

PERCEPTIONS OF MEN EXPERIENCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN
OSHANA REGION, NAMIBIA.

THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL

FULFILMENT

OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

BY

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APRIL 2019

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ABSTRACT

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a major public health and human rights problem involving all ages and sexes throughout the world. However, the manifestations of GBV among men often go undetected and a large number of men continue living through repeated abuse and assault without any recognition of their ordeal or adequate provision for care or support. The purpose of this study was to explore and describe the perceptions of GBV by men in the Oshana Region, Namibia. The study adopted a qualitative research approach of both descriptive and exploratory research designs to collect data from fifteen (15) participants who were selected through the convenience sampling method at the Oshakati Women and Child Protection Unit. The study sought to achieve the following objectives: (a) To identify the socio-demographic characteristics of men who are victims of gender-based violence in Oshana Region; (b) To explore and describe the perceptions of gender-based violence by men in Oshana Region; (c) To determine the possible causes of gender-based violence among men in Oshana Region; and (d) To explore remedial measures in combating gender-based violence among men in Oshana Region. Ethical clearance was obtained from the relevant authorities before the study. The findings revealed several socio-demographic characteristics of men who are victims of GBV, such as levels of education, religious beliefs, types of relationships between couples and age differences. The findings highlighted that perceptions of GBV among men are influenced by high levels of stigma, patriarchal domination beliefs, embarrassment and culture. Furthermore, this study found that the main causes of GBV among men are: unequal power sharing, alcohol, unemployment, lack of awareness of men's right and income disparity. Based on the findings, the study recommended that the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare should have rehabilitation centers for the male victims of GBV and train more social workers specifically on GBV. The study also recommended that Ministry of Justice should strengthen legal and policy framework as part of preventive and response to GBV among men. Moreover, the study recommended that family members need to be educated on handling issues regarding GBV among men and Ministry of Safety and Security should conduct in-service training to all police officers on responses to violence against men.

DECLARATION

I, **EUNIKE MUKULU**, hereby declare that “Perceptions of men experiencing gender-based violence in Oshana Region of Namibia”, is a true reflection of my own work, and that the version of this work is an original work, and has not previously been submitted for a degree at any other institution.

No part of this thesis may be produced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form or means, whether mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the expressed permission from the author, or the University of Namibia in her behalf.

I, **EUNIKE MUKULU**, hereby grant the University of Namibia the right to produce this thesis in its entirety or parts thereof, in any format, which the University of Namibia may deem fit.

EUNIKE MUKULU _____ Date: _____

DEDICATION

- To my dear daughter, Elizabeth for being understanding and patient with me throughout this work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- I would like to thank God for his wonderful blessings and mercy that he granted me throughout this study.
- My supervisor Dr. Linda Nghipondoka-Lukolo, for her continued and endless support throughout the challenging period of this study. Without her support, inspiration and guidance, this thesis would not have materialized.
- My co-supervisor Dr. Emma Maano Nghitanwa, who has been there from the beginning of this study and never gave up on me. Her supervision, encouragement and support have significantly contributed to the success of this study.
- The University of Namibia for approving my study proposal.
- The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare for granting me the permission to conduct the study.
- The Women and Child Protection Unit, Oshakati State Hospital. Thank you for the immense support you offered me during the study.
- To my husband Petrus who sacrificially gave his time to provide support to our family in order to make my studies a bearable moment.
- To my cousin Shiwa for her faithfulness during this strenuous experience.

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ACRONYMS

DEVW:	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
DHS:	Demographic Health Survey
GBV:	Gender Based Violence
LGBTI:	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
MoGECW:	Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare
MoHSS:	Ministry of Health and Social Services
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA:	Namibia Statistics Agency
PTSD:	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
QDA:	Qualitative Data Analysis
UREC:	University of Namibia's Research and Ethics Committee
USAID:	United States Agency International Development
UNAM:	University of Namibia
WHO:	World Health Organisation

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Gender-based violence is stated by Bott, Morrison and Ellsberg (2008) as the most prevalent human rights violation in the world and targeted at individuals or groups on the basis of their gender. Gender-based violence has significant impact at the individual level, with victims suffering from physical and mental effects, loss of earnings and increased healthcare costs (Bott et al., 2008). It also has a wider societal impact, including lower productivity and thus reduced economic output and growth, and increased pressure on social and health services.

Violence against men by women is not a new phenomenon and has increased with changing power dynamics, women's economic independence, and control over the economy and resources where by women are breadwinners and have power or influence over their husbands (Sigal & Denmark, 2013). Furthermore, this change in power dynamics also affects relationships between men and women, where men are afraid of losing power and women are excited by their empowered position (Sangari, 2008). In this context, situating power within men and women, husband-wife, and family is important in favour of the larger society. The question arises: will this gradual change in power lead to harmonize society in favour of the larger society, state or take a reverse direction such as violence against men by women? Much has been researched and reported on violence against women but not on violence against men (Shirwadkar, 2009; Carpenter, 2008).

Gender-based violence both reflects and reinforces inequalities between women and men (Sigal & Denmark, 2013). At least one in five men around the world is estimated to have been intimidated into sex, physically and emotionally abused and/or otherwise abused in his lifetime (Charles & Erin, 2011). These authors further state that for men aged 15 to 44 years, GBV is a major cause of disability and death. Gender-based violence not only causes pain and suffering but also devastates families, undermines workplace productivity, diminishes national competitiveness, and stalls development (Arbache, Kolev, & Filipiak, 2010).

This chapter covered the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research objectives, significance of the study, limitation and delimitation of the study, paradigmatic perspectives, definition of concepts, outline of chapters and summary.

1.2 Background of the study

Gender-Based Violence is a major public health and human rights problem involving all ages and sexes. Although the term “gender-based violence” is widely used as a synonym for violence against women, GBV also occurs among men (Mosavel, Ahmed, & Simon, 2012). Domestic violence against men is a term describing violence that is committed against men by the man’s intimate partner (Sangari, 2008). Even though there have been so much hues and cries about domestic violence against women across the globe, domestic violence against men is a reality (Hoogensen & Rottem, 2011). It occurs virtually in every society in varying degrees. The United Nations’ Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVW), (cited in Stemple, 2009) defines gender-based violence as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to

result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to a human being, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

According to Sadiqi & Ennaji (2011), the problem in conducting studies that seek to describe violence in terms of GBV against men is the amount of silence, fear and shame of the results from abuse within families and relationships. This is why domestic violence against men remains largely unreported. Sigal & Denmark (2013) states, the manifestations of GBV often go undetected and a large number of men continue living through repeated abuse and assault without any recognition of their ordeal or adequate provision for care or support. Gender differences in reporting violence have been cited as another explanation for mixed results (Muwanigwa, 2017). A study done by Oladepo, Yusuf, & Arulogun (2011) in Nigeria highlighted that society is a highly patriarchal one, in which men have bloated egos. Even though there is a prevalence of domestic violence against women in Nigeria as many women have died, brutalized or maimed for life by their violent male counterparts, there is also a prevalence of domestic violence against men, which has largely remained under-reported. According to Makando (2012), the under-reporting of domestic violence is almost universal and may be due to the sensitive nature of the subject. Husband punching, slapping, kicking, nail scratching, sex deprivation and killings are realities that occur in Nigeria as an evidence of GBV among men (Oladepo et al., 2011).

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a human rights issue of endemic proportions in Namibia (Makando, 2012). Gender-based violence has far reaching implications and lasting impacts on survivors, perpetrators, families, communities and the country as a

whole and it is a violence that is targeted against individuals or groups on the basis of their gender (Ghazizadeh, 2008). . Furthermore, GBV is a clear manifestation of deeply entrenched power inequalities between men and women. While GBV cuts across class, ethnicity, religion, age and location, it disproportionately affects men, women, boys and girls (Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, 2012).

Chirimbana (2015) states that the term GBV has also been used to refer to any violence that is related to the socially ascribed roles of males and females, such as violence against men that is informed by norms related to masculinities and/or violence against gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex individuals, which is informed by norms related to sexuality and sexual identity.

Gender-Based Violence is a form of discrimination that seriously violates and impairs the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of survivors. Chirimbana (2015) further specified that GBV represents a pattern of behaviour that undermines the dignity, autonomy and security of the victims, limits their participation in society and damages their health and well-being. According to O'Grady (2011), GBV comes at a high cost not only at the individual level with victims suffering from physical and mental harm, loss of earnings and increased healthcare costs, it also has wider societal costs, such as lower productivity and reduced economic output and growth, leading to heightened pressure on social and health services. Thus, GBV is not only a serious public health concern but also hinders the social and economic development of the country, and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (African Development Bank, 2015). Gender-based violence can take many forms including physical, sexual, psychological and economic

violence and needs to be seen as a part of a continuum of violence (Sherifat & Olanrewain, 2014). It violates internationally recognized human rights such as the right to life, freedom from torture, victims' right to control their sexuality, equal protection before the law, liberty and security of person, the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health and the right to be heard. (United States Agency for International Development, 2016). In Namibia, GBV cases have been steadily on the increase in recent years as reported by various authors such as Makando (2012) and Edwards-Jauch (2016). Among these reports, quite surprisingly, was the inclination that focuses on women as the sole victims and not men. In Namibia, male victims of GBV remain highly under-reported, perhaps, due to societal stigma attached to men reporting abuse by a female partner or spouse (Makando, 2012). Therefore, this background led to the following statement of the problem.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Most investigations of GBV in Namibia have centred on men as the perpetrators of violence (Makando, 2012). Despite various studies on GBV against women having been done, a number of GBV cases among men have also been recorded in Namibia with a total of 3,350 cases perpetrated against men in 2005 (Muwanigwa, 2017). Moreover, a 2007-2008 study based on data from eight of fourteen Namibian regions found that 28% of the male respondents had experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner at some point during the previous seven or eight years then, while 4% of males reported that they had suffered injuries as a result of physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner during the last 12 months (Ministry of Gender and Child Warfare, 2012).

The Ministry of Gender and Child Welfare (2012) further reported that in 2011, 6637 cases of gender-based violence were perpetrated against women, while 3,350 cases were perpetrated against men, 241 against girls, and 131 against young boys. Based on these figures, it can be seen that cases reported against females are more than double as compared to cases reported against males as well as cases reported against young boys and girls. Therefore, this study sets out to investigate the perception of GBV among men to gain a deeper understanding of this problem with a view to developing evidence-based strategies and interventions to reduce the levels of GBV in Oshana Region, Namibia.

1.4. Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to explore and describe the perception of GBV by men in the Oshana Region, Namibia.

1.5 Research objectives

The study addressed the following research objectives:

- To identify the socio-demographic characteristics of men who are victims of GBV in Oshana Region.
- To explore and describe the perception of GBV by men in the Oshana Region.
- To determine the possible causes of GBV among men in Oshana Region.
- To explore remedial measures in combating Gender-Based Violence among men in Oshana Region

1.6 Significance of the study

The findings of this study are expected to enlighten and lend an understanding to all stakeholders on perceptions on GBV among men in Oshana region, Namibia. In

addition, the study would inform health care providers and policy makers alike, in this area of the need for sensitivity to recognize GBV among men and offer support services. Remedial measures on how to combat GBV against men will eventually allow for the early detection and prevention of GBV among men.

1.7 Limitations of the study

The research was conducted while the researcher was employed. This posed a challenge in terms of time for data gathering, processing and analysis. However, efforts were taken to ensure that the quality of the work will not be compromised by the time constraints as the researcher make herself available for data collection and analysis by taking study leave at times. Due to the budgetary constraints, this study was confined to the Oshana region only and the study results will not be generalized. In an effort to ensure the quality of the study is not affected, crosschecks with existing literature was extensively done to identify similarities with the results of the study.

1.8 Delimitation of the study

The scope of the study was limited to exploring the perception of GBV among men in Namibia's Oshana Region. In addition, the sample is confined to men in the Oshana Region as this would allow the researcher to do an in-depth study. Additionally, findings from this research may only be limited to GBV among men in the Oshana Region.

1.9 Paradigmatic Perspectives

Paradigms help describe a world view that is informed by philosophical assumptions about the nature of social reality (Perri & Bellamy, 2012). Paradigms thus lead us to ask certain questions and use appropriate approaches to systematic inquiry such as methodology. This helps us understand how we should study the world (Perri &

Bellamy, 2012). The researcher used the paradigmatic perspectives to be able to ask certain questions and explore information about gender-based violence.

1.9.1 Ontological assumptions

This philosophy of ontology suggests realism and idealism (Antwi & Hamza, 2015). Ontology attempts to know if knowledge is a product of the mind or that it exists. This assumption was used to understand whether the public including the men involved in gender-based violence understand the existence and causes of gender-based violence.

1.9.2 Rhetorical assumptions

Rhetoric is the art of persuasion (Brannen & Coram, 2008). The rhetorical structure of this research was how the researcher convinced the respondents that the research was worthwhile. The specific rhetorical assumption used depended on the type of study conducted (e.g. ethnographic, grounded theory, case study, etc.) and this became the basis for the structure of this research. The overall rhetorical assumption in qualitative research is that the researcher was not “truth seeking” or omniscient but instead reporting reality through the eyes of research participants. This assumption was used to ensure that the researcher provides the actual facts of the research through the interviews with the participants.

1.10 Definition of Concepts

Campbell (2010) postulates the following definitions:

Experiences is described as a knowledge of an event or occurrence which leaves an impression on someone.

Gender-based violence is described as the most prevalent human rights violation that both reflects and reinforces inequalities between women and men.

Perception is defined as a process by which people regard, identify and interprets sensory information in order to represent and understand the presented information

1.11 Outline of chapters.

This study will comprise of five chapters.

Chapter 1: Introduction and background to the study

Chapter one has introduced the topic under this study. The chapter has also given the background and research problem statement that justifies the study as well as the purpose, significance, limitations and delimitations of the study.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter reviewed the literature in line with the objectives of the study. The literature search will link this with the research problem, and the research instrument. The purpose of this chapter is to draw upon any previous research into the same subject and to analyse its conclusions.

Chapter 3: Research Design

In this chapter, the research methodology is described. The research adopted a qualitative approach where the researcher only conducted interviews to the selected sample. This includes definition of the target population, sample and sampling, data collection and the overall research process.

Chapter 4: Data analysis, results and discussion of findings

The data collected is described, followed by a discussion of the analysis of the data collected. Any commonalities and differences emerging from the data was explained.

