma (Rahman, Ether, & Islam, 2021).

In Africa, Nigeria, for example, the incidence and prevalence of rape cases are very alarming. The government had found ways and measures to eradicate this threat in Nigerian societies. The government had decided to launch public awareness in association with rape cases and their consequences. The awareness campaign had included social workers, schoolteachers, social clubs, cultural groups, gatherings, and churches and mosques. This campaign also included health workers and civil society organizations aimed to play down the occurrence of rape cases (Dawodu & Amadasun, 2021).

According to the Tanzania Police record, the Urban West Zanzibar region has many rape cases compared to the other areas in Tanzania. The record suggested that between 2022 and 2023, recorded rape cases were 564. This is the highest record compared to 525 recorded at Morogoro, 519 at Tanga, and 506 at Kinondoni (Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistic Report, 2023). The Urban West Zanzibar region has a small population compared to the areas named, which have relatively small, recorded rape cases. The reported cases of sexual rape in Urban West Zanzibar in recent years have raised an alarming situation for many scholars and other stakeholders in the Zanzibar government and outside the island. Their interest is also in how small areas with small populations have more rape cases than large areas with high populations. Ironically, the Zanzibar government made the rape case a national agenda, yet rape cases are increasing yearly. Thus, the informed causes and effects of rape in Zanzibar persist untouched despite the rising incidence of raping cases. The present study aims to analyse why rape cases are increasingly yearly. In other cases what are the untold causes of rape in the Zanzibar Island despite the small area and population.

Statement of the Problem

Local government leadership, such as ward executive officers, village chairman, religious leaders, and locale village leaders have a legal obligation to ensure that through crime prevention programs are introduced and employed at the local level in order to minimise crime such as rape and make their local area safer (Mussa, 2019). This is an obligation given to the Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act (Cap. 228 Section 100. R.E 2002) where each urban authority supposed to maintain peace, order and good governance within the area of jurisdiction authority.

Apart from the Urban Authorities obligation, Tanzania police force and Zanzibar Revolution Government are taking several measures to curb crime special rape. Beside Urban Authorities obligation and measures taken place by Tanzania police force and Zanzibar Revolution Government crime incidents special rape cases are increasing yearly (Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistic Report, 2023). Unexpectedly, the increasing of rape case in Zanzibar is not marching with other area compare to land area and population. Therefore, this study examines a study puzzle regarding the increase of rape case in this study area.

Significance of the Study

The study is significant to the general community, including members of the families, government officials, scholars, and religious leaders. The findings of the study will assist the family members to understand the magnitude of the rape cases and the actual causes of rape cases in the study area. This will help them to act against those causes and therefore reduce the prevalence of rape cases. For the government officials, the results of the study will help them to understand the size of the problem, the causes of the problem, and find ways to solve them. For religious leaders, the findings of the study will help them to the extent of faith their followers have. The findings will help religious leaders to realize the strength of their teaching and how they are accepted by their followers. As for the scholars, the findings help them to apprehend the range, causes, and solutions of rape cases. They also make use of findings as a reference for further studies related to this issue.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the factors contributing to alarming rates of rape cases in many countries. Tasnim, Sujana, Hossain, Amin, Hasan, & Islam (2021) in their study about an overview of the surge of rape incidents in Bangladesh during COVID-19 overreacted that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the occurrence of domestic violence, sexual assault, and rape cases in Bangladesh. The most common cases of rape were between the ages of 8 and 23 years old, and most of the victims of rape cases were below 18 years. the gang rape was also common, where most of the cases occurred in rural areas. In addition, women of all ages were at risk of being raped during the pandemic. An awareness campaign was suggested as a measure to stop this menace.