Chapter 5: Conclusion, Limitation and Recommendations

The conclusion summarized the research findings linked to extant literature to answer the research objectives. Following this discussion, recommendations were made, based on the research findings.

1.12 Summary

This chapter introduced the research topic and the background of the research problem.

The introduction and background of the study indicated that gender-based violence is often used interchangeably with the term violence against women with the understanding of the context of structural inequalities between men and women.

However, the literature background also indicated that men also experience gender-based violence from their partners. The focus of the study was to investigate men experiencing gender-based violence.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter covers a comprehensive literature surrounding the perception of men of gender-based violence. In addition, it has described the definition of GBV, conceptual framework, socio-demographic characteristics of men experiencing GBV, perceptions of men on GBV, possible causes and remedial measures to improve combating GBV. Moreover, this chapter also covered the related literature from other countries across the continents.

2.2 Definition of Gender-Based Violence

Different authors understand or define the concept of gender-based violence differently. A study conducted in India by Hoogensen & Rottem (2011) defines GBV as a state when a human's wellbeing or sense of self or safety is likely compromised. Such violence includes any behaviour that may cause physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to men, which includes coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. Gender-based violence is often used interchangeably with the term 'violence against men and women' and must be understood in the context of structural inequalities between men and women (Bakker, 2008). Men and boys can also experience gender-based violence. In these cases, the violence occurs in the context of 'gendered' abuse. Examples include: men being 'feminised' through rape, forced to commit rape and/or incest or made to watch the abuse of their partners and children (Australian Red Cross, 2013).

Gender-Based Violence is described further by Coomarswamy & Rajasingham (2010) as behaviour where women use violence to control men and men use violence to control

women, a control to which they feel they are entitled and that is supported by their culture and likely to cause physical and mental health problems, which include chronic pain, physical disability, drug and alcohol abuse, depression and lower their self-esteem. Consensus is that GBV affects both men and women, although many men may feel uncomfortable discussing it, which at times seem to reflect on men in general, portraying all of them as aggressive, violent, irresponsible, wife beaters or sexual predators (Muwanigwa, 2017).

According to the United States Agency for International Development (2016) a study on The Paradoxical Approach against men violence in Finland violence is used as a coercive measure. This is not necessarily confined to physical violence, but may be extended to the creation of an atmosphere of terror, a situation of threat and reprisal. Violence lies in the power of dynamics of social situations and it is more precisely the abuse of power (Mulama, 2004). Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence are global health, human rights and developmental problems. These problems have profound, immediate and long-term consequences involving physical, psychological and social effects (McGoldrick & Gerson, 2010; LeBeau et al., 2010). Furthermore, Stemple (2009) contends that men are also frequent victims of violence, particularly young men, who end up committing suicide especially those between the ages of 15-30 years. Stemple (2009) further adds that sexual violence against men is treated differently in any given society from that committed against women and may be unrecognized by international law.

2.3 Historical Perspective on gender-based violence

Female domestic violence against men has always been the most controversial subject in the field of domestic violence (Hindin, Kishor & Ansara, 2008). Literature shows that domestic violence against women is a norm, while violence against men is not only regarded as an exception but almost non-existent. This kind of conceptualization of domestic violence has historical underpinnings. From medieval times, within patriarchal societies, it has been considered a "great taboo" for a man to be a victim of violence initiated by a woman. Mulama (2004) argues that this was due to the coalescence of two forbidden beliefs in society: firstly, that a man can be beaten by a woman, secondly, the uncomfortable reality that women can be aggressive and violent, which contravenes stereotypical notions of femininity and is an attribution that neither men nor women wish to acknowledge. It is for this reason that, historically in France and England, society ridiculed, and humiliated husbands thought to be battered and/or dominated by their wives (Hindin et al. 2008). Such treatments of these husbands have been attributed to their perceived inability to live up to the male-oriented patriarchal ethos in society, which persisted well into the twentieth century (Shirwadkar, 2009).

Bott et al. (2008), stated that the maintenance of a gendered patriarchal framework in society is premised on the unequal distribution of power and resources between people, particularly men and women. In terms of partner abuse, such power inequalities are seen to be maintained in and through gender stereotypes of the man as aggressive and dominant and the woman as passive and submissive (Sangari, 2008). This viewpoint is complemented by Bakker (2008) when he argued that the history of domestic violence is linked to the patriarchal ideas of men always being the perpetrators, as in earlier periods

when women had fewer rights than men and were subordinate to them in the home. Such stereotypes have not been helped by the surge of feminist scholarships in the early 1970s and this is because gendered structures in society were seen as the bedrock of female oppression and were thus the support of feminist research (Ponto, 2015).

2.4. Conceptual framework

Gender-based violence (GBV) against men is pervasive in sub-Saharan Africa, including Namibia, where men have experienced violence of some kind. Furthermore, practices such as male and female beatings are considered normal facets of most societies in Namibia (Hamunyela & Mwanyanene, 2010). This violence is associated with many negative emotional and health consequences for men and infringes on their holistic development and exacerbates gender inequalities. As a result, there is a need of different approaches to address GBV, one facet of which is communication (Hamunyela & Mwanyanene, 2010). Effective communication strategies and approaches empower groups and individuals, strengthen leadership and advocacy skills, and provide alternatives to norms and practices that promulgate gender unequal power relationships and sanction GBV (African Development Bank, 2015).

According to Creswell (2014), a conceptual framework is used to show the relationships in a study. Thus, the concepts and themes in this study have been put together to build an integrated conceptual framework (Figure 2.1). This study proposes an integrated conceptualisation for gender-based violence and it is driven by the concepts of the ecological model. This model seeks to understand GBV from a broad perspective and concepts of communication which help in the understanding of communication/media processes and context within which communication takes place (Cardey, 2010). To show

the relationships for this research project, the integrated framework is divided into five parts namely: gender dynamic power relations, ecological model, men and women empowerment, communication context and media context as discussed below:

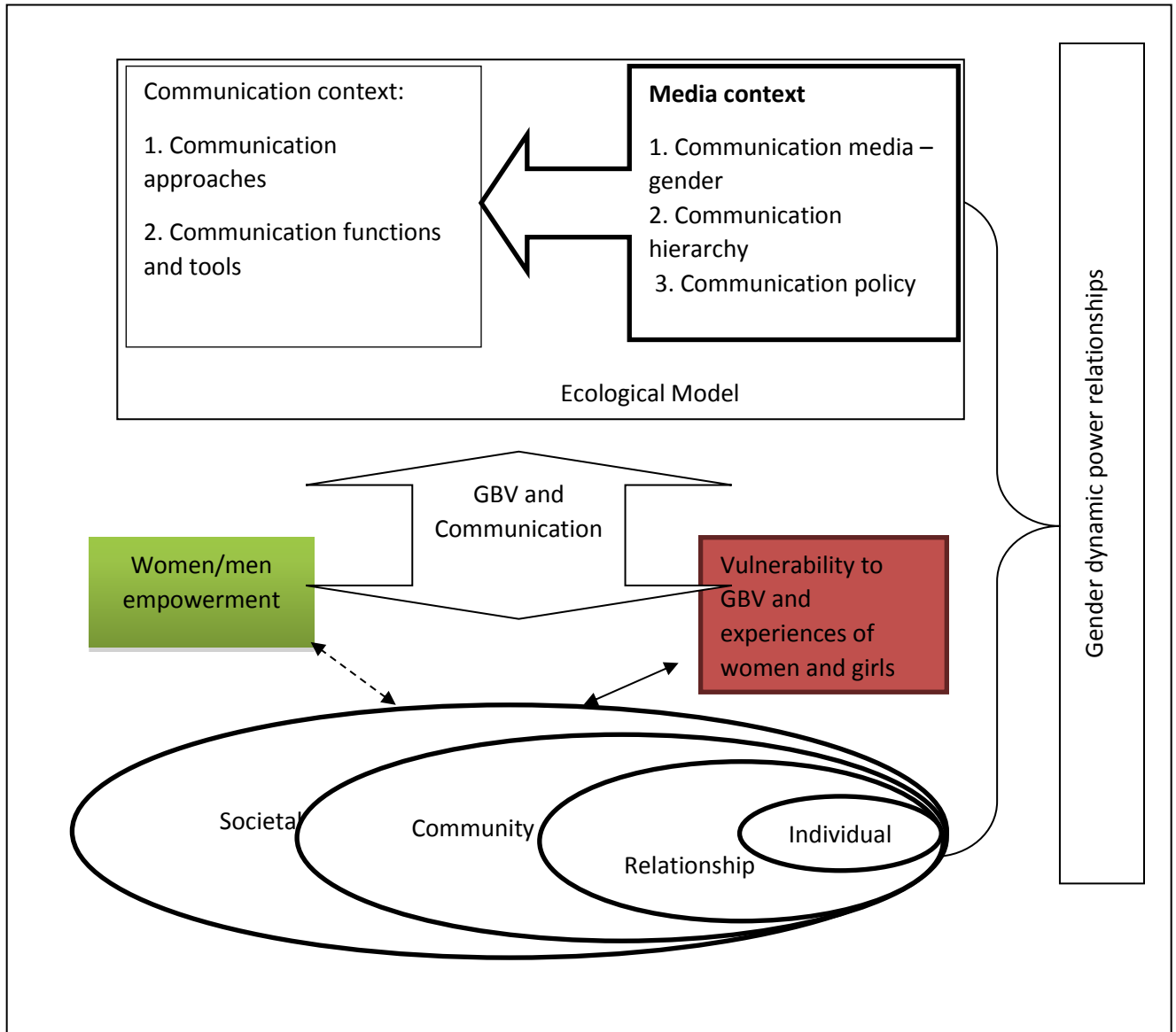


Figure 2. 1: Integrated conceptual framework Source (Cardey, 2010)

2.4.1. Gender dynamic power relation

This component discusses the centrality and influence of power in gendered relationships and communication processes and how it impacts on gender inequality and

gender-based violence. Within this context, power is understood to characterize virtually all social relationships. Thus, power is ultimately a moderating factor in this scheme of events (Chang & Romeo, 2008).

Power is conceived as the capacity or ability to influence others (Arbache et al., 2010). Similarly, Sherifat & Olanrewe (2014) described power as a function of the motives of both the power holder and the recipient. Power is thus expressed in an asymmetric manner in the relationship between two people. For instance, Edwards-Jauch (2014) theorized that feminine perception of power emphasizes it as capacity, energy and potential. In this vein, it is understood that women are active participants in their social world, striving to make meaning with their subordination to the best of their abilities and men are passive victims of their oppression (Wamukonya, 2012). Consequently, including power in an analysis of gender positions for us to see clearly how gender is constructed through the practices of power at the micro and macro levels of the ecology. This concept illustrates how power in a relationship or family is perceived. Traditionally men are perceived to have more power in the house and everyone in the house is supposed to obey.

2.4.2 The ecological model

The ecological model component of the integrated conceptual framework is used in this study to comprehend how personal, situational and socio-cultural factors work together to trigger violence against men in Namibia (Chirimbana, 2015). It conceptualizes GBV as emanating from the forceful interaction of factors at different points – individual, relationship, community and societal levels of the social ecosystem. Also, at each point of the four levels of the ecological model there underlies gender inequalities and

dynamic power relationships that privilege women to dominate and perpetrate violence against men and boys and vulnerability to GBV (Cardey, 2010).

2.4.3 Men and women's empowerment

In many instances very few factors across the ecological spectrum work to empower men. Feminist theorists argue that empowerment can imply challenging patriarchy, wherein women's empowerment is defined as "the process, and the outcome of the process, by which women gain greater control over material and intellectual resources and challenge the ideology of patriarchy and the gender-based discrimination against men in all the institutions and structures of society" (Cardey, 2010). Others think of empowerment in terms of one's ability to make choices for instance, Carpenter, (2008) states that empowerment means the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them. Putting all these definitions together, empowerment encompasses forms of observable actions, political decision-making, meaning, motivation and purpose that individuals bring to their actions their sense of agency and self-wealth (Davis & Carrier, 2011). As such, the extent to which men and women are empowered through the case study of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) intervention programmes was examined within this empowerment context.

2.4.4 Communication context

The communication context, which encompasses communication approaches/strategies and communication functions and tools is conceptualized essentially as a process of facilitating change. This process involves the classifications of embedded

communicative interventions that are intended to develop and/or induce innovations, which are supposed to assist people to resolve problematic situations (Leeuwis, 2008 and Cardey 2010). In this concept, the communication activity is conceived as an intervention, using communication to facilitate cognitive changes. This process takes place within the context of other mediations, in which change mediators seek to use communication approaches/strategies to solve or improve problematic situations, involving most often than not, several interrelated players, with each player likely to have their own agenda (Leeuwis, 2008). These communication processes are not neutral and Cardey (2010) explains that the problem situations which communication processes are intended to solve or remedy are repositories of entrenched and/or rooted assumptions at the multiple levels. This interaction of assumptions, players, and communication processes make up the communication context (Leeuwis 2008 & Cardey 2010). This framework then explores the role of developing communication to address GBV by promoting positive shifts in individual attitudes and behavior change.

2.4.5 Media context

The media context includes communication media in relation to gender, communication hierarchies and communication media policies. Media impacts on culture and serves as a powerful tool in shaping societal structures and operations (Sangari, 2008). It is also recognized that dominant media forms have seriously abetted in constructing gender and reinforcing gendered norms. This is shown in the way mass media and advertising forms display codes that are associated with representing male and female perceived qualities (Cardey, 2010). Interestingly, these gender norms and roles shape the manner in which society interprets gender and aid in determining what acceptable gender performance is.

Thus, media is conceived as an arena that reinforces gender stereotypes codes and gender codes, it shapes the way in which society perceives and constructs gender (Jhally, 2009). However, Hamunyela & Mwanyanene (2010) help us understand that there is a shift in media - advertising representations of women in recent times, such that rather than being presented in media as passive objects of the male gaze, women are now frequently depicted as active, assertive, independent and sexually powerful. In this light, communication channels and media are never neutral in terms of their roles and how they are read culturally, how they operate or in terms of the historical context in which they are rooted. As a result, each communication channel has a history, in terms of both its socio-cultural and development context (Cardey, 2010).

The study sought to propose an integrated conceptual framework for addressing perceptions of men who have experienced gender-based violence in Namibia, framed within the discourse of development communication. Several theoretical perspectives have been employed to shed light on multifaceted factors that come into play in our quest to understand the issues of gender-based violence against men including how gender inequality and unequal power relationships influence women and men differently at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels of the ecosystem in which gender has been under-theorized. It is thus expected that a dispassionate debate and the contributions of academic community and colleagues present at this platform will lighten, to some extent, our understanding of the issues of gender in our globalized community.

2.5 Socio- demographic characteristics of gender based violence

Information on socio demographic characteristics is important to the study. An understanding of the participants' age, marital status, education, and religion provided important aspects of the understanding of gender-based violence in general.

2.5.1 Age

In Africa some men have abandoned their families because their women have become tormentors in verbal and physical abuse (Bakker and Arnold, 2014). Some of these men drown their frustrations in bars, while others take hard drugs (African Development Bank, 2015). According to Bott et al.(2008), spousal age difference refers to the difference between the ages of wife and husband. Asher, Schears, & Miller (2011) state that the tradition of female dominance in marriage is still prevalent in Africa, where unemployed men marry women that are older than they are. However, this could be one of the ways of creating an opportunity for women in exercising power as the family head. This age gap in marriage poses several problems such as differences in maturity, differences in opinions and the partners' sexual lives may be affected at a later stage. It is always possible that a couple may influence each other to adopt new interests, but an age gap in the relationship can compromise this (Oladepo et al., 2011).

Moreover, male victims from the ages of 25–74 years are married and in some relationships, men become involved in relationships with older women because there are benefits associated with such relationships even if the woman is far much older than them (Dustin, 2009). This age discrepancy may lead to a man enduring an abusive relationship and possibly suffering gender-based violence at the hands of their older female partners.

2.5.2 Education

Considering the peculiarity of this study in exploring the perception of men on domestic violence against them, it is imperative to note that formal education of partners of male respondents had a strong influence on physical violence as stressed by Gage & Dunn (2010). Studies done in Zambia on the relationship between partners show that education may impact positively or negatively on the rate of abuse among intimate partners whereby almost half of the victims had secondary education but only 9% had been educated at a higher level (Zambia Demographic and Health Survey, 2013).

However, in another study conducted in Iran results showed that domestic violence rises with the level of education (Ghazizadeh, 2008). The study has also found that a man's risk of being beaten, kicked or hit rose along with his low levels of education and in effect, this correlation points to the imperative need for attitudinal change among women in society in general. Family violence researchers suggest that socio-demographic indicators of structural inequality influence propensities for domestic assaults (LeBeau, Pendleton, & Tapscott, 2010). In addition, LeBeau et al. (2010) argues that domestic violence is rooted in gender and power imbalances. Findings in this regard indicate that incompatibilities in income and educational status are differentially associated with domestic violence as perpetrated by women and men.

2.5.3 Religious beliefs

Religion is a personal and institutional reality in the lives of individuals and may lead to abuse in different ways (Oladepo et al., 2011). In addition, a perspective associated with Catholicism and some Evangelical groups, is that marriage is indissoluble-justified by Luke 16: 18: "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits

adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery” (Holy Bible, 2002). Many charismatic churches permit divorce after conversion to Christianity: “if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here. Based on these scriptures, women feel empowered and tend to abuse their husbands (Chang & Romeo, 2008). Some Protestant Churches put emphasis on God’s love, seeing divorce as the person’s own decision; if divorce and re-marriage is a sin requiring remorse, other Christians can forgive a divorcee. According to Australian Red Cross (2013), Christian missionary shelters and hospitals are some of the places where abused people receive care. The deep-set beliefs and traditions of the country make religious conversion complicated; somewhat apparent as even those who call themselves Christian and attend church weekly behave in vicious manners. Religious text teachings can serve as resources to assist those who have experienced abuse in finding safety and in the process of healing (Wamukonya, 2012).

2.5.4 Gender-based violence and marital relationship

It is important to understand that domestic violence has shown that men and women act violently in relationships at about the same rate. Furthermore, men and women are equally likely to instigate violence against one another. Oladepo et al. (2011) claim that not only that violence tend to escalate frequently amongst those who call themselves single over time but also that violence occurring during the dating phase is a strong precursor of marital violence. Oladepo et al. (2011) further assert that abusive marriages are generally preceded by violent dating relationships and are characterized by strategies to control and restrict men’s and women’s autonomy in terms of perpetration and partners reported most severe forms of physical abuse than married partners.

Muwanigwa (2017) regard male physical violence as being used primarily in the context of self-defense and mutually violent relationships especially when they are in a cohabitating relationship. Moreover, women with a lower tolerance to violence associated with a higher awareness of their rights may generate more conflict that makes men more vulnerable and more emotionally dependent on the relational dimensions of their lives. The Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (2013) shows that divorced, separated or married men and women are more likely to have experienced physical violence by any perpetrator, compared to men and women who were currently widowed, living with a partner, or never married. Victims are also more likely experience sexual violence by any perpetrator, compared to those who were currently married, living with a partner, or never married. In addition, Ingolo (2012) argues in the same line with this study as they hold that abusive female partners target their husbands' feelings and emotions and the soft spots that affect their mood, self-esteem and confidence. Ingolo (2012) further discloses that such type of abuse is mainly in the form of derogatory statements regarding sexual performance and generally lack of respect for husbands. Furthermore, O'Grady (2011) in his findings reveals that verbal abuse in relationships is one of the major methods women use to inflict violence on men as they can easily insult and undress a husband in the presence of the children. Furthermore, Arbache et al. (2010) agree that women are able to humiliate, falsely accuse, or manipulate men to submit to undesirable behaviour, make men feel unwanted and unloved, threaten men economically, or isolate victims from support systems.

According to Singh (2009), men tolerate and stay in abusive and violent relationship for many reasons fundamentally; belief and hope that things would get better, fear of losing social respect and position, protection, and love towards their children and family. Many

abused men feel that they have to make their marriages work. They are afraid that if things fall apart, they will be blamed. Singh (2009) further asserts that many abused men also believe that it is their fault and feel that they deserve the treatment they receive.

2.6 Perceptions of men on gender-based violence

While it is a fact that women suffer as victims of domestic violence, it is also a fact that men contrary suffer as victims of domestic violence. While the majority of domestic violence victims are women, male-oriented abuse occurs more often than many think (Hoogensen & Rottem, 2011). According to Australian Red Cross (2013), men are stronger than women, but that does not necessarily make it easier for them to have their way all the time. The problem is that the man who suffers domestic violence is hardly given a listening ear. Men are assumed to be the aggressor even if he has bruises all over him. An abused man faces a shortage of resources, skepticism from the police and other major legal obstacles especially when it comes to gaining custody of his children from an abusive mother (Sigal & Denmark, 2013).

Although scholars like Hindin et al. (2008) show from English historical evidence, and later analysis that in the nineteenth century and before there was considerable concern for the violation of patriarchal norms of the violence of wives against husbands, this was not taken seriously because it contradicted the principles of feminism. Röder (2012) also refers to the work of McGoldrick & Gerson (2010) who first describes the battered husband's syndrome and the impact that this had on the view of domestic violence as a solely male against female action. McGoldrick & Gerson (2010) further report that

violence against men by women was as common in the United States of America as violence against women by men.

However, Chan & Mulrone (2011) describe how McGoldrick & Gerson (2010) were ridiculed and received verbal abuse and bomb threats and efforts were made to remove them from their academic posts because of their unconventional study. This made other researchers in the same field back away from this area because of the feminist lobby. In the historical context Sigal & Denmark (2013) contend “Criticism has ranged from personally attacking the researchers, to more academic efforts directed at attacking the work itself by denying the validity of the reports, to an outright defense of the violent behaviour of women or otherwise minimizing its significance”.

As the feminist perspective on domestic abuse has been so strong in recent years this has therefore meant that male victims have subsequently been deselected from any sample groups and accordingly, one can assert that the feminist analysis of domestic violence is gender-biased, and its findings will reflect such a bias (Edwards-Jauch, 2014). Thus, it sounds plausible to conclude that contradictory views to feminist theory of men being perpetrators have continuously been suppressed, unreported, reinterpreted, or denied. This comes against the backdrop of evidence that demonstrates that there is now a recognition that a serious problem exists with every type of domestic violence by whichever gender, although the police and support services have not fully responded to the change (Chang & Romeo, 2008). It is within this framework that the current study is premised.

2.6.1 Advocacy and sensitization

The various advocacy and sensitization are more or less in favour of female victims, thereby leaving the male victims to suffer in silence. There is great similarity between female and male victims and their abusers (Chirimhana, 2015). Their problem is viewed as of little consequence, or they are to blame, and there are few available resources for male victims. Three-quarters of the men who contact an abuse shelter or hotline report that the agency would provide services only to women, and nearly two-thirds were treated as the abuser rather than the victim (Singh, 2009). Campbell (2010) stresses that the understanding that men do not ask for help if they are in pain, and that men are strong, tough and fighters has shown to perpetuate under-reporting of abuse of men and boys.

According to Schulz (2015) in a study done in Uganda, men are often victims of rape and other forms of abuse, but this is not acknowledged because the victim will not receive assistance. Schulz further claims there will be little investment in prevention programmes that should work at the level of men and boys themselves, and also with service providers who respond to GBV such as police and health workers instead of embarrassing them when they report abuse. Charles and Erin, (2011) reveal that men experience stigma in their lives, but are however too shy to come forth and report these cases to responsible authorities. Campbell (2010) criticises certain socially acceptable versions of manhood as being main attributes to men's violence against women, and to perpetuate gender inequality. Men are according to such versions expected to be dominant, to take the lead in relationships and in the household, and to make the decisions, over and above women.

2.6.2 Cultural belief

In many societies, there are cultural institutions, beliefs and practices that weaken women's or men's autonomy and contribute to gender-based violence (Carpenter, 2008). Certain marriage practices can disadvantage families especially where customs such as payment and bride wealth have been corrupted by western consumer culture (Sangari, 2008). Hence, settlement demands can deteriorate into harassment, threats and abuse, and in extreme cases, partners are driven to suicide, divorce or pursue another marriage (Arbache et al., 2010).

Almost every traditional African society was patriarchal and a woman's place within this scheme was decidedly subordinate (Sangari, 2008). Institutionalization of this inequality remains woven in African customary law. For example, in most customary systems, women have no right to inherit from their husbands and are not regarded as sharing ownership of marital property. In this case, there is power in African tradition, and norms that explains domestic violence (African Development Bank, 2015).

2.6.3 Global Perspectives on gender-based violence

International concern over gender-based violence has increased considerably in recent years. The current debate about what constitutes GBV raises a number of issues and questions that need to be considered if we are to promote theory-and-evidence-based humanitarian practice in this area Bott et al. (2008). Current estimates of gender-based violence indicate that between 10- 65% of men worldwide have been physically and sexually assaulted by a female partner at least once in their lives.

Gender mainstreaming emerged in the 1980s as a strategy to further women's empowerment and to promote gender equality through ensuring that public policy

reflects the needs and interests of women as well as those of men (Chan & Mulrone, 2011). Still, for many humanitarian agencies and practitioners, gender-based violence remains synonymous with violence against women and girls (Wamukonya, 2012). This paradigm is however shifting. There are now calls for GBV prevention and response in humanitarian settings to focus on a wider range of gendered and sexualised violence, such as sexual violence directed at men in conflict (Charles & Erin, 2011). While all forms of gendered and sexualised violence must be addressed, humanitarian response must be grounded. Gender-based violence is undoubtedly one of the most common forms of violence in the world. It includes physical violence, emotional violence, sexual violence and economic violence. Recent multi-country studies, using a common methodology and definitions, have found high prevalence of physical and sexual violence against women by intimate male partners (World Vision, 2010).

Gender-based violence has devastating consequences not only for victims but also for society as a whole. It results in physical, sexual and psychological harm to both men and women and includes any form of violence or abuse that targets men or women on the basis of their sex. Unequal power relations between men and women significantly contribute to gender violence. In fact, gender-based violence is intended to maintain gender inequalities and reinforce traditional gender roles for both men and women (Wamukonya, 2012).

2.6.4 African Perspectives on gender-based violence

Domestic violence varies by country. While it is generally outlawed in the Western World, this is not the case in many developing countries. For instance, in Zambia, the Demographic Health Survey (DHS, 2013) data indicates that 2% of ever-married men

reported being beaten by their spouse or partner in the past year and about 13% of 15-19-year olds were sexually coerced in the past 12 months.

In rural Ethiopia, Arbache et al. (2010) point out that 9% of ever-partnered men have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner, while 15% had ever experienced sexual violence. All these variations may be a consequence of underreporting, stigma, shame or other social and cultural factors that deter men from discussing episodes of violence. In another hospital-based study in Nairobi, the prevalence of sexual violence among men was 41.5%, while the proportion of physical assault was 38.5% (World Vision, 2010). This study also reports that majority of the perpetrators of gender-based violence were married (12%) and alcohol was a significant contributor in 10.1% of determinant cases.

In a study of Igbo communities in Nigeria by Oladepo et al. (2011) shows that 8.9% of men reported abuse from their partners while 21.3% have been forced to have sexual intercourse. It has been reported that men have their share of adverse consequences of domestic violence. McGoldrick and Gerson (2010) study on violence among young males, 19.7% of men had experienced physical assault, 36.3% had received sexual harassment, while only 7.2% had emotional or psychological violence. McGoldrick and Gerson (2010) further state that alcohol consumption and growing up in an environment where parents fought publicly were significantly associated with wives beating their husbands, while being young, unmarried and domestic violence between parents of the respondents were significantly associated with women being beaten. This may largely be due to the wide spread tolerance of such acts and lack of appropriate legal framework

that protects women and men from domestic gender-based violence in Uganda (Schulz, 2015).

2.6.5 Namibia Perspective on gender-based violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a human rights issue of endemic proportions in Namibia. A study by the World Health Organisation reveals, over one third of ever-partnered women in Namibia reported having experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner at some time, with 31% reporting physical violence and 17% sexual violence (National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence, 2012-2016).

An investigative study in Namibia by Olivier (2011) asserts that there are persistent cases of gender-based violence against women and children, despite Namibia being a signatory to various international agreements protecting the rights of individuals. Olivier (2011) further claim, GBV continues unabated in Namibia, prompting the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) to come up with a campaign to educate people on their rights. The study identifies cultural beliefs and practices and notions of masculinity in Namibia as some of the factors that promote violence against men and women. Alcohol abuse according to Oliver (2011) is one biggest contributor to GBV, worsened by the constant inequality between men, women and girls. Gender-based violence against men in Namibia remains alarmingly high despite government efforts to fights GBV. The practise is frequently in the form of emotional and physical abuse.