The same reality was gone over the top about in the study of Owonikoko, Momodu & Suleiman (2023) on trend and pattern analysis of incidents of rape during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic in Adamawa state, Northeastern Nigeria. The study findings revealed that Sexual violence cases in Adamawa State during the pandemic have been repeatedly recounted. The study asserted that most of the perpetrators of rape cases were male, while females were the victims. COVID-19 outbreak, and the home-restraint measures taken, were seen as the major source of the rape case boom. of rape cases. Loss of jobs, dropping economic resources, and closure of state security, such as police, were all factors said to facilitate wrongdoers to commit the crime of rape and enhance the reporting of the victims of rape.

Culture and financial capacity are also factors in rape. Ogunlana, Nwosu, Fafolahan, Ogunsola, Sodeke, Adegoke & Govender (2024) in the study about pattern of rape and femicide during COVID-19 lockdown: content and discourse analysis of digital media reports in Nigeria, asserted that rape incidences of women and girls in Nigeria is accredited to the fact that Nigerian men are culturally dominant, women and girls are basically economically powerless and therefore women could not feed themselves. From this reality, rapists in Nigeria rarely face the required law.

Culture has many facets, some of which contribute to rape cases. Buhori (2024), in the article An Investigation of the Determinants of Child Sexual Abuse in Tanzania: A Case of the Kilwa District-Lindi Region, has mentioned some of the cultural aspects during rape cases. The results of the study revealed that the belief of community members in witchcraft as a way of eradicating bad luck and getting wealth influences child sexual abuse, including rape cases. Also, the use of child rape as a medication for HIV and other incurable diseases.

Aidonojie, Antai, John, Ibeh & Adebayo (2024), in the study about curtailing Male Rape in Nigeria: Legal Issues and Challenges, asserted that the legal framework of many countries is another issue contributing to the prevalence of rape cases. The findings of the study reveal that, despite being male, rape is undeniably a rife issue worldwide and in Nigeria in particular, many current legal frameworks are inadequate to effectively address this problem. The findings further disclosed that numerous legal, social, and psychological factors thwart efforts to reduce male rape in many countries. The study suggested that while the rape incidents affect both women and men, and constitute a violent act against men, the government and stakeholders within the criminal justice system must take urgent steps to make legal reforms and justice mechanisms. This will help to combat the prevalence of male rape in society.

Apart from that, the victims' family decision to settle the rape case outside the court is also described as a factor in the prevalence of rape cases. Cheney & Okwany (2021), in the study associated with rape cases in the unprivileged communities, asserted that rape cases are increasing in many communities due to decisions made outside the court. The result of the study revealed that several rape cases are not taken to court. Most of the rape cases are settled outside the court. Many influences make victims' families accept out-of-court settlements, such as poverty, weak laws, ineffectiveness of the court system, and pressure from offenders' families to resolve the case out of court.

Kidanu and Van Reisen (2024) in the study about Bodies for the Battle Fields: Systematic Use of Rape as a Weapon of War in Tigray revealed that rape incidents were used by military personnel as weapons to defeat others. The findings of this study revealed that sexual violence, including rape, was intentionally used by the Ethiopian National Defence Force, Eritrean Defence Forces, and Amhara militia and Special Forces, with Eritrean troops as chief wrongdoers. Rural areas were the most affected areas with this menace, to cut women's reproductive competencies, causing childlessness, HIV infections, pregnancy losses, and, of course, causing trauma.

As a worldwide critical problem, illegal drugs are said to be a contributing factor to the prevalence of rape cases. Khanal (2022) in the study on attitudes towards Rape and Societal Stigmatization of the Victims asserted that substance abuse and sexual satisfaction were the core causes of rape by both the group of victims and the community people. Most young people use illegal substances. The use of illicit drugs makes young people and juveniles have low capacity for thinking and understanding, but they like to satisfy their sexual desire without any protective gear. In doing these raping cases, the final decision was to prosecute.