Although women are the majority of victims, it is important to take cognizant of other vulnerable groups. In particular, members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community are subject to high levels of GBV in Namibia (Chirimhana, 2015). Moreover, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare

(2012) report shows that 1 out of 10 victims of GBV is a man. Namibia envisions a society based on equality in which all people are able to enjoy a life free from discrimination and violence. Gender-Based Violence, no matter who the victim is, is a crime against human rights (Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, 2012). However, a study by Hamunyela & Mwanyanene (2010) indicates that little attention has been given to men as normal citizens engaged with the projection of social change.

2.7 Possible causes of gender-based violence

Several authors have identified various perceptions and causes related to gender-based violence among men. According to Oladepo et al. (2011), gender-based violence may be caused by unemployment, lack of knowledge of human rights, consumption of alcohol and changing lifestyles or modernization. This is similar to the findings of Ghazizadeh (2008) study in Iran that reveals GBV as significantly associated between husbands' education levels and violence against them. However, this is not consistent with the report from Rwanda where men with lesser education were less likely to report physical violence (Stemple, 2009). Oladepo et al. (2011) asserts, "Men who experience such violence may suffer further physical and mental health problems in their lifetime" and this may include an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections, depression and anxiety. In addition, several common factors contributing to gender-based violence are described below.

2.7.1 Economic factors

Literature adopted from a study conducted by Mashizha (2013) highlighted that lack of economic resources underpins men's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves. Chang & Romeo (2008) postulates that the link between

violence and lack of economic resources and dependency is circular. The threat and fear of violence keep some men from seeking employment, and compels them to accept low-paid, home-based exploitative labour. Due to lack of economic independence, some men have no power to escape from violent relationships. Campbell (2010) stated that increasing levels of poverty, unemployment, hardship, income inequality, and alcohol abuse have led to increased violence in the society in general. These factors act indirectly to raise some men's vulnerability by encouraging more risk-taking behaviour, more alcohol and drug abuse, breakdown of social support networks and the economic dependence of men on their partners, LeBeau et al. (2010). This literature was supported by a study done in South Africa by Dustin (2009) which discloses that men who are employed and earned cash were less likely to report having experienced emotional and sexual abuse than unemployed men due to the fear of encountering social stigma and shame.

Another reason is increasing economic and other dependency on women. In cases where an abused man is mentally, emotionally, or financially dependent on the woman, the idea of leaving the relationship generates feelings of depression and anxiety (Wingood & DiClemente, 2010).

2.7.2 Patriarchal factors

Patriarchy is not only a function of male physical, social, economic and political power that may influence why men are viewed as perpetrators of domestic violence as it involves men asserting their authority over women but patriarchy also influences why male victims of domestic violence find it difficult to seek help and support (Ingolo, 2012). A study conducted in South Africa by Mosavel et al. (2012) stresses that issues of

gender have been misunderstood and they are now causing instability in many homes. The study further emphasizes that patriarchal beliefs in a society or a community make men feel that they cannot speak about the abuse they are receiving from the women in their houses and most of these men end up committing suicide. This suggests that the gender equality policy and programs are perceived particularly by men as challenging. Bakker and Arnold (2014) states that patriarchal beliefs cause men to suffer silently in their relationships which makes it difficult for men to seek help because of social constructions of masculinity that state that men are strong and tough and fighters, that men do not feel pain or cry, and therefore cannot be vulnerable to abuse. Reporting GBV to the police by men according to Asher et al., (2011) is observed particularly problematic, because police officers will dismiss and/or ridicule the victim.

Male victims seem reluctant to get help as their self-esteem and confidence deteriorate due to the violence but, regardless, they still want to remain “manly” to the outside world. Many men deny that they are victims of domestic violence in order to still feel masculine. Others feel too embarrassed to seek help and advice and those victims that do try to seek help from the police or social services are sometimes ridiculed (African Development Bank, 2015). Sherifat and Olanrewe (2014) argue that focusing on the specific individual manifestations of men’s violence to women as a social problem places individuals in a wider context and makes it possible to consider the nature of violence as a dynamic process affecting the lives of men as well as women. In addition, such a contextual approach includes an analysis of factors such as the dynamics of gender relations within a society, the impact of cultural beliefs and values on violent behaviour.

Increasing levels of poverty, unemployment, hardship, income inequality, and alcohol abuse leads to increased violence in the society in general (Dustin, 2009). These factors act indirectly to raise women's vulnerability by encouraging more risk-taking behaviour, more alcohol and drug abuse, breakdown of social support networks and the economic dependence of women on their partners (Charles & Erin, 2011). One of the consequences of GBV is denial of human rights to men such as the principles of fundamental rights and freedoms of every human being that are guided by a broad concept of human rights that stretches beyond civil and political rights to the core issues of economic survival, health and education that affect the quality of daily life for most people (United States Agency for International Development, 2016). It is therefore legally binding under international law for governments that have ratified with these organizations to protect all people from crimes of violence and to also bring the perpetrators to justice (Bott et al., 2008).

2.8 Effects of Female Domestic Violence against Men

Gender-based violence affects men's human rights in fundamental ways that present a serious challenge to realizing men's rights as citizens and realizing their agency to fully participate in public and in private life. Female violence incurs considerable social and economic costs to men such as personal insecurity, lost income, and productivity. Hindin et al., (2008) held the view that being the victim of domestic abuse was destructive to one's self-esteem and self-image. A man that had been beaten by his wife or partner was most likely to be a psychologically broken man; the male being sexually abused by a female was usually a very vulnerable personality who felt absolute shame and worthlessness. Carpenter (2008) brings out other long-term effects on men who have

been abused. These are guilt, anger, depression or anxiety, shyness, nightmares, disruptiveness, irritability, and problems getting along with others. A victim's overwhelming lack of resources can also lead to homelessness and poverty. Men who have suffered abuse are at risk of a lot of negative consequences that can put them on a destructive path for their future as their life is usually shattered.

Schulz (2015) posit that men who are victims of domestic violence also commonly experience long-term anxiety and panic and are likely to meet the diagnostic criteria for Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Panic Disorder. Schulz (2015) further states that the most commonly referenced psychological effect of domestic violence is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (as experienced by victims) is characterised by flashbacks, intrusive images, exaggerated startle responses, nightmares, and avoidance of triggers that are associated with the abuse.

2.9 Remedial measures of combating gender-based violence

More research should be carried out aimed at profiling gender-based violence against men on a larger scale so that issues of magnitude, nature and consequences can be addressed hence facilitating evidence-based policy formulations on the subject. A study done by Sadiqi and Ennaji (2011) in North African country Morocco highlighted that women are more privileged in comparison to men and men are not well protected by the law or society. The study recommend that governments involve police in combating domestic violence in order to treat male victims of violence as victims who require assistance just like any other and render help to them accordingly. Sadiqi and Ennaji (2011) further suggest that efforts and resources should be given to the police and NGOs for campaigns of attitude change in the larger society so that masculinity identities

which hinder male victims from exposing violence against them could be minimized. Politicians and the media should acknowledge that violence against men is real in the Namibian society. The support by the few support groups is uncoordinated. Domestic violence against men is a hidden crime and awareness and training is the key to the people who are involved (Chirimbana, 2015).

The Namibian society lacks knowledge on policies and Acts in the country that are promoting gender equality between men and women such as the Married Persons Equality Act of 1996 and National Gender Policy (2010 – 2020) under (mandated for) the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW). The Married Persons Equality Act was promulgated in 2012. In terms of the Act, a husband's (man) marital power as the head of the household has been abolished (Hamunyela and Mwanyanene, 2010). The Act provides for equal power to both man and woman. The National Gender Policy was designed to effectively contribute to the attainment of the objectives of Vision 2030, in order to create a society in which women and men enjoy equal rights and access to basic services (Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, 2012). The society needs to be informed about this policy that serves to provide opportunities for women and men to participate in and contribute towards the political, social, economic, and cultural development of Namibia.

The World Health Organization (WHO) (2013) highlighted that men experience high level of physical violence than women with low income countries ignored the national policies that suggests that national gender policy should play an important role in addressing gender-based violence. Based on this policy, it ensures that Namibia is a fair, gender responsive, caring and committed nation in which all citizens are able to realize

their full potential in a safe and decent living environment. The policy measures help to reduce gender-based violence as a result of prevention initiatives spelt out in the policy. In addition, there is improved service for survivors of gender-based violence. The policy further instills the understanding of gender-based violence in the country and more efficient interventions as a result of the improved coordination and monitoring are achieved.

2.10 Conclusion

The study seeks to propose an integrated conceptual framework for addressing perception of men on gender-based violence in Namibia framed within the discourse of development communication. Several theoretical perspectives have been employed to shed light on multifaceted factors that come into play in our quest to understand the issues of gender-based violence against men , including how gender inequality and unequal power relationships influence women and men differently at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels of the ecosystem in which gender has been under-theorized. It is thus expected that a dispassionate debate and the contributions of academic community and colleagues present at this platform will illuminate, to some extent, our understanding of the issues of gender in our globalized community.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter profiles the design and methodological approaches used in the collection and analysis of data. Since the study is empirical in nature, it is prudent that data collection and analytic methods are clearly documented and justified so that the reader can be guided to the conclusions derived from the study. The chapter also identified the population under study and details of the sampling methods that were used to isolate eligible respondents. The safety, confidentiality and privacy of research participants are particularly crucial in research and these are covered in the ethical consideration section, which is the last component of this chapter.

3.2 Research design

Qualitative researchers follow a flexible research design which basically concerns the selection of the components of the study; hence, an appropriate research design is a requisite. Ritchie, Lewis, Nicholls, & Omorston (2013) define an appropriate research design with coherence between research questions and methods that guarantee valid and reliable data and can be achieved within the available resources. The study conducted using the qualitative exploratory descriptive, phenomenological research method to enable the researcher to understand the perspectives of the participants by asking more detailed questions and probing. The goal of qualitative phenomenological research is to describe a lived experience of a phenomenon, and the perceptions of men experiencing GBV in the Oshana Region of Namibia were explored.

3.2.1 Qualitative approach

Qualitative research approach as defined by Leedy and Ormond (2010) is an approach associated with social constructivist which emphasizes the socially constructed nature of reality. This methodology unpacks meanings of opinions in terms of respondents' experiences, attitudes and beliefs. Creswell (2014) is also in congruent with the statement, where he states that qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals ascribe to a social or human problem. The researcher used qualitative approach as the study required a deeper understanding of the issues affecting men in their homes with their partners.

3.2.2 Exploratory design

According to Perri and Bellamy (2012), exploratory research is normally undertaken when not much is known about a phenomenon or where there is lack of information about the situation. Such research is undertaken to better understand or comprehend the nature of the problem. This study adopted the exploratory research because the objective of the study is to determine the perceptions of men experiencing gender-based violence in Oshana Region and study conducted in this concept is limited.

3.2.3 Descriptive design

This design provides an accurate and valid representation to the research question which is more structured than the exploratory research (Antwi and Hamza, 2015). Such a study is conducted to ascertain and be able to describe the variables and their characteristics in a situation of interest. Descriptive studies offer a researcher with a profile to describe the relevant aspects of the phenomenon of interest (Leedy and Ormond, 2010). The study

also used descriptive design to explain the demographic factors of the participants.

3.3 Research philosophies surrounding gender-based violence

3.3.1 Epistemology

Epistemology relates to how knowledge can be recognized, developed or acknowledged (Brannen and Coram, 2008). The philosophy considers alternative ways of approaching research and epistemology may be objective or subjective; objective epistemology (Babbie, 2015). Since it recognizes the outside world which is hypothetically impartial, while the subjective epistemology suggests that the outside world is in the realm of clarifications from reflection. There are two sides of epistemology which are positivism and interpretivist (McNamee and Hosking, 2012). The researcher uses epistemology to have an understanding of how gender-based violence is perceived by men in Oshana region. The idea was to find out how the respondents perceive the knowledge on developments on gender-based violence in their region.

3.3.2 Axiology

Antwi and Hamza (2015) describe axiology as a Greek word for the study of values. Generally, values are of two types: what one values and what one should value. The understanding of individual values was also important for this study (Awases, Bezuidenhout, and Roos, 2013). Axiology was adopted to ensure the understanding of different values among men and women in order to respect each other to avoid gender-based violence.

3.3.3 Methodological assumptions

Furthermore, methodological assumption focuses on analysis of the methods used for gaining the data (Brannen and Coram, 2008). The procedures used by the researcher are

inductive and are based on the researcher's own experience in collecting and analyzing data. In normative paradigms, scientific method, quantitative uses mathematics calculations to generalize the findings and test the theory. In contrast, an interpretive paradigm uses observation, fieldwork notes to investigate the object (Kumar, 2013). In short, an interpretive paradigm tends to use qualitative methods for observation. As a result, the findings can be open to many interpretations. On the other hand, methodology in critical theory tends to use both quantitative and qualitative approaches: quantitative to control the social setting when doing the actions and qualitative to observe the changes that happened after the actions are given (Antwi and Hamza, 2015). Due to the sensitivity of the topic under study, the researcher used the qualitative approach.

3.4 Population

Population is a term that sets boundaries on the study units. It refers to individuals in the universe who possess specific characteristics (Mugo, 2010). It is also further defined by Babbie (2015) as "the group of people about who we want to draw conclusion". The research population of this study comprised 80,115 men residing in the Oshana Region. According to the Namibia Statistics Agency [NSA], (2011) there were 80,115 men residing in the Oshana Region.

3.5 Sample and sampling

A sample can be described as a portion, or part of the study population, composed of members, elements or subjects from which the information is collected (Creswell, 2014). The convenience sampling as a type of non-probability sampling was used to sample the participants to interview participants that reported abuse during the study period from the same population until data saturation has taken place. In this study, the sample was

men who are experiencing gender-based violence. The study sample consisted of fifteen participants who have come to report cases of abuse by their intimate partners at the Women and Child protection unit, Oshakati Hospital during the study period.

3.6 Research instruments

During the qualitative interviews, the researcher used an interview guide to collect data. The instrument that the researcher used by asking questions to the participants in a predetermined sequence had two sections, section A and B. Section A addressed socio-demographic characteristics of men who are victims of GBV such as age, marital status, level of education, level of income, number of children, employment status and religion type. Section B focused on explore the perceptions of GBV among men, determine the possible causes of GBV among men and explore remedial measures in combating gender-based violence among men.

3.7 Procedure for data collection

Anyon (2014) recommends semi-structured interviews and qualitative analysis as the most suitable combination when the goal is to explore personal and controversial issues. Data was collected through semi-structured face-to-face interviews which were conducted by the researcher. Semi-structured interviews were designed based on the objectives of the study. Interviews involve the asking of questions that elicit information about attitudes and opinions, perspectives and meanings that help to produce rich descriptive data (Kruger, 2013). Interviews were conducted immediately after the victim has discussed the problem with social workers and police officers at the study site. The aim of the study was explained to the participants and consent was signed for the participant's permission to participate in the study before data collection

commenced. In an effort to ensure confidentiality of the respondent, interviews took place in an office. The process of conducting qualitative interviews was characterised by the researcher asking the participants a series of questions of which they were required to respond to, if comfortable with the posed question. Moreover, all interviews were recorded using a voice recorder after consent was obtained from the respondent. Field note was used to take notes of the participants' responses.

3.8 Data analysis

In qualitative studies, data analysis occurs concurrently with data collection (Christensen, Johnson, and Turner, 2014). Data collected were analyzed qualitatively using Tesch's method of analysis for qualitative data (Tesch 2013). The data analysis in this study was concerned with the theoretical and empirical data. The following steps: reading, coding, displaying, reducing and interpreting were embraced in this study (Creswell, 2014).

Reading: During this phase, the researcher started with engagement, reading and re-reading through all the transcription carefully followed by selecting the interview and underlining the meaning of the information texts, and reviewing the notes with the aim of extracting the categories and subcategories.

Coding: Coding entails reviewing transcription and field notes and giving labels (names) to component parts (Creswell, 2014). While reading, the researcher had started to look for emerging categories and subcategories. During the coding process the researcher began to attach codes to those chunks of text that represented those categories and subcategories.

Displaying: After coding, the researcher began to explore main categories that formed the basis for the research objectives and display the subcategories using tables and charts for socio-demographic data

Reducing: After displaying the information relevant to each category in detail the data were reduced to the essential points.

Interpretation: Finally, the researcher interpreted the overall study findings namely, the way in which the categories related to one another and also the way the findings relate to previous studies.

During the data analysis, strategies such as inductive reasoning, synthesis, inferences and derivation were used (Burns & Grove, 2009). The data were reduced through the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting and transforming the information that had emerged in the writing of the field notes and the memos. The data reduction/transformation process were repeated until the final report was completed and the conclusions drawn and verified (Mugo, 2010).

3.9 Research ethics

Brannen and Coram (2008) define ethics as a branch of philosophy that deals with one's conduct and serves as a guide to one's behaviour. Ethical clearance was sought from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare as well as from the University of Namibia's Research and Ethics Committee (UREC). The following ethical principles were ensured during the study:

3.9.1 Respect for persons

Before each data collection session, a written consent form to inform the participants about the aims and processes of the research was developed and participants accepted

consent by signing the consent form. The participants were allowed to withdraw from the study at any point or choose not to answer some questions with no penalty.

3.9.2 Beneficence

The researcher ensured that confidentiality of the participants was protected throughout the study as the researcher guaranteed that no names or personal identifiers were recorded anywhere mainly on the data collection instruments and that all the information gathered, and subsequent reports would not refer to individual participation. Instead, the researcher allocated pseudonyms to each of the participants, making their personal details remain anonymous.

3.9.3 Fair treatment/Justice

In this study the principle of justice was ensured such that each and every participant had an equal opportunity to be selected from the target population for the reasons directly related to the research purpose not because they were easily available or could be manipulated. If a participant experienced any challenges regarding the interviews or during the research process, they would be referred for appropriate counselling or support. The researcher ensured that data gathered during the study was not divulged to anyone by use of a computer password. All information collected from participants was stored in a locked cabinet that was only accessible to the researcher.

3.10 Measures to ensure trustworthiness

In qualitative research, trustworthiness has become an important concept because it allows researchers to describe the virtues of qualitative terms outside of the parameters that are typically applied in quantitative research (Burns & Grove, 2009). In essence,

trustworthiness can be thought of as the ways in which qualitative researchers ensure that transferability, credibility, dependability and confirmability are evident in their research. In this study these criteria were implemented as follows:

3.10.1 Credibility

Credibility is the confidence in truth value and believability of the study's findings Antwi and Hamza (2015). This entails interpreting the information and then checking with the participants if the interpretation and thematic analysis were consistent, correct and congruent with the experiences (Creswell, 2014). The researcher participated fully in the research, spent approximately four months collecting data from different men that reported abuse at the Women and Child protection Unit, observing and checking for inappropriate or irrelevant information by clarifying information with the participants. Moreover, the participants' validations were the most critical in establishing credibility.

3.10.2 Transferability

Transferability involves evidence of validity achieved through the presentation of 'thick descriptions' which allow the reader to determine whether the conclusions of the research are in fact relevant to their own circumstances and therefore to them (Creswell, 2014). Convenience sampling was used to select participants who would give in-depth information on their experiences on gender-based violence. Data were collected until saturation and participants' own responses and words were used to illustrate the various real-life contexts and views across the range of answers given.

3.10.3 Dependability

Dependability was maintained through an external inquiries audit, a dense description of the research method, stepwise replication, triangulation, peer examination and code-

recode procedure (Kruger, 2013). In this study, research methods such as nomination of the participant's population, sample and sampling, data collection and analysis were clearly indicated. In addition, a review of literature was also conducted to search for similar studies and the resultant findings.

3.10.4 Conformability

The researcher guaranteed the safekeeping of the recorded audios and field notes from the interviews to enable the supervisor to determine whether it is possible to trace the conclusion and interpretation back to their sources.

3.11 Conclusion

This research is qualitative, exploratory and descriptive. The study was conducted in Oshana region and convenience sampling methods were used with the criteria of the researcher's knowledge and background. In the next chapter, results and discussion on the themes and subthemes will follow.

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSES, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

The previous chapter emphasized the study methodology and this chapter is focused on the analysis of data. The analysis of data is significant as it is responsible for the transformation of raw data into meaningful information (Brickman, 2016). This chapter concentrated on the analysis of data and the participants were asked to describe their experiences of GBV. The objectives of the study were as follows:

- To identify the socio-demographic characteristics of men who are victims of GBV in Oshana Region.
- To explore and describe the perceptions of GBV among men in Oshana Region
- To determine the possible causes of GBV among men in Oshana Region.
- To explore remedial measures in combating Gender-Based Violence among men in Oshana Region

Data was collected using structured interviews from fifteen men who had reported abuse during the study period and was analysed using Tesch method of data analysis for qualitative research.

4.2 Presentation of Findings

Data presentation and discussion includes the description of the collected data into some form of explanation, understanding or interpretation of the people and situations under investigation (Creswell, 2014). Data saturation was reached after interviewing (15) fifteen men and the interview responses were presented in themes and tables. Since the study was following a qualitative approach, data was analysed thematically and

presented in themes and sub-themes. The data collected during the individual semi-structured interview was transcribed and then analysed according to the framework of data analysis for qualitative research. The researcher's interpretations and analysis are integrated in the literature, which serves as evidence of the themes and sub-themes (Brannen and Coram, 2008). The collected data was organized, examined for use and data was analysed using Tesch's method of analysis for qualitative data (Tesch 2013). Interviews were audio recorded and field notes were taken.

4.3 Socio-demographical Data

The socio-demographical data was analysed according to age, qualification, employment, marital status, years of marriage, number of children, source of income and religion and presented by means of tables, pie charts and bar charts.

4.3.1 Participants' age

The study elicited the ages of the participants. The figure below shows the participants' results on this attribute.

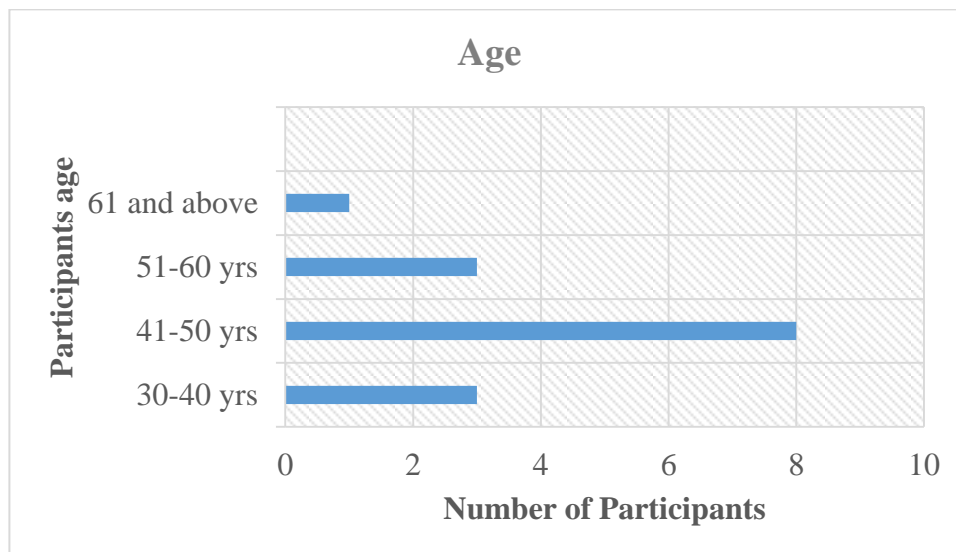


Figure 4.2 Participants response to age

The participants were aged between 30 to 70 years and three of the participants were in their 30s and 40s while the majority were in their 50s. From the ages of the participants, there is a clear indication that the majority of abused men ranges from the age of 30-60 years. These findings concur with the earlier citations by Bott et al. (2008) who indicated that spousal age difference between the wife and husband can be one of the factors contributing to GBV among men. However, this findings contradict with the findings of Stemple (2009) who contends that young men are also frequent victims of violence especially those between the ages of 15-30 years.

4.3.2 Participants' level of education

In relation to level of education, the participant were rated as illustrated in Figure 4.2

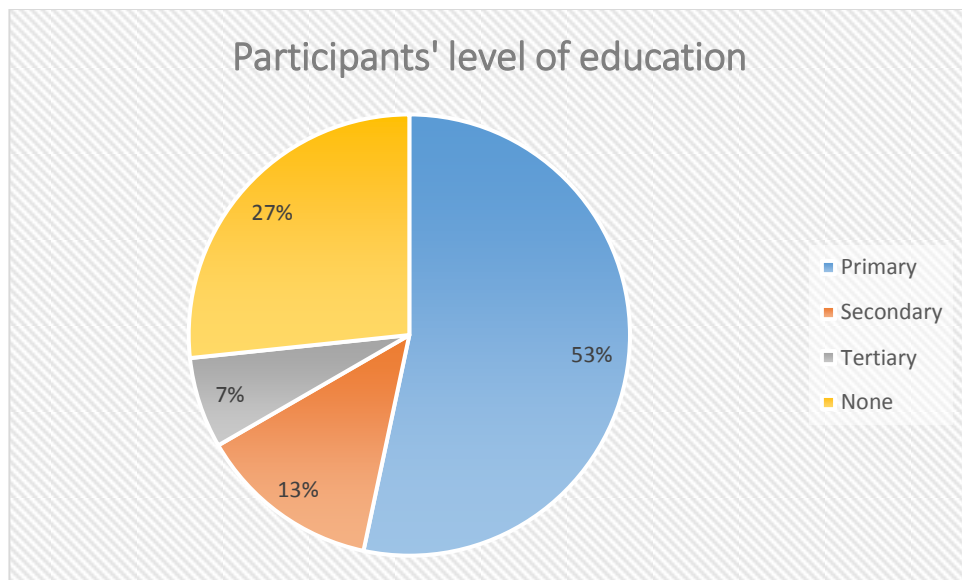


Figure 4.3 Participants level of education

The level of education was important to the researcher in order to determine the understanding of GBV among men so that the researcher can have an enlightened

understanding of the influence of educational levels on GBV. The study results show that 50% of the respondents have attained primary education level as their highest educational qualification. In addition, 27% of the respondents did not have any educational qualification, and only 13% of the respondents have attained secondary and Diploma levels. The results further indicate that educational qualification had an influence on the understanding of gender-based violence because the majority of participants lacked higher educational knowledge.

This result is supported by the study done in Iran by Ghazizadeh (2008) who indicated that gender-based violence rises with low levels of education especially in relationships where the age gap between the two couples are a huge educational margin. In addition, the results are similar and support the findings of Ghazizadeh (2008) in Iran which reported a significant association between the husband's level of education and violence against them. However, these findings contradict the findings by LeBeau et al. (2010) who found that educational qualification had no influence on the understanding of gender-based violence.

4.3.3 Participants' employment status

The results reflected that 13 out of 15 of the abused men are unemployed. This was supported by one of the interview questions where unemployed respondents revealed that they are sometimes denied food by their wives in the house because they are not working. Furthermore, this concurred with the findings of Chan and Mulroney (2011) who indicated that the majority of men that report abuse are unemployed comparing to the employed men because of victimization.

4.3.4 Participants' source of income

The study elicited the source of income of the participants. The figure below shows the participants' results on this attribute.