At the same pace, Iyanda (2021) in the study on towards curtailing the menace of sexual violence of rape in southeast Nigeria: re-inventing traditional family system of the Igbo group as the panacea, sees that ignoring the traditional family system is a contributing factor to sexual violence, especially rape. The study was conducted on the Igbo ethnic group in Nigeria. The result of the study revealed that the traditional family system of the Igbo group is exclusively organised to restrain rape incidence within the society. Members of the community are given training and retraining on the dangers of rape, and through these trainings, child socialization serves as a deterrent against this menace. The re-birth of the traditional family system and family unions in both urban and rural settings is seen as a proper way to thwart rape incidents.

In the same reality, the study of JK Pillai, Rajeevi, CR, Rajkumar, Joshua George & Greeshma (2022) about Socio-cultural and psychological aspects of rape: Perspectives of young men from

Kerala, asserted that other social and psychological factors facilitate sexual violence, including rape. The findings of the study unveiled factors such as pride towards rape, sexual restriction, masculine dominance, westernization, lack of social support, exploitation, perception and attitude toward law, psychological impact, and childhood upset. Other factors are socio-cultural factors, sexual aggression against women, and societal norms.

Police investigation capacity is also an issue associated with rape cases. Meshack, Mmari & Ndolage (2024) in the study on Impact of Training on Police Officers' Performance in Tanzania: A Case of Ruvuma Regional Police Commander's Office, depicted that lack of training is one of the serious issues in the Tanzanian police force. The result of the study revealed that there is a lack of both on-the-job training and international training. The child and other sexual abuse investigations are the most affected areas, as they result in many sexual abuse cases and rape cases failing before the court of law. The study results further added that there is a close relationship between police training and police performance. In this, therefore, many police investigators have limited knowledge on how to handle the rape cases.

Community cooperation is the key issue in crime reduction within any community. In rape cases, community policing is most in need to make sure the community contributes to solving crime in their area. According to Seleo (2023) and Mussa (2019) in different studies associated with community policing depicted that community policing as strategy of crime prevention facing serious challenges namely shortage of working facilities, lack of awareness among stakeholders, negative socio-cultural beliefs some police officers are not ready to take community policing as crime prevention, corruption among police officers, and the use of forces as a main way of crime prevention. Findings from these studies asserted that the lack of community policing had increased the prevalence of crime, especially rape, bearing in mind that most of the cases involved close relatives, friends, neighbours, and schoolteachers.

Differing to those facts, in the case of Zanzibar, Ally Abdallah (2021) studying School Administrative Factors Influencing Sexual Violence against Children (SVAC) In Primary Schools of Urban District, Zanzibar, had apprehended that poor accountability of school management, misappropriation of authority by school teachers to children and ineffectiveness of reporting system on sexual violence cases were school administrative factors prompting sexual violence against children, rape case in particular in primary schools. Other factors are a lack of self-discipline for school employees, being ready to answer and eager to take suitable action to sexual violence against children, wrongdoers notwithstanding, regardless of their power, positions, and authority. Also, a poor reporting system of sexual violence against children's cases, and poor laws, rules, and regulations associated with sexual violence against children.

In the same manner, Haji (2022) in the study of examining the multifaceted etiology of juvenile sexual offending: a critical analysis of contributing factors, exposed that the juvenile sexual offences are pandemic and are increasing day to day in Zanzibar. The findings of the study unveiled that pornography, poor child-rearing, the non-existence of sex education, and biological drives are the main influencers of rape cases. The findings also add that poor police officers' training in dealing with immature offenders, the absence of counselling and psychology skills among police officers and social workers, unfriendly and poor police infrastructure for juveniles, and poor police modern equipment and techniques for active investigation are the architects of rape case prevalence.

In connection with the same reality, Msambila & Abdallah (2021) in the study about Economic Factors Influencing Sexual Violence against Children (SVAC) in Primary Schools of Urban District, Zanzibar, Tanzania, proclaimed that economic factor was the result of rape cases in many parts of the Island. Study results asserted that community poverty resulted in many primary school children facing a scarcity of basic requirements and hence influenced them to commit rape cases. Various children from poor families and marginalized communities failed to meet their necessary needs promptly. Therefore, perpetrators of sexual violence utilized this chance to perform sexual incidents on children.