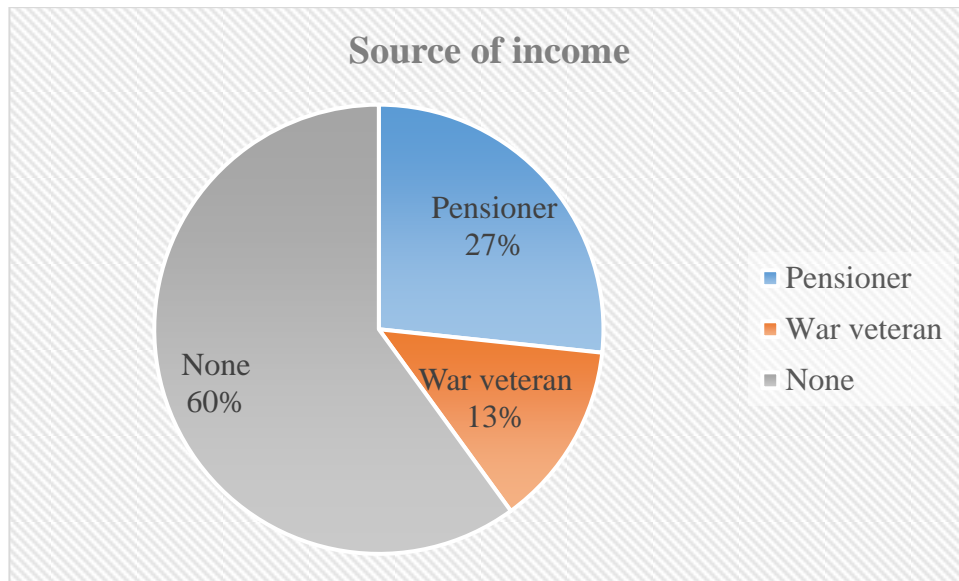


Figure 4.4 Participants source of income

A majority of the respondents in Figure 4.3 indicated that they do not have any other source of income. This is represented by 27% and 13% of the respondents who indicated that they receive other income from old age pension and war veteran grants respectively. The interview results concurred that lack of income is the main cause of gender-based violence among men. The results show that many of those who are failing to support their family find themselves being abused by their wives. These findings support those of Campbell (2010) who indicated that men who do not have a source of income are likely to undergo GBV by their partners who may be gainfully employed.

4.3.5 Participants' marital status

The fifth question in the interview tool sought information on marital status of the respondents as shown in Figure

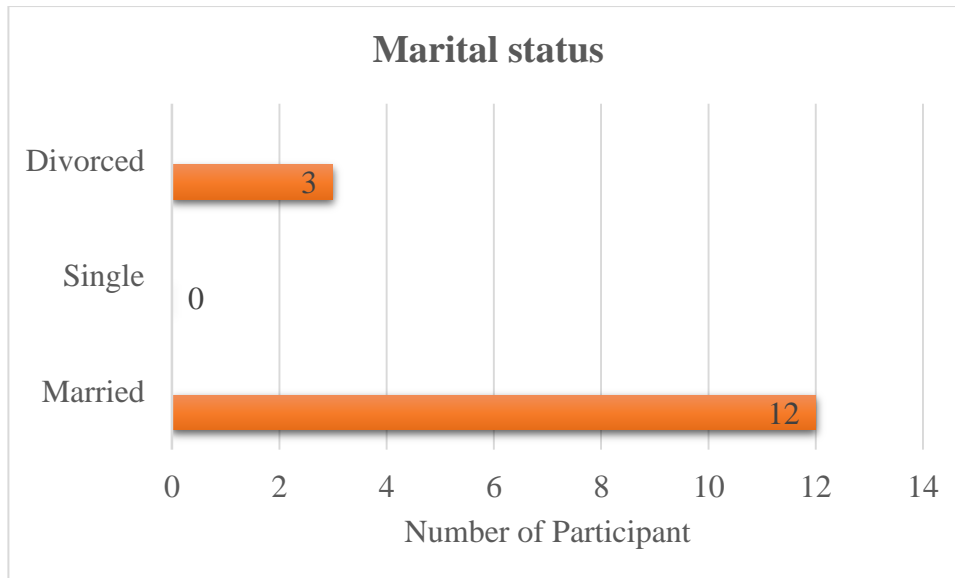


Figure 5.5 Marital status of the participants

Another important aspect in this study was marital status. The results show that the majority of the married couples experience gender-based violence. Three of the respondents are divorced. The study clearly showed that it is not only single partners that can be abused but married couples can also experience gender-based violence. The findings above support and uphold the earlier findings of Oladepo et al. (2011) who indicated that the type of relationship the couple are in, is one of the factors that contribute to GBV. On this note, Muwanigwa (2017) indicated that in such types of marriage relationships men tend to keep quiet even when they are undergoing abuse in the relationship. These findings contradict with the findings of Dustin (2009) who indicated that single men are more vulnerable to violence due to societal norms and they also experience physical and psychological violence by either street gangs or due to war. In addition, Asher, Schears, and Miller (2011) concurred by indicating that the tradition of female dominance in marriage is still prevalent in Africa, where unemployed men marry women that are older than they are.

4.3.6 Participants' years of marriage

Information on number of years in marriage was also sought and Table 4.2 illustrates these results.

Table 4.1: Participant's years of marriage

Years of marriage	Number of participants
2 years	2
3 years	9
7 years	2
10 years	1
32 years	2

As shown in table 4.1, nine of the respondents had stayed in their abusive marriages for 2 to 32 years. The results further indicated that some respondents have stayed in their marriage experiencing gender-based violence from their partners for a very long period, while other had the experience in the early years of their marriages. In addition, the results from the interviews indicated that participants suffered for a very long time even if they have reported their cases to either the police or the social worker. These results uphold the findings of Bakker and Arnold (2014) who indicated that men stay in abusive marriages for many years because they are not being taken seriously when they report their cases of being abused by their wives or partners.

4.3.7 Participants' number of children

The majority of participants (14) indicated that they had 2 - 7 children with their partners. The number of children was important to the study because the researcher

wanted to understand what effect gender-based violence has on children and the results show that children are also found in the middle of gender-based violence supporting their mothers. This harmonize with the results of a study done by Dustin (2009) who indicated that most men who experience gender-based violence are unemployed fathers with 2 to 13 children and this causes a burden on them to support their own children. These findings contradict the findings of Mosavel, et al. (2012 who indicated that men in dating relationship and with no kinds also experience gender-based violence by their intimate partners.

4.3.8 Participants' Religion

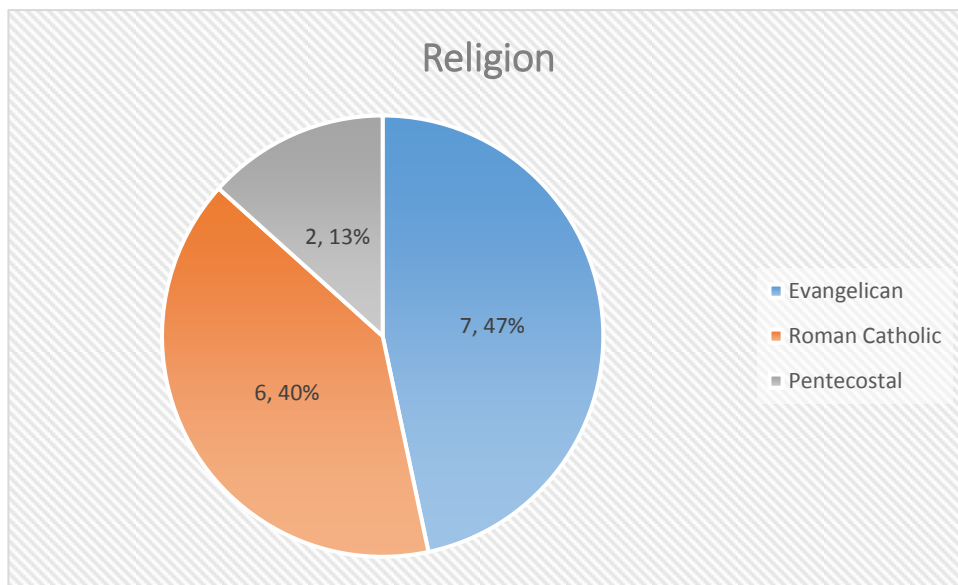


Figure 4.6: Participants religious affiliation

Religion plays an important role in the social wellbeing of an individual. All the respondents indicated that they belong to religious groups whereby 7,47% belongs to Evangelical, 6,40% Roman Catholic and 2.13% belong to Pentecostal church. The

results show that gender-based violence also happens in Christian families, because all the interviewed respondents indicated that they have reported their cases to either the pastors, church leaders or marriage. The findings above substantiate with the findings of Wamukonya (2012) and Australian Red Cross (2013) which indicated that abused people seek religious teachings, healings and safety at Christian missionary shelters and hospitals. These findings further harmonize with the findings of Oladepo et al. (2011) who cited religion as one of the factors that fuel GBV among men. On the same note, Chang & Romeo (2008) mention that GBV is driven by the church in that the way the Bible is written seems to show clearly that women must submit to the men but now in the event that women feel empowered when they are the providers of the sources of income to sustain the family, they tend to ‘revenge’ their husbands by treating them badly, leading to GBV.

4.4 Discussion of themes and subthemes

The data was then presented in themes with transcribed quotations of the respondents being included to support the findings. The themes and sub-themes that emerged from the analyzed, transcribed collected data are tabulated in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Themes and sub-themes

THEMES	SUB-THEMES
1.Perceptions of Gender-Based Violence among men	1.1: Stigma
	1.2: Patriarchal dominations belief
	1.3: Embarrassment
	1.4: Culture
2.Causes of Gender-Based Violence among men	2.1: Unequal power sharing between men and women
	2.2: Alcohol consumption
	2.3: Unemployment
	2.4: Lack of awareness of men’s right
	2.5: Income disparity
3.Remedial measures used in combating Gender Based Violence among men	3.1: Equality in power
	3.2: Gender role empowerment
	3.3: Education on human rights
	3.4: Empowerment in Policy implementation on GBV
	3.5: Campaigns on GBV

4.5 Theme 1: Perceptions of Gender-Based Violence among men

With regards to this theme, participants indicated that it is shameful for them to report gender-based violence taking place in their houses. This theme highlights the various perceptions of men regarding their experiences on gender-based violence. This theme was discussed under the following subthemes: stigma, patriarchal dominations beliefs, embarrassment and culture. On this issue this is what the participants had to say:

“Not every man can come forth to report abuse which is happening in their house because it is so embarrassing”. (Participant 5)

“It is not easy for a man to talk about the beating from his wife in the house”. (Participant 8)

However, two participants indicated that it is normal for couples to fight in a relationship. The following citations support this claim:

“It is normal for people to beat each other when they are in love”. (Participant 14)

“As long as I get what I want I don’t care about the abuse that takes place in the relationship.” (Participant 12)

While the majority of domestic violence victims are women, male-oriented abuse occurs more often than many think (Singh, 2009). Naturally, men are stronger than women, but that does not necessarily make it easier for them to have their way all the time. The problem is that the men who suffer domestic violence are hardly given a listening ear by the society in which they live and for this reason, some men who become victims of domestic violence, end up committing suicide. The results above support the findings of

Arbache et al. (2010) and Wamukonya (2012) who indicated that men have different views or perceptions of gender-based violence. Some men view the abuse as normal and some view it as a means of strengthening their relationships. In addition, some men feel that it is a taboo for them to report abuses from their intimate partners.

4.5.2 Patriarchal dominations belief

Participants in this study indicated patriarchal beliefs as one of the factors contributing to the act of silence among men experiencing GBV because men are expected to be the courageous, decision-makers and in control of their homes and relationships. The citations below from the participants support this claim:

“Men are afraid, to come forward and report the abuse because men are supposed to be strong, to not cry but support their family.” (Participant 11)

“The society will regard you a coward if you report any abuse by your wife.” (Participant 8)

“I would rather die than speak about the abuse that I am going through.”(Participant 6)

“You know if you are a man there are things you cannot say out in public because of what is expected of you as a man. I have to endure even unfavorable conditions in my house; I just have to endure and live with it.” (Participant12)

Patriarchal domination is a social system in which males hold primary and predominant roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property

(Campbell, 2010). In the context of this study, the contradiction between what is expected from men and what is known of what man should do regarding patriarchal beliefs causes men to suffer in silence.)

The results endorse the earlier findings by Bakker and Arnold (2014) who stated that patriarchal beliefs cause men to suffer silently in their relationships and this keeps them from reporting the abuse they undergo. Patriarchal beliefs in a society or a community cause men to feel that they cannot speak about the bad treatment they are receiving from the women in their houses and most of these men end up committing suicide or even leaving their homes and look for other women to stay with and they do this silently (Mosavel et al., 2012).

4.5.3 Embarrassment

Participants in the study indicated the fear of embarrassment as one of the factors that makes them endure and finally succumb to GBV in their relationships in most cases. The following citations from the participants support this claim:

“I feel ashamed when working outside there because my family and everybody knows that my wife does not cook for me anymore, I am sometimes chased out of the house because she is the one buying food.”
(Participant 13)

“I feel embarrassed staying at the church houses. Everybody wants to know what happened.” (Participant 11)

“I do not feel like a man anymore.” (Participant 15)

“We are a lot who feel embarrassed to speak forth of how women are abusing us in our homes but these are real issues in these marriages, but embarrassment makes us to suffer silently.” (Participant 8)

Embarrassment is one of the reasons that men do not to speak up about their experiences with gender-based violence in most communities (Chirimhana, 2015). The results show that men experience gender-based violence most of the times but choose to stay quiet about it due to fear of being embarrassed (Campbell, 2010). Embarrassment makes men feel useless and also to appear as if they are not in full and total control of their families. The results resemble those of Campbell (2010) who indicated that most men are enduring their marriages while they are experiencing the abuse by their wives. On this aspect, Schulz (2015) heralded that embarrassment causes men to die silently in abusive relationships. In addition, the results are in line with Singh (2009) who stated that embarrassment leads men to be hurt mentally and emotionally and causes them to lose their self-esteem. Embarrassment has a long-term psychological effect on the men if the GBV issues are not addressed.

4.5.4 Culture

The study results indicated that many of the respondents have been considered cowards by their wives and this has made the wives seem as if they have more money than their husbands. Also, in other cases the violence started when the wives proposed to sleep in separate rooms and in most cases the wives threaten for a divorce. This is what the participants had to say:

“She mostly insults me especially when she gets paid because I do not have money and it is supposed to be my responsibility to feed the family.”

(Participant 1)

“She sometimes refuses to sleep in the same room with me which is a taboo in our culture especially when you are legally married.”

(Participant 11)

GBV is one of those issues which are mostly driven by an individual’s culture. These cultural beliefs and practices weaken women’s and men’s autonomy and contribute to gender-based violence (Sangari, 2008). Certain marriage practices can disadvantage families especially where customs such as payment and bride wealth have been corrupted by western consumer culture (Bowman 2003). However, the results similarly indicated that violence was influenced by failure of the husband to fully support his family. This has caused the wives to see their husband as poor and hence always insults them for failure to provide for the family. The findings above are well-supported by the earlier findings of the African Development Bank, (2015) that indicated that culture plays a pivotal role in driving GBV. Men have been cultured to be the providers but in the event that women are the ones providing for their families, men tend to feel useless since all they can offer is sex rather than material possessions. In such cases men whose provisions are coming from the women tend to be silent even if they are abused because they are afraid that if they happen to report any abuse, their wives will chase them out of the house since the wives are the bread winners.

4.5.1 Stigma

Stigma makes men not to be open with their experiences and they continue suffering silently till they die. On this issue of stigma, this is what the participants in the study had to say:

“When I report the abuse at the police, the officers laugh at me and do not take me seriously.” (Participant 14)

“Because women know about their rights, they start the fights or arguments, but the moment the man goes to lay a charge at the police station they laugh and men have a problem of fearing to lay charges”. (Participant 6)

“I regret marrying that woman because in most cases women are too protected in any cases they reported and us men they only laugh and think we are perhaps mad.” (Participant 2)

“Things are looked at in a one-sided manner. Men are thought of as the only perpetrators of abuse, while on the other hand there are women who are abusing their men. That frustrates men and they end up being violent as the time goes on, because he is frustrated by the law system.” (Participant 5)

The results show that stigma is one of those factors that leads men to a culture of silence even when they undergo abuse in their marriages. According to all respondents this has caused some men to lose focus on their lives and some had health problems as a result, such as high blood pressure and depression. The result, however highlighted that the

situation created a stigma among the affected men immensely because some failed to get help from officials as accorded by the general norms.

Mosavel et al. (2012) highlighted that some men feel useless in their own homes and regret why they got married to their women or partners. Those who have divorced felt that it was not good to remarry considering their previous experiences. As a result of stigma other men felt ashamed to walk around their communities as some of their neighbours knew how they were being abused in their homes by their female counterparts (Arbache et al., 2010). This has however, caused them to be humiliated in front of their kids' every time they were being abused, thus lowering their self-esteem in the face of their communities.

The findings above harmonize with the findings of Chirimbana (2015) who indicated stigma as one of the reasons men do not come forth to report gender-based violence. On this note, Charles and Erin (2011) cited that men are experiencing stigma in their lives and they are shy to come forth to report these cases to the responsible authorities. Although, the respondents reported their cases to either the police, gender-based violence office, social worker, women or child protection office and some to family members, many felt that their cases were not handled appropriately. The findings relate to the literature stating that men are ashamed to talk about and share their experiences of being beaten by their wives (Arbache et al., 2010).

4.6 Theme 2: Causes of Gender-Based Violence among men

Participants in the study cited several factors which are the leading causes of domestic violence among men in most settings. This theme focuses on possible causes of gender-based violence against men whereby some of the subthemes concurred with the

reviewed literature. The following subthemes were identified from the study i.e., unequal power sharing between men and women, alcohol abuse, lack of awareness of the rights of men and income disparity. On these causes this is what the study participants had to say:

“I think gender based violence is caused when women become too empowered and too much protected by the prevailing laws of the country.” (Participant 13)

“Gender-based violence is caused by unemployment, alcohol abuse and lack of awareness of men’s rights.” (Participant 6)

Gender-based violence may be caused by low levels of education, unemployment, lack of knowledge of human’s rights among men, alcohol abuse and changing lifestyles or modernization (Oladepo et al., 2011). Oladepo et al. (2011) further stated that such causes may result into men suffering physical and mental health problems in their lifetime. This is similar to the findings of Ghazizadeh (2008) in Iran who wrote a book on the covariates of GBV among men which reported a significant association between husbands’ education levels and violence against them. The findings above uphold the earlier findings of Charles & Erin (2011) who cited that so many factors are behind gender-based violence among man. On the same note, Ajowi (2012) cited lack of education as being one of the causitive agents for GBV among men.

4.6.1 Unequal power sharing between men and women

Participants in the study indicated that unequal power sharing among people in relationships is one of the factors responsible for gender-based violence. On this issue, this is what the participants had to say:

“The challenge we have as men in relationships is the fact that we do not understand the issue of power sharing in the relationship.” (Participant 12)

“There is no understanding of the issue of power sharing in most relationships and for this reason, man become victims of GBV especially if the other partner has no understanding of power sharing in the relationship.” (Participant 2)

In any relationship, there is need to have equal power sharing between or among all the involved parties (Coomarswamy and Rajasingham, 2010). If there is equal power sharing, individuals will understand each other's value and they will also learn to appreciate the value in each other. Furthermore, they will understand that they need to respect each other as they live in harmony (O'Grady, 2011). If the participants do not have the understanding of equal power sharing in a relationship, it can lead to gender-based violence.

The findings concur with the findings of LeBeau et al (2010) who indicated that power sharing education is not something that individuals can be taught but that they need to understand to respect the other individual with whom they are in a relationship with. On this issue of power Arbache et al. (2010) highlighted that women's power above all

is the cause of violence against men. This is further supported by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (2012) who indicated that inequality between men, women and girls is also a contributor to gender-based violence.

4.6.2 Alcohol consumption

Participants in the study indicated that men who are in relationships with women who abuse alcohols and drugs are mostly abused especially when these parties are under the influence of such substances. On this issue this is what the study participants had to say:

“These women brutalize us especially when they know that we are drunk, they tend to take advantage of that.” (Participant 7)

“I have often been beaten by my wife when I am drunk, but when I am sober she knows she cannot start it otherwise she will inflame.” (Participant 10)

“In some cases, the woman gets home drunk and starts quarrelling with the husband. The next day he does not know what caused the fight (Participant 2.)

“It is because she has told himself that she is not going to allow herself to be controlled by a man. A man must submit to her. So the way I see it, I was supposed to tolerate that pain whereas things should go well for her and she must enjoy” (Participant 4).

Alcohol seems to be the one that gives abusive women the courage to beat their men, or these men are often beaten when they are heavily drunk since when they are sober they cannot be confronted by their female counterparts (Asher et al., 2011). Alcohol is

blamed for the violence that takes place in the home, marriages, relationships, etc. (Bott et al. 2008). Even though this is subject to debate, the bottom line is lack of respect for each other and cold love for each other are the main causes of GBV (Röder, 2012).

These findings are similar to the earlier findings of Hamunyela and Mwanyanene (2010) who indicated that partners normally engage in GBV when they are drunk and in most cases men are the victims of such abuse. However, previous researches indicated that cultural beliefs and practices and notions of masculinity in Namibia are some of the factors that promote violence against men and women including alcohol abuse as one of the biggest contributors to GBV (Olivier, 2011; Arbache et al. 2010).

4.6.3 Unemployment

The participants in the study indicated that the main cause of GBV in most relationships is the issue of unemployment. On this issue this is what the participants in the study had to say.

“If you are not employed you are just as good as nothing.” (Participant 14)

“I have been insulted several times by my wife who believe that she is the head of the house because she is the one who is working and I am not working.” (Participant 12)

“In a home where the man is not working, the woman makes decisions, because the man does not have money he must therefore abide by the woman’s law just because the woman has money, she shows the man that he is nothing.” (Participant 5)

“For me it’s the problem of unemployment that results in women abusing men. So sometimes what would happen is that I am not working and the wife is working, so the wife is bringing the salary into the home the clash comes out and they start fighting.” (Participant 8)

Unemployment has often been blamed for GBV that takes place in various homes. In some homes, women abuse their male counterparts if they are the bread winners of the house and the man is not working (Shirwadkar, 2009). Unemployed men are disempowered and employed women feel empowered in most circumstances. These findings support the earlier findings of Charles and Erin (2011) who indicated that women expect non-working men to submit to them in all aspects since they believe that they are the ones dominating the family. On the same issue, the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (2013) indicated that violence was influenced by the husband’s failure to fully support his family. This has caused some wives to see their husbands as poor and hence always insult them for failure to provide for the family. In some cases, the violence starts when the wives proposed to sleep in separate rooms and in most cases the wives threatened for a divorce. The results concur with the study conducted by Dustin (2009) where men who are employed and earn cash were less likely to report having experienced physical and sexual abuse than unemployed men.

4.6.4 Lack of awareness of men’s rights

Participants in the study indicated lack of awareness of men’s rights as being one of the causes of gender-based violence among men. This is what the participants had to say:

“I don’t know of any laws that are there to protect men from GBV.”
(Participant 2)

“I have no knowledge of any legal rules written to protect men from gender-based violence.” (Participant 13)

The findings above corroborate with the findings of Mosavel, et al. (2012) who indicated that lack of knowledge about the rights of men makes most men victims of GBV in most communities. Lack of understanding of man’s rights is one of the causes of GBV among men. The current wave seems to be focusing on GBV in the lives of the women neglecting men (Charles & Erin, 2011). Policies which have been drafted and which are being used are all focusing on gender-based violence in the lives of women where the perpetrators are men (Sadiqi & Ennaji, 2011). Yet in reality, men are also suffering GBV and their plight is going unnoticed. For this reason, cases of men committing suicide are on the increase as compared to women who are being protected by laws and policies.

4.6.5 Income disparity

Participants in the study cited income disparity between men and women as one of the causes of gender-based violence. On this aspect, this is what the participants had to say:

“I am suffering because of the fact that my salary is far lower than that of my wife.”(Participant 6).

“My wife doesn’t respect me because she is getting more money than me and it seems as if that’s the reason why she treats me the way she is treating me.” (Participant 1)

“I do not have a source of income.” (Participant 8)

“My only source of income is the old people’s pension grant.”(Participant 5)

There is a general understanding that men should be the providers for their families, and that the men’s salaries should be generally higher than that of their wives (Campbell, 2010). Several studies have indicated that women whose salaries are higher than those of their men, tend to abuse their men based on this salary disparity (LeBeau et al., 2010). These findings concur with the findings of Hamunyela and Mwanyanene (2010) who indicated lack of income as one of the main causes of gender-based violence against men. McGoldrick and Gerson (2010) cited that many men who are failing to support their families find themselves being abused by their wives and children. The results are also further supported by the results from a study by Singh (2009), who states that increasing economic disparity and dependency on the women has caused the depression in relationships leaving women more powerful than men.

4.7 Theme 3: Remedial measures used in combating Gender-Based Violence among men

Participants in the study indicated that male victims of domestic violence cut across all ages, educational levels, and socioeconomic classes deserve the same recognition, sympathy, support, and services as do female victims. This theme focused on the strategies to prevent gender-based violence among men in which subthemes such as equality in power, gender role empowerment, education on human rights, empowerment in policy implementation on GBV and campaigns on GBV were identified. This is what the participants had to say:

“The government should recognize men’s suffering in the same way they do for women”. (Participant 3)

“The government should punish the police officers that laugh at us when we report abuse cases”. (Participant 6)

The findings above concur with the findings of the National Gender Policy by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (2012) which was designed to create a society in which women and men enjoy equal rights and access to basic services. Sadiqi and Ennaji (2011) added that the justice system such as police, courts, the health care system, parliament, provincial legislative bodies and the education sector have been useful in attending to issues of domestic violence.

4.7.1 Equality in power

Participants in the study cited emphasis on equality on power sharing as being one of the remedial measures to be used to mitigate GBV among men. The following citations support this claim:

“So it seems as if the law favours women more, so men don’t have a say when it comes to law.” (Participant 7)

“I think the current laws are supporting the women more than men and we are just suffering now.” (Participant 6)

A study conducted in South Africa by Mosavel et al. (2012) emphasized that issues of gender have been misunderstood and these are now causing instability in many homes. This suggests that the gender equality policies and programs are perceived particularly by men as challenging. The results concur with the findings of Arbache et al. (2010)

who indicated that gender-based violence is a result of unequal sharing of power and if the current focus is made towards balancing power sharing between men and women GBV among men will be mitigated.

4.7.2 Gender role empowerment

The participants in the study recommended that if gender role empowerment education is focused on men this will help to mitigate the cases of GBV among men and women. These sentiments are well supported by the participants and this is what they had to say:

“There is need to advocate for gender role empowerment among men so that the plight of men can be mitigated.” (Participant 14)

“The gender role empowerment for men can be a very helpful solution to mitigate GBV among men in Namibia.” (Participant 15)

Empowerment of men can also be another solution to GBV among men. Most men feel disempowered by the current laws which seem to be protecting women at the expense of men (African Development Bank, 2015). The results above are well supported by the earlier citations by Wingood and DiClemente (2010) who indicated that society needs to strengthen the gender role empowerment of men. In addition, some responses suggested that society must ensure that marriage counselling should be active and also treat men the same way they treat women when they report their cases. In addition, Arbache et al., (2010) emphasised the need to change social norms and values that allow this gross violation of human rights to go on unquestioned.

4.7.3 Education on human rights

The participants in the study indicated human rights education as being one of the most significant tools that can be used to fight GBV among men. This is what the participants had to say to the government:

“There is need to educate men to understand that they are equal to women in all aspects.” (Participant 3)

There is need to develop protection centers for men as well just as there are women protection centers.” (Participant 1)

There is need to educate women and communities/societies about gender-based violence.” (Participant 7)

“There is need to establish men protection policies as there are also for women.” (Participant 10)

“There is need to address issues equally whether it is men or women being abused.” (Participant 12)

“The child and women protection centers should also accommodate men.” (Participant 14)

“There is need to involve the headmen to work in collaboration with Gender-based violence offices.” (Participant 15)

People need to be educated to respect each other, to love each other and to understand that our gender differences make the world unique (Chang and Romeo, 2008). Globally, there is so much advocacy on human rights education among humanity so that human beings can respect each other’s values and ethos. Human rights education is an important mitigation of GBV across the globe. These findings uphold the earlier findings

of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (2012) which emphasized that educational strategies need to be implemented to identify the groups and individuals to be involved in planning to eradicate domestic violence. This should start at the family level and stakeholders should include women, men, adolescents and children.

4.7.4 Empowerment in Policy implementation on GBV

Participants in the study cited that policies need to shift from addressing GBV on women to rather GBV among humanity so that the plight of men can also be resolved.

On this issue, this is what the participants had to say:

“Policies need to focus on men also rather than making GBV a women issue.” (Participant 4)

“Policy formulation and implementation need to also focus on GBV on men rather than women alone since this problem is affecting both women and men.” (Participant 7)

When it comes to GBV, the main focus has not been on men but on women since the belief was always that women are the main victims of GBV in many societies (Singh, 2009). Singh (2009) further stated that policies have been the main measures used in the mitigation of gender-based violence among men and women in many countries but it has been focusing on women and now there is need to formulate and implement policies which are focusing on men rather than women as has been the case. However, with the current scenario where even men have become victims of gender-based violence in many communities, there is greater need to have a paradigm shift in the way GBV is being perceived (Ajowi, 2012). The findings above uphold the earlier findings

of LeBeau et al., (2010) and WHO (2013) indicating that men's gender policy formulation and implementation need to be used as a weapon to mitigate GBV against men. The current policies seem to leave men behind and focus more on women while neglecting men who are also victims of GBV.