.From the above reviewed literatures, there is a few scholastic works concerning the rape case to their home original countries. Most of these scholastic works originated from America, Europe, Asian and other African countries such as (Ally Abdallah, 2021; Haji, 2022; Msambila & Abdallah, 2021). In addition, most of these scholastic works explain various causes and effect of rape cases. There is no scholastic work explain why rape cases increase in area and Zanzibar in particular. This study intended to fill that gap.

The Routine Activity Theory

The Routine Activity Theory informed this study. The theory was initiated from the ideas of Cohen and Felson (Chen, He, Xu, & Atkin, 2025). The theory stipulates that there is a people's routine pattern in their day-to-day activities, which may lead to and influence crime incidences (Lin, Wu, Sun, & Qu, 2025). Through such activities, the theory suggests that for a crime to be committed, there must be an opportunity that permits a defaulter to commit the crime. Crime occurs when a wrongdoer understands possible targets in space and time in the absence of talented guardianship (Mussa, 2019).

Chen, He, Xu, & Atkin (2025) state that the theory is built on three pillars, namely, an interested offender who is keen to commit a crime; a suitable target; and the absence of a guardian who can resolve the situation. According to Mussa (2019), the guardian can be any person, police officers, security guards, or other electronic technological devices such as closed-circuit television (CCTV). The mixture of these pillars makes it possible for a crime to occur, and the non-existence of one element is adequate to prevent a crime from happening. Like other theories, the Routine Activity Theory is branded by some weaknesses. It cannot give details on why individuals are influenced or inspired to commit a crime. The theory also does not explain who is neither the offender nor the victim (Weerasinghe, 2025).

The Routine Activity Theory is relevant to this study because Zanzibar communities, like other communities elsewhere, have people engage in different day-to-day activities such as fishing, farming, tourist industry and others. Together with these activities, there is the possibility for offenders to commit crimes, including rape. Therefore, to realise the causes and effects of rape case, it is important to engage communities such as elders, teachers, religious leaders, government leaders, police officers, and security guards.

METHODOLOGY

The study applied an explanatory research design, which used a quantitative research approach to reach the intended goals. The study population involved Urban West Unguja region communities, which included local government leaders, businesspeople, students, youth, old people, non-government organizations, members of political parties, newspaper people, and religious leaders.

Each of these groups has a role to play in the cause and prevention of rape incidents. While the population of the Urban West region is 893,169 (n=283), a convenience sampling technique was utilised to get respondents for the study. All respondents were given questionnaires to carefully answer the questions provided to them. Scientific Package of Social Science was used to analyse data and get answers. Descriptive statistics, using inferential statistics, help to draw productive data and create new knowledge. It helped to understand the hidden causes and reality of rape cases around the study area.

Validity and reliability are compulsory for any discipline of inquiry. The questionnaire was distributed to six experts from different groups of respondents to analyse and decide whether it corresponds to the research questions that directed the study. The questionnaire was then changed owing to the suggestions given by experts. Then, Cronbach Alpha technique was used to conduct a reliability test. The result of Cronbach's Alpha was .711; therefore, the instrument was reliable for data collection.

The study observed ethical standards by ensuring respondents' anonymity and confidentiality, and voluntary participation of respondents. Confidentiality was established through non-leak of confidential information collected from respondents; anonymity was preserved by not demanding that the respondents fill in their personal information in the questionnaire. Also, voluntary participation, only people who were ready to join in the study were given questionnaires to fill. Finally, a study consent was sought from government authorities before data collection.

RESULTS

Analysis of the data materialized the fourteen research questions that guided the study. Each research question portrayed a factor that causes rape cases. The respondents were asked to tick the most appropriate choices in the questionnaire. Optional responses ranged from 1- strongly agree, 2- agree, 3- disagree, and 4- strongly disagree. The scale of mean score interpretation used was as follows: 3.50-4.00 = strongly agree, 2.50-3.49= agree, 1.50-2.49 = disagree, and 1.00-1.49 = strongly disagree. Then, the weighted average was calculated by adding the mean and then dividing by fourteen ($31.92/14 = 2.28$), which was applied to get respondents' perceptions on the issue of getting the causes of rape. Analysis and study results are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Response to Respondents' Perceptions of Rape Factor Incidences

Item	SA (%)	A (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	Std Deviation	Decision
The COVID-19 pandemic is a factor in the alarming rape cases in Zanzibar	20 (7.1)	17 (6.0)	126 (44.5)	120 (42.4)	3.22	.84839	High Perception
Loss of jobs is a factor in shocking rape cases in Zanzibar	24 (8.5)	70 (24.7)	141 (49.8)	48 (17.0)	2.75	.83514	High Perception
Low economic resources increase rape cases in Zanzibar	34 (12.0)	103 (36.4)	105 (37.1)	41 (14.5)	2.54	.88382	High Perception
Some existing norms are contributing to many rape cases in Zanzibar	84 (29.7)	86 (30.4)	97 (34.3)	16 (5.7)	2.15	.91838	Low Perception
Belief in witchcraft is the cause of many rape cases in Zanzibar	44 (15.5)	105 (37.1)	97 (34.3)	37 (13.1)	2.44	.90704	High Perception
Believe that having sex with a child as a result of chronic disease contributes to rape cases in Zanzibar	50 (17.7)	94 (33.2)	96 (33.9)	43 (15.2)	2.46	.96359	High Perception
Weaknesses in the legal framework contributed to the prevalence of rape cases in Zanzibar	93 (32.9)	113 (39.9)	52 (18.4)	25 (8.8)	2.03	.93155	Low Perception
The use of illicit drugs among young people and juvenile offenders is contributing to rape cases in Zanzibar	103 (36.4)	129 (45.6)	36 (12.7)	15 (3.5)	1.86	.83977	Low Perception
Breaking of the traditional way of life is contributing to the occurrence of many rape cases in Zanzibar	97 (34.3)	97 (34.3)	68 (24.0)	21 (7.4)	2.04	.93854	Low Perception
Lack of police investigation skills in rape cases contributes to the prevalence of rape cases in Zanzibar	100 (35.3)	88 (31.1)	71 (25.1)	24 (8.5)	2.06	.97071	Low Perception
Corruption among police and court officers is contributing to rape cases in Zanzibar	111 (39.2)	99 (35.0)	57 (20.1)	16 (5.7)	1.92	.90368	Low Perception
Lack of community engagement facilitates rape cases in Zanzibar	97 (34.3)	133 (47.0)	35 (12.4)	18 (6.4)	1.90	.84854	Low Perception
Low accountability among schoolteachers contributes to rape cases among children in Zanzibar	54 (19.1)	114 (40.3)	82 (29.0)	33 (11.7)	2.33	.91632	High Perception
Poverty in the community is contributing to many rape cases in Zanzibar	82 (29.0)	106 (37.5)	67 (23.7)	28 (9.9)	2.22	1.61000	Low Perception

Note: N = 283, SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree. Decision weighted average $31.92/14 = 2.28$

The data from Table 1 shows that many respondents felt a high perception that the COVID-19 pandemic is a factor in the alarming rape cases in Zanzibar. Also, lack of jobs is a factor in shocking rape cases in Zanzibar, and low economic resources are leading to an increase in rape cases. In addition to that, the respondents highly perceived that the belief of witchcraft is the cause of many rape cases in Zanzibar, believe that having sex with a child as a medicine for chronic disease is contributing to rape cases in Zanzibar, and low accountability among schoolteachers is

contributing to rape cases among children in Zanzibar. These findings are supported by studies of Tasnim *et al.* (2021), Ally Abdallah (2021; Msambila & Abdallah, 2021; Owonikoko *et al.*, 2023; Buhori, 2024; Ogunlana *et al.*, 2024). On the other hand, the participants had a low perception of the factors leading to the rape cases in Zanzibar. For example, the participants had a low perception of the issues of some existing norms as contributing to many rape cases in Zanzibar. Also, the participants had a low perception of weakness in the legal framework to contribute to the prevalence of rape cases in Zanzibar, the use of illicit drugs among the young people and juveniles as contributing to rape cases in Zanzibar, and the breaking of the traditional way of life contributing to the occurrence of many rape cases in Zanzibar. Furthermore, the participants had a low perception of a lack of police investigation skills as contributing to the prevalence of rape cases in Zanzibar, corruption among police and court officers contributing to rape cases in Zanzibar, lack of community engagement facilitating rape cases in Zanzibar, and poverty among the community contributing to many rape cases in Zanzibar. These findings are inconsistent with the studies of Mussa, 2019; Iyanda, 2021; Cheney & Okwany, 2021; Msambila & Abdallah, 2021; Khanal, 2022; JK Pillai *et al.*, 2022; Haji, 2022; Sele, 2023; Meshack *et al.*, 2024).

Analysis further indicated that respondents have the perceptions that the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of jobs to manage everyday life, low economic resources among the community, believing performing sex with a child is a medicine for long-lasting disease, trusting witchcraft, and little schoolteachers' accountability play a great part in rape cases in Zanzibar. Table 2 shows the respondents' perceptions of factors' effectiveness toward the rape cases.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics for a stronger factor contributing to rape cases

N (factors)		Mean	Std Deviation
Low accountability among schoolteachers contributes to rape cases among children in Zanzibar	283	2.33	.91632
Believe that witchcraft is the cause of many rape cases in Zanzibar	283	2.44	.90704
Believe that having sex with a child is a factor in chronic disease contributing to rape cases in Zanzibar	283	2.46	.96359
Low economic resources increase rape cases in Zanzibar	283	2.54	.88382
Loss of jobs is a factor in shocking rape cases in Zanzibar	283	2.75	.83514
The COVID-19 pandemic is a factor in the alarming rape cases in Zanzibar	283	3.22	.84839
Valid N (listwise)	283		

Based on Table 2, the variables have been registered in an ascending order; the bottommost variable is smaller than the top one. Consequently, following this analysis, the COVID-19 pandemic is a stronger factor than the others. This means that the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have social and economic effects on community life. Adding to that, the analysis submits that lack of job opportunities, together with lack of economic resources, are the sources of raping cases in the study area. All these three factors are related and have interconnected effects on each other, and they are significant factors to the level of $<.001$. This analysis advocated that two years of COVID-19 resulted in strong effects on the Zanzibar economy. Zanzibar's economy depends much on the tourist sector, which has a direct link to agriculture and the blue economy of the country. Absence of tourists has a significant impact on the day-to-day life of the community. Analysis further suggested that performing sex with child thinking is a medicine of continuing disease, having confidence in witchcraft, and low accountability among schoolteachers are also strong factors with significance level of $<.001$.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

Based on the analysis, the study concludes that rape cases are a serious issue in Zanzibar. As it is a critical phenomenon touching every part of the social welfare of the society. Rape cases have multifaceted effects on every member of society. Social and economic factors are the main factors that have accelerated rape cases in Zanzibar. COVID-19 pandemic, absence of job opportunities, and little economic resources are the economic factors, while little schoolteachers' accountabilities, belief in witchcraft, and performic sex with a child are social factors. The study recommended that the Zanzibar revolutionary government make a serious effort to ensure a sustainable economy that provides job opportunities, and that every member of the society has the chance to link with it. In addition, serious action should be taken to ensure accountability for everyone associated with community welfare. Lastly, the Zanzibar government should take serious action to spread perfect religious faith to all members of the community.

Consent

As per international standards or university standards, Participants' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

Disclaimer (Artificial Intelligence)

The author (s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

Competing Interests

The author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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