4.7.5 Campaigns on GBV

Participants emphasized of the fact that there were several campaigns on GBV against women in Namibia but none of the campaigns have ever focused on men. On the issue of campaigning this is what the participants had to say:

“There is a strong need for campaigns on gender-based violence against men so that men are made aware of their victimisation by women.”

(Participant 4)

“Campaigns on gender-based violence against men need to be strengthened so that men who are victims of GBV can come forth.”

(Participant 15)

While several men are suffering as a result of GBV, little has been documented about this challenge (Arbache et al., 2010). For this reason, men have been quiet even though they are also being victimised in their various communities. The world in which we are living position men as the strong gender and that men who complain because of GBV are cowards. Therefore, there is an urgent need to hold campaigns on GBV among men so that any man who is a victim or becomes a victim of GBV can speak out and get help (Coomarswamy and Rajasingham, 2010). The findings above uphold and concur with the earlier findings of McGoldrick and Gerson (2002) and LeBeau et al., (2010) who

indicated the need for campaigns on GBV against men in various communities so as to mitigate this challenge affecting some men in the homes.

4.8 Conclusion

The plight of men who are victims of GBV cannot be underestimated in northern Namibia since this poses great risk to the lives of men. Several men have lost their lives because they failed to come forth to report abuse by women in their various relationships. This chapter presented the findings of the study on gender-based violence among men in Oshana region, Namibia. The following chapter presents a summary of the study findings, recommendations and conclusions to the study.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION, LIMITATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter will present the conclusions of the findings, limitation and recommendations and suggestions for future research. The purpose of this study was to identify the perception of men experiencing GBV in the Oshana Region, Namibia. In this study a qualitative research approach was used to elicit these perceptions from selected men from Oshana Region. Qualitative research is defined as a “form of systematic empirical enquiry into meaning (Christensen and Johnson, 2012). The research’s main question for the study was “*What are the perceptions of men experiencing GBV in the Oshana Region, Namibia*” The question was fully responded to in Chapter 4 where research findings were presented and disparagingly discussed. The reviewed literature was also used to compare and contrast the findings in a bid to understand the research question better.

Subsequently, the interviews were transcribed verbatim and further analyzed using the Tesch method from which fifteen men who are undergoing GBV were interviewed based on data saturation. Three main themes emerged that were elaborated and discussed fully in Chapter 4. Literature and theory were used to validate, elucidate, compare and contrast the findings of this study. A brief summary on each of the previous chapters, as well as conclusions and recommendations from the findings will be presented in the following sections.

5.2 Conclusion

The researcher conducted face-to-face, individual interviews and the participants were selected using the convenience sampling method. The study found that several socio-demographic factors are influential in fuelling men's GBV cases in Oshana Region. In the study, several factors were found to play a significant role in this regard: levels of education, religion, type of relationship and age differences. The study unveiled that men are victims of GBV and this goes unreported as a result of several other contributing and confounding factors such as stigma, patriarchal beliefs, embarrassment and culture. All these factors are causing men to remain silent and suffer emotionally and ultimately commit suicide in worst cases. Moreover, the study also found that GBV is mainly caused by unequal sharing of power, lack of awareness, income disparities between men and women, and unemployment. The study elaborated immensely how each of these cases is influencing and worsening in derogating the status of men in the face of their women or partners.

In addition, the study also unveiled that there is a general over-emphasis of the abuse of women by men leading to a neglect of the plight of men in GBV. The study further recommended the need to have a well-balanced gender empowerment strategy rather than focusing only on GBV among women when men are equally suffering the same way.

5.3 Limitations

The research was conducted while the researcher is employed. This posed a challenge in terms of time for data gathering, processing and analysis. Few studies on gender-based violence among men have been done in Namibia. However, the researcher had to rely

on the literatures done globally. Efforts were made to ensure that the quality of the work would not be compromised by the time constraints. Due to time and budgetary constraints, this study was restricted to the Oshana region and the study results will not be generalised. In an effort to ensure that the superiority of the study is not affected, substantiations with prevailing literature was comprehensively done to ascertain similarities and departures with the results of the study.

5.4 Recommendations

Abused husbands cut across all ages, educational levels, and socio-economic classes. Male victims of domestic violence deserve the same recognition, sympathy, support, and services as do female victims. The research proposed the following recommendations in order to combat gender-based violence among men

5.4.1 Recommendations to the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS)

- The study endorses that rehabilitation centres need to be built so that men undergoing GBV can be rehabilitated for them to live healthy lives and equip them with coping strategies in the event that GBV happens to them again
- The service providers should improve service delivery by increasing awareness campaigns targeting women and men on GBV rather than focusing on women alone.
- Social workers should always refer men and women with GBV problems to rehabilitation centres and sustain aftercare services to prevent rehabilitated clients from relapse.
- It is important for social workers to be trained specifically on the management of GBV among men and sustain preventative programmes of GBV against men.

- It is vital for stakeholders to be involved in regional planning and budgeting for the implementation of activities related to reducing GBV against men.

5.4.2 Recommendations to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare

(MoGECW)

- There should be greater advocacy to enlighten the public about the existence and reality of the evil of domestic violence against men by the ministry, government agencies, religious groups and civil rights organizations. This will help in balancing the gender discourse on domestic violence and bring about better families in the Namibian society.
- Promotion and protection of men's rights to have control and decide freely over matters related to gender-based violence. Prevention efforts should start early in life and be directed into young boys.
- It is vital for stakeholders to be involved in regional planning and budgeting for the implementation of activities related to reducing GBV against men.
- Gender activism must involve a balance of power in relationships in order not to allocate too much power to women, who will then turn around to use such power to oppress their male partners.

5.4.3 Recommendations to the Ministry of justice

Strengthening the legal and policy formulation forms an important role in both prevention and response to GBV

- Therefore, there is a need of legal protection and policies focusing on men as victims of GBV.

- The documented reports of abused men's experiences should be a lesson for all, if a well-ordered society is our goal. It is the contention of this paper, that as we protect the rights of women in marriages, so also should the rights of men be protected. Also, just like women, men deserve protection from intimate partner brutality and abuse, and also have a right to better living as married men.
- Women as perpetrators of GBV must be held accountable under national law.

5.4.4 Recommendations to Ministry of Safety and Security

- Police officers should all undergone training and conduct continuous in-service training on responses to violence against men.

5.4.5 Recommendations to family members

The role of the family cannot be undermined in helping men who are victims of GBV to improve their situations.

- The family can be strengthened further so that sound norms and values can be inculcated while children are still young and effects of GBV are taught and circumvented.

5.5 Suggestions for further research

This study was done in Oshana Region, Namibia. Therefore, studies need to be done in other regions in Namibia. In addition, this study has shown that there are numerous topics for further research, which fall outside the latitude of this research investigation. There are various research opportunities that should receive further attention in future. The following research topics could be investigated in future:

- Compare the findings so as to have a better understanding of the perceptions of men on the GBV subject in the Namibian context.
- Compare GBV perceptions among men and those among women so that the two can be compared and bring forth a better understanding of Gender-Based Violence perceptions in the Namibian context.
- Stakeholder involvement in crafting effective legislations on gender-based violence is important.
- Find ways to assist the children of these men who are victims of GBV so that they can be assisted not to follow the same GBV trends of their mothers.

5.6 Summary

This chapter presented the summary of the chapters in the study, followed by a summary of the main findings emanating from the study. It also presented recommendations and areas for further research.

A qualitative approach was used to answer the research question, thereby accomplishing the research goal and objectives of the study. The results of this study delivered a new understanding into GBV against men in Namibia. This last chapter of the study provided the reader with a summary and the conclusions of the foregoing chapters, from the introduction, theoretical framework, literature review, applied methodology and the presentation of the research findings. A number of recommendations were made to the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the families of individuals who are involved in GBV, based on these results. In addition, the researcher made suggestions for future research. In conclusion, the study is expected to add new knowledge to a limited body of literature on the perceptions of Namibian men on GBV.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PARTICIPANTS' INFORMED CONSENT

Consent to be interviewed

My name is **Eunike Mukulu**, currently doing my Master's in Public Health at the University of Namibia under the supervision of **Dr L.Lukolo** and **Dr E. Nghitanwa**. I am conducting a study on **Perceptions of men experiencing Gender-Based Violence in Oshana Region, Namibia**. The purpose of the study is to identify and investigate the perceptions of men experiencing Gender-Based Violence. I would like to ask a few questions on your perceptions on domestic violence. Your participation is voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw from the study.

The interviews will take about 30 minutes. The information to be gathered will be used for research purposes only and will be treated with confidentiality. Your identities will be protected, and no information will be directly linked to you as individuals. In the research report and other related presentations, respondents will remain anonymous.

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Eunike on 0812540313 or email: emmukulu@gmail.com or Dr Emma on 0816648436 or email: enghitanwa@unam.na. I would also leave a copy with you should you want to do enquiries afterwards.

Your participation in this study is highly appreciated.

Signature of the participant:Date:Time:

Witness.....Date:Time:.....

Signature of researcher:Date:Time.....

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

Semi- Structured Interview Guide

I am Eunike Mukulu (Student Number: 200439499) a Master of Public Health student at the University of Namibia. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your willingness, interest and time in participating in this study. I would be grateful if you can share your experience as a man who has been a victim of GBV as well as the possible causes of GBV.

Instructions

- Answer all questions based on your personal opinions.
- There are no wrong or correct answers.
- Your opinions are very important to me.

Date of interview.....

Name of Interviewer.....

Duration of Interview.....

Number of Interview.....

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Age of participant in years

What is your highest level of education?

Are you employed? If yes where?

Any other source of income?

Your marital status? Married / Single /Divorced

If married/divorced, for how long?

Do you have kids? If yes, how many?

What is your religion?

SECTION B

1. PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

(All questions will be elaborated where necessary and the researcher will probe more to get clarity and more information from the participant)

1. Have you ever experienced any GBV? If yes, from who?
2. How often does the violence occur?
3. What form of violence have you experienced?
4. Could you please explain how it started?
5. What problems have you gone through as a result of this violence?
6. How has this violence affected you as a man? May you please explain
7. Did you report after being abused? If Yes, Where did you report?
8. How does the officials you reported to helped you as a male victims of female perpetrated domestic violence?
9. In your opinion, what do you think would have been done to your partner by the officials you reported to?
10. Do you think the children are affected by this violence from your partner? If yes, how?

2. POSSIBLE CAUSES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

11. What do you think cause you to be abused?
12. In your opinion, has (abuser) had problems in the past with drugs, alcohol or mental health? Please explain.

3. POSSIBLE REMEDIAL MEASURES OF COMBATING GBV AMONG MEN

13. What role do you think society plays in this issue of female violence against men?

14. What do you think could be done by the government to tackle gender-based violence towards men by their female partners?

15. Anything that you would like to share with me concerning Gender-Based Violence?

THANK YOU!!!!!!

APPENDIX 3: PERMISSION REQUEST LETTER

Mrs Wirhucia Ubras
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare
Private Bag 13359
Windhoek

15 January 2018

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

I am a 2nd year student currently registered for Master degree in Public Health at the University of Namibia. I am interested in exploring the perception of GBV among men since male victims of GBV remains highly underreported, perhaps, due to societal stigma attached to men reporting abuse by a female partner or spouse.

No studies have investigated the perceptions of men experience GBV therefore, this study attempts to identify and investigate these perceptions and recommend strategies that could be used for combating GBV among men in Oshana Region.

Respondents are men abused by their female partner reported cases at Women and Child Protection Unit, Oshana Region during the period of 3 years, from January 2014 to December 2016 Oshana.

Participation involves answering questions that will be recorded and then transcribed. The interview might take about 30 minutes and the information I gather will be used for research purposes only and will be treated with confidentiality. To maintain anonymity, no names will be published in the research report and other related presentations, respondents will remain anonymous.

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Cell no: 0812540313 or email- emmukulu@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Mrs Eunike Mukulu (Master Degree Candidate)

Signature 

APPENDIX 4: PERMISSION LETTER UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

University of Namibia, Private Bag 13301, Windhoek, Namibia
310 Maroua Ndlovu Avenue, Pioneers Park
☎ +264 61 206 3275/4862; Fax +264 61 206 3290; URL: <http://www.unam.edu.na>



RESEARCH PERMISSION LETTER

Student Name: E. Mukulu

Student number: 200439499

Programme: Masters of Public Health

Approved research title: Perception of men experienced gender based violence in Oshana region, Namibia.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I hereby confirm that the above mentioned student is registered at the University of Namibia for the programme indicated. The proposed study met all the requirements as stipulated in the University guidelines and has been approved by the relevant committees.

The proposal adheres to ethical principles as per attached Ethical Clearance Certificate. Permission is hereby granted to carry out the research as described in the approved proposal.

Best Regards



Name: Dr. Marius Hedinbi
Director: Centre for Postgraduate Studies
Tel: +264 61 2063275
E-mail: directorpgs@unam.na

13 Dec 17

Date

APPEDIX 5 : PERMISSION LETTER FROM MINISTRY OF GENDER



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Tel: +264 61 233 2111
Fax: +264 61 238 541/540 808
E-mail: genderequality@m.gov.na

Private Bag 12259
Windhoek
Namibia

Our Ref: **14/2/1**
No. Ref: _____
Inquiries: **Ms. H. Andjambo**

29 January 2018

Ms. Eunike Mukulu
Master Degree Candidate
UNAM
Windhoek

Dear Ms. Mukulu

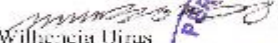
RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH STUDY

Your letter dated 15 January 2018 on the above mentioned subject hereby refers.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is hereby granting permission to undertake the research on the above-mentioned subject. You will be working closely with the Social Workers at the Women and Child Protection Unit in Oshana region.

Upon completion, you are requested to provide a copy of the project results, as the findings will be beneficial to the Ministry.

Yours sincerely


Ms. Wilhemina Uiras
PERMANENT SECRETARY



All official correspondence must be addressed to the Permanent Secretary:

EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE

