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GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

CASE STUDY: KATAKWI SUB-COUNTY, KATAKWI DISTRICT

A dissertation presented to

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Master's Dissertation
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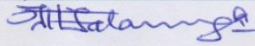
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Dedication

I hereby dedicate this research to my mother and the siblings.

Acknowledgement

I immensely thank my supervisor Mr. Gilbert Hatangimana for his immeasurable, professional guidance and enormous efforts provided during the course of this work. Sincere thanks to Kevin Lamunu supervisor at work place who offered me assistance in the course of this research, I greatly thank all staff Uganda Martyrs University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for their contribution to my academic career. Special thanks go to my Action Aid for paying salaries promptly the financial assurance supported in my education, my sisters and other brothers; I owe you great thanks, you have been on my side in this struggle. I pray the Almighty bless you abundantly. Above all, special honor is given to the Almighty God for his constant blessings, presence, health and guidance that He has bestowed upon me in all the years up to the completion of this study. I will always be obliged to serve him because he is the fountain of all wisdom, honor and understanding.

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List of Abbreviations

AAIU	Action Aid international Uganda.
FCR	Foundation for Children's' Resilience
IDA	International Development Agency
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SAGE	Social Assistance Groups for Empowerment
SOCADIDO	Soroti Catholic Diocesan Development Organization.
TERELEPAR	Teso Religious Leaders Effort for Peace and Reconciliation.
TIP	Teso Initiative for Peace.
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organizations.

Abstract

This study concentrated on examining the effects of gender-based violence on the rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district. The study has three specific objectives which were used as the study core guidelines and they include; to find out causes of gender-based violence, to ascertain the role played by gender-based violence in violation of rights of women and girls and to examine the existing strategies to fight against gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district.

It was applicable for this study to use a case study design that aided the researcher to collect qualitative data and obtain responses in-depths through sharing of ideas, perspectives, theories and experiences from the respondents. Both primary and secondary sources of data were used in data collection by the researcher. The researcher used interviews and focus group discussions as methods of data collection and data was analyzed using thematic method of data analysis. With the case study design, this study incorporated the qualitative research approach for better understanding the variables in-depths using the present and past experiences of the respondents. The study interviewed 83 respondents including 40 women and girls from the respective parishes in Katakwi sub-county, 15 Key study Informants as sub-county and district officials, 05 religious' leaders, 05 cultural leaders, 05 LC1s, 05 Civil Society Organization, 05 male champions, 02 Start Awareness Support Action activists (SASA!), 01 In charge of health centre and 01 sub-county police officer. These were the target population because of their credibility to represent the rest of the population, provide adequate and relevant qualitative and quantitative data for the given study.

The study findings revealed that women and girls in Katakwi sub-county have undergone several forms of gender-based violence ranging from physical, cultural and sexual spheres. GBV cases arise due to a number of causes; poverty leading to forced marriage in young girls by their parents seeking for dowry payments hence deprivation of education rights, unemployment that leads to alcoholism and other malpractices that drives men into forced sex with women and girls, cultural beliefs that does not support women to make decisions and participate in public activities, dominance of men over women also keeps them (women) down with no right to express their views. Much progress has been made in addressing gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county through the interventions by national and international organizations to promote awareness in women and girls to fight for their rights by making use of police or existing organizations such as SAGE, UNICEF, AAIU, TIP, ,FCR, TERELEPAR Although, these were found out to be limited and unsatisfying by the study respondents.

To achieve the objectives of the study, it was recommended that local council leaders should be helpful to GBV victims by putting in places facilities that will help women and girls fight for their rights, more so police should follow up GBV cases, emphasis on education and awareness promotion must be made because some women lack knowledge about fighting for their rights regarding gender-based violence by men, girls should be facilitated and motivated by Non- governmental Organizations and the gender department for example, through sensitization campaigns on the importance of the girl child and her education.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study focused on the effects of Gender Based Violence to the violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district. This chapter is comprised of background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study which comprises of (conceptual geographical and time scope), significance of the study, justification of the study, conceptual frame work and definition of the key terms and concepts.

1.1 Background to the study

Gender Based Violence has persisted worldwide, occurring in every region, country and culture and cutting across income, class, race and ethnicity. It is a social vice associated with sexual assaults and the like, hence has prevented women and girls from enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms (United Nations, 2012). Gender Based Violence is called “the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world according to the (UN, 2012). Between 15% and 71% of women who have ever lived with a man experience forms of physical or sexual violence committed by their intimate partners. However, the extent to which women experience domestic violence remains largely hidden and undocumented. United Nations made clear that domestic violence among others was a global phenomenon which was significantly underreported considering up to date (UN, 2012).

The United Nations report has it that the formulation of World Plan of Action that was adopted by the first World Conference on Women in Mexico in 1975 provided light to the nations to fight against Gender Based Violence although discrimination against women continued to be a persistent problem. For example, World Action Plan did not refer explicitly

to violence, but drew attention to the need for the family to ensure dignity, equality and security of each of its members (Heinz Kelly, 2000). In addition, at the 1985 Nairobi World Conference, and especially at its parallel non-governmental forum, gender based violence truly emerged as a serious international concern. More so, (UN, 2015) clearly states that the Second World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 and the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1994 gave priority to this issue, which jeopardized women's lives, bodies, psychological integrity and freedom. Although In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), which is currently the main international document addressing the problem of gender-based violence, although the issue of GBV has continued to put the lives of women and girls at stake. A number of areas of special concern, including "abused women and girls", that is, women victims of sexual harassment, involuntary prostitution, and girls forced into marriage were identified. For example, at least one in every three women were beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused worldwide (World Bank, 2015). In response to the issues, Governments were urged to intensify efforts to establish or strengthen forms of assistance to victims of violence through the provision of shelter, support, legal and other services and to increase public awareness of violence against women as a societal problem. Nonetheless, the governments' efforts did not solve the issue of Gender Based Violence.

Since 2003, the World Bank has engaged with countries and partners to support projects and knowledge products aimed at preventing and addressing GBV. Case in point, the Bank supported over \$300 million in development projects aimed at addressing GBV in World Bank Group (WBG), financed operations, both through standalone projects and through the integration of GBV components in sector-specific projects in areas such as transport, education, social protection, and forced displacement. Recognizing the significance of the challenge, addressing GBV in operations has been highlighted as a World Bank priority, with

key commitments articulated under both IDA 17 and 18, as well as within the World Bank Group Gender Strategy. Nevertheless, it is evidenced that 35% of women experience murders committed by an intimate partner, 200 million women have experienced female genital mutilation/cutting. This issue is not only devastating for survivors of violence and their families, but also entails significant social and economic costs. In some countries, violence against women is estimated to cost countries up to 3.7% of their GDP every year.

In the African continent too, Gender Based Violence continued to lessen the rights of women and girls (Izumi, 2007). GBV is reported as a common practice in Africa and sexual violence prevalence is high in some countries such as Zambia (90%) and Ethiopia (71%) (Gender Equality Index Report, 2017). The report highlights that most African cultural beliefs and traditions promote men's hierarchical role in sexual relationships and especially in marriage. It further says that almost two-thirds (63%) of the African population live in remote rural settings that increases the difficulty to access basic amenities and communities are disparate from the influence of central government or laws that prohibit GBV.

Only 22 African countries adopted laws that prohibit GBV although the problem is still in place. South Africa for example, a study conducted by Gender Links found out that 77% of women in Limpopo, 51% in Gauteng, 45% in the Western Cape and 36% in KwaZulu-Natal experienced forms of GBV and men were the main perpetrators of this violence (Gender Links 2012). Sexual violence was found to be the most common form of GBV (Abraham, 2009). For example, 12% of women in Gauteng, 6% in the Western Cape, 5% in Limpopo and 5% in KwaZulu-Natal experienced non-partner rape in their lifetime. In addition, 59% of women in Limpopo, 5% in KwaZulu-Natal, 5% in the Western Cape and 2.7% in Gauteng also experienced sexual harassment. Similarly, many women who have ever been in a union or ever married have experienced some kind of physical violence from their intimate partners (Heise et al, 1999). Another example is drawn, from the accounts of Zambian and Tanzanian

women, over a third of all women have experienced physical violence by intimate partners at some point in their lives (Jewkes et al, 2001).

In East African region too, Gender Based Violence still manifests. East Africa has high rates of sexual violence against women and girls. In East African countries, around 20 per cent of those aged 15 to 24 years reported they had experienced sexual violence from an intimate partner. Sexual violence against early adolescents aged 15 years and below is highest in the conflict and post-conflict countries of the Uganda and Tanzania and Democratic Republic of Congo. The high rate of Gender Based violence in women and girls in the region is maintained by the persistence of harmful gender norms, alcohol use and overall increased poverty, violence in urban slum areas and conflict areas (UNFPA, 2018). GBV needs to be addressed especially in emergency situations. It is important to note that GBV still emerge in the region because countries do not reflect their commitments as expressed in numerous international conventions and treaties they are party to in national legislative policy and action. Even where national legislation on GBV exists, law enforcement agencies such as the police and judiciary are largely unaware of women and children's rights. In humanitarian crises, there is usually little reference to and funding for GBV prevention and response in emergency plans. While in Kenya, domestic violence is gendered and culturally patterned (Amnesty International, 2007). Since 1990s, there were traditional kinship arrangements in Kenya; noting that Kenyan society was organized around kinship groups with strong structural patterns of interaction. The system of exchange was the most important unifying system that tied kinships together and to neighbouring groups. Within the embodiment of the exchange system, marriage constituted a contract between two groups, which established a complex web of reciprocal rights and duties. Therefore, marital issues, including conflicts, had social implications that involved the interests of whole communities. This meant that the

domestic and public domains were not clearly separated, and thus, social norms were quite ambiguous.

Also, Ellsberg et al. (2001) noted that in Kenya, marriage vows and the payment of bride wealth by the groom's kinship group to the bride's kinship group were interpreted within and among kinship groups as granted rights for a man to have unconditional sexual access to his wife for reproductive purposes, which also included other services from the woman's kinship group to the husband's kinship group. In the event that a marriage completely failed, the kinship group of the woman was to return her bride wealth excluding wealth deemed appropriate for living children if any. Within the prevailing norms, it can be argued that the husband had the right to control his wife as he deemed appropriate. If violence was necessary as a means of control, it was sanctioned by the kinship group. According to (Kmuna and Djamba, 2008), the group presumes that one does not, indeed may not, act in any manner without the threat of consequences for one's actions. Thus, the husband "disciplines" the wife within the societal normative conscripts. Given the foregoing, one can argue that the ideological framework within which Kenyan ethnic groups function constitutes a strong male dominance and female subordination. Within this culture of unequal gender relations, Kenyan women continue to be treated as second class citizens partly because of the conflict between the Kenya Constitutional laws and customary practices.

In Uganda, the situation is particularly alarming especially in the war affected areas of Northern Uganda where rape, defilement, child molesting, forced widow inheritance and marital rape are said to be common. Uganda ratified the international bill of human rights which is codified in the 1995 constitution (chapter 4) to protect its citizens' rights. However, acts of parliament have not been translated into practical laws to curb the incidents of SGBV Marjike&Richters (2009) notes that it is three decades of civil war in its totality in Northern

Uganda that the women experienced unending violence, emphasising constant fear and destructive force as its main features. Women were abandoned, enduring physical and sexual violence, losing their possessions, and faced disruption to their daily life. Like the women who testified before the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission about their experiences of violence under Apartheid, the women were embedded in violence experiences firmly in a domestic world marked by daily struggle (Ross, 2001). They also used domesticity to map the interruptions of violence in their lives and continued with their household chores during wartime. Working tirelessly, they tried hard to meet social expectations by remaining loyal to their roles and fulfilling their duties of child care.

As a consequence, it was relatively easy for men to flee, but for women, it was much more difficult, because of the size of their families; leaving their children behind was never an option. Moreover, the absence of husbands made women even more vulnerable, and they were often punished in the place of their husbands or relatives who were rebels and were in hiding, or because they were taking care of rebels in their compound, something they often did under duress. Women and girls were not at peace during the war although they were not physically hurt, but suffered from the violence of abandonment. There was a lot of pressure on the women, because it was the wives who were left behind' (Christine, 2003). Although women regularly indicated that it was not physical violence that they faced, it appears from the various life histories that being left behind without a husband was one of the main risk-factors for physical and sexual violence. This was really disturbing their lives even up to date many women in Northern and neighbouring parts of Uganda still suffer this fate of the war.

1.2 Problem statement

Gender Based Violence in women and girls is a highly prevailing problem nationwide. It is one of the most systematic, widespread human rights violations in Uganda. Gender Based

Violence in this case is associated with marital rape, domestic violence, defilement, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation and forced marriage in young girls (Okello, 2007). It is highly challenging that 56% of women in Katakwi district have continued to experience both physical, emotional and sexual violence in their daily lives, and of course, this has not only left women crying daily but also their rights as individuals continues to be deprived (Okello, 2017). This is witnessed by the alarming gender inequality, discrimination of women and girls, limited freedom and denial of property ownership that has in turn perpetuated their way of living. Additionally, the situation particularly in Katakwi sub-county is still worsening whereby in every ten women, three women face any form of Gender Based Violence every day (UBOS, 2019). This has also left many women and girls shading tears for example with domestic violence in families. The interventions have been made by both the government and private organizations to deal with the situation. This has been done through various programs and development agendas for example Sustainable Development Goal number five that appeals us to ensure promotion of equal rights and gender equality among the individuals in both developed and developing countries. Similarly, the constitution of Uganda clearly highlights concrete strategies to deal with Gender Based Violence, case in point, Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2010. Despite all this, Gender Based Violence is still acceptably high in Uganda (Muluken, 2019). According to (Francis Lyn, 2019), it is due to the underreporting factors associated with fear of stigma, women preferring to keep quiet and fear of divorce, amongst many other reasons. Hence the intention of the researcher to examine the effects of gender-based violence to the violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General objective

To examine the effects of gender-based violence on the rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- (i) To find out causes of gender-based violence in Katakwi sub county, Katakwi district
- (ii) To ascertain the role played by gender-based violence in violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district
- (iii) To find out existing strategies to fight against Gender Based Violence in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district

1.4 Research questions

1. What are the causes of gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district?
2. What could be the role played by Gender Based Violence in violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district?
3. Are there existing strategies to fight against gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi District?

1.5 Scope of the study

1.5.1 Content scope

The study was limited to the causes of gender based violence to the women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, the role played by Gender Based Violence in violation of rights of women and girls; and the existing strategies to fight against Gender Based Violence in women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district.

1.5.2 Geographical scope

The study was conducted in Katakwi sub-county which is found in Usuk County, Katakwi district. Katakwi sub-county is bordered by Toroma sub-county in the South, Palam sub-county in the East, Ongongoja sub-county in the North, Katakwi town council in the South West. The sub-county is 17 km away from Katakwi town and it is 15.9 sq/km on land. Agricultural farming consisting of animal rearing and crop growing on a small scale are the most economic activities practiced by most of the people in Katakwi sub-county, others practice apiculture, brick making and fish farming for survival.

1.5.3 Time scope

The study considered in the time between 2012 and 2020. This time is chosen because Katakwi district is one of the areas that registered high GBV cases during this period (Elizabeth, 2019). Therefore the intention of this study is to examine how GBV has affected the lives of women and girls especially their rights.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study will add on the existing studies and will help scholars and other academicians to identify areas for further research and this will increase the understanding the effects of GBV to the rights of people especially women and girls.

The key stakeholders in development like Non-Governmental Organizations and government agencies may use these findings identify factors affecting individual's human rights especially looking at the side of Gender Based Violence in the developing countries like Uganda and therefore guide decision making.

Policy makers may use these study findings to aid in decision making especially in understanding how to fight against Gender Based Violence as a major area in which human

rights have been violated hence making informed decisions on economic policies which may be debated upon.

1.7 Justification of the study

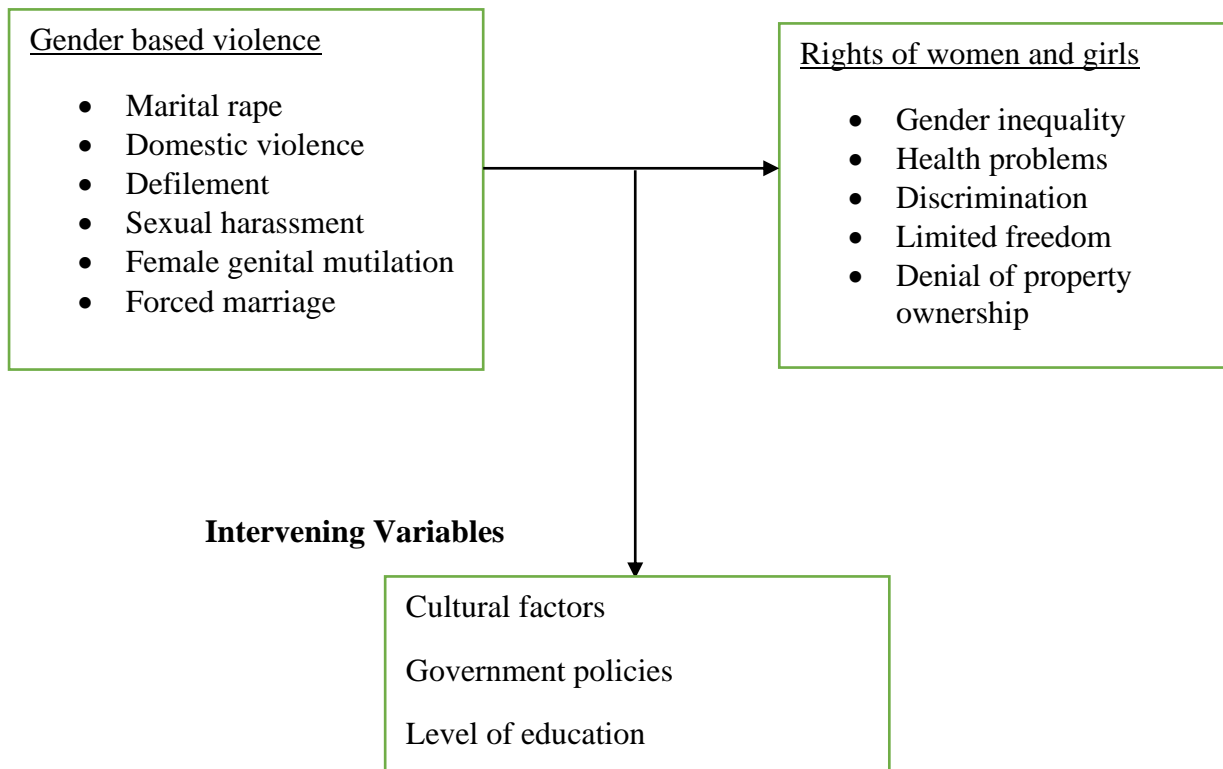
Persistent increase of Gender Based Violence that is associated with child abuse, female genital mutilation, defilement, marital rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment and forced marriage in young girls in Katakwi sub-county (UBOS, 2019) calls for an immediate intervention. UBOS (2019) reports that these are higher cases of human rights violations that have left many women and girls being discriminated in the social works for development due to gender inequality, limited freedom and denial of property. Therefore, it has been anticipated that without any intervention to silence the situation, there will be significant cost for the future that may drastically cause mental illnesses due to pressure, conflicts and death of women and girls. Therefore, it is up on such circumstances that the study is done on the effects of GBV to the rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district.

1.8 Figure 1: Conceptual framework

A conceptual framework illustrating the relationship between independent and dependent variables

Independent Variables

Dependent Variables



Source: Researcher, 2020

The conceptual framework above illustrates the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The independent variables depicted as marital rape, domestic violence, defilement, sexual harassment, female genital mutilation and forced marriage leads to the presence of dependent variables as gender inequality, health problems, discrimination, limited freedom, denial of property ownership. However, there are other factors that can affect the dependent variables without the independent variables as government policies, level of education and cultural factors.

1.9 Definition of key terms and concepts

Gender Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex gender identity. It includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, and economic or educational deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life (UNHCR, 2017).

Rights

According to (OHCHR, 2006), a right is something a person has which people think should not be taken away. It is a rule about what a person is allowed to do or have.

Gender inequality

Gender inequality refers to unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals based on their gender. It arises from differences in socially constructed gender roles as well as biologically through chromosomes, brain structure, and hormonal differences (UNHCR, 2017).

Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment in the Cambridge dictionary means unwelcome behavior of sexual nature. For example, a man whistles at a woman when she walks by.

Female Genital Mutilation

According to (WHO, 2015), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) refers to the ritual cutting or removal of some or all of the external female genitalia. The practice is rooted in gender inequality, attempts to control women's sexuality, and ideas about purity, modesty and beauty but there is no medical reason for this.

Marital rape

Marital rape or spousal rape is the act of sexual intercourse with one's spouse without the spouse's consent (EIGE, 2013).

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEWING THE RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter shows the literature reviewed from different study sources in regard to the effects of Gender Based Violence on the violation of rights of women and girls. Materials like, reports, text books, articles from journals and other relevant sources like Internet was used to facilitate the review while reviewing literature in this chapter. These materials enabled the researcher to acquire knowledge of understanding the topic and getting equipped with what has already been done, and literature was reviewed following the specific objectives of the study.

Theoretical review

The theory of feminism emerged as early as 1794 in publications such as the *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft, “The Changing Woman,” “Ain’t I a Woman,” “Speech after Arrest for illegal voting” (Kate, 2010). The term feminism can be used to describe a political, cultural or economic movement aimed at establishing equal rights and legal protection for women. Feminism involves political and sociological theories and philosophies concerned with issues of gender difference, as well as a movement that advocates gender equality for women and campaigns for women's rights and interests (Grech, 2015). Although the terms "feminism" and "feminist" did not gain widespread use until the 1970s, they were already being used in the public parlance much earlier; for instance, Katherine Hepburn speaks of the "feminist movement" in the 1942 film *Woman of the Year*. According to (Maggie & Walker, 2012), the history of feminism can be divided into three waves. The first feminist wave was in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the second was in the 1960s and 1970s, and the third extends from the 1990s to the present. Feminist

theory emerged from these feminist movements. It is manifest in a variety of disciplines such as feminist geography, feminist history and feminist literary criticism. Furthermore, gender specific violence has been recognized since the eighteenth century with the first official reference to femicide appearing in British legal discourse upon the publication of John Wharton's Law Lexicon (1848).

Furthermore, the femicide framework is highly valuable because it communicates the language of attention to the patriarchal power structures which impose masculine dominance over the female embodied and social life (Corradi et al, 2016). Femicide thus highlights the complex relationship between violence, economics, politics and gender ideology. Femicide rates can be directly linked to economic cycles; arguably, the United States' North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) exacerbated the economic situation in Ciudad Juarez, coinciding with the 1993 rise in violence (Cockburn, 2004). Additionally, corresponding with a drugs boom and increased border insecurity, 164 women were murdered in Ciudad Juarez in 2009 and 306 were murdered in 2010. Mexican national and local authorities have repeatedly denied that there is a problem of femicide in Juarez. For example, there is a culture of impunity in Ciudad Juarez which serves to perpetuate femicide, authorities fail to fully investigate murders and the search for bodies of the disappeared often falls to the victims' families (Corradi, 2016). Moreover, officials in Ciudad Juarez and in the national government do not recognize the murders as femicide, and when murders are investigated, they are considered homicides.

More so, the theory of gendercide also explains the concept of Gender Based Violence and human rights violation. The theory was developed by Mary Ann Warren (1985) and refers to the elimination of persons of a particular sex. Warren's (1985) research primarily focused on the experience of women and girls, though she rejected exclusionary terms for sex selective

killing such as femicide. Jones (1994) expanded on Warren's work by using gendercide to examine the genocidal targeting of males during the Balkan Wars. Additionally, in his later work straight as a rule, he applies gendercide to sexual violence against males and the expression of hegemonic masculinity. Jones' (2000) application of gendercide centres on the assertion that the most vulnerable group in the context of war and genocide is battle aged non-combatant men. Jones (2006) thus argues that the United Nations and humanitarian NGO's should consider males to be an at-risk gendered category.

Despite abundant examples of gender specific violence against men, such as the killing of Muslim men and boys in the Balkans, the killing of and sexual violence toward Arab men and boys in Darfur, and the targeting of young males with machetes in East Timor, feminist frameworks have typically focused on violence against women Ferrales et al, 2016). Theorists such as Carpenter (2004) and Stein (2004) argue that the killing of men is not gendered or sex specific because there are factors other than gender which cause them to be victims of violence. For instance, Carpenter (2004) argues that men are not killed because they are men but are targeted instead because of the social roles they inhabit as men. However, men inhabit masculine social roles because of the gender norms which place them there. For example, the targeting of men in Darfur due to their positioning within ethnic and masculine hierarchies is a deeply gendered calculation (Ferrales et al, 2016).

In Darfur, Arab males were the primary targets of violence which took the form of emasculation through feminisation and genital harm, thus reflecting masculine hierarchies connected to ethnic power dynamics. The perpetrators of violence were able to assert the heteronormative power informed by ethnic and gender ideology to conduct gender specific genocide (Ferrales, &McElrath, 2016). Furthermore, there are also factors other than gender which create the conditions for the femicide of women and girls (Cockburn, 2004). For

example, the extraordinary rates of violence against women in Ciudad Juarez is not a result of misogyny alone, it is embedded in the neo-liberal system which has created the conditions of economic strife and criminal culture (Corradi et al, 2016).

Additionally, the theory of change draws on the experience of a range of actors delivering programmes and services addressing gender based violence in women and girls, including donor agencies, women human rights defenders, women's rights organisations and other civil society organisations (Murray, 2012). Furthermore, the theory assumes that the state has primary responsibility for action on violence against women and girls: national governments are legally bound to, and hold the ultimate responsibility for, the implementation of laws, policies and services related to violence against women and girls and can, and should be, held accountable for doing so (Padilla, 2008). The obligation for states to prevent violence against women and girls and to provide comprehensive services to survivors of such violence was established as a 'due diligence' standard by General Recommendation No. 19 of the UN Committee on the "Elimination of Discrimination against Women" in 1992.¹⁵ The Recommendation also stipulates the need for states to tackle the gender inequality that both causes and perpetuates violence against women and girls.

This Theory of Change on ending gender-based violence against women and girls consists of accompanying narrative and learning experience. Together they provide an overview of the interventions, outputs and outcomes that can reduce and ultimately eradicate violence against women and girls. It is not meant to be prescriptive, but to map the multiple pathways to tackling violence against women and girls and provide a starting point for programmes to develop their own theories of change. The importance of context is also illustrated by work with men and boys, where dominant social constructions (beliefs relating to and interpretations) of male sexual entitlement and masculinity which perpetuate violence against

women and girls may not be identical, or universally shared, within communities let alone across whole societies or beyond.

2.1 Causes of gender based violence to women and girls

Lack of economic independence among women is a key driver of GBV (Gass et al. 2010; Jewkes 2002; Ludsin&Vetten 2005). It is hard for women who are economically dependent on their male partners to leave such abusive relationships. The studies cited above confirm that there is a strong link between poverty and GBV. However, other studies (Heise et al. 2002) argue that poverty is not the single factor driving GBV. The relationship between poverty and GBV is not linear and there are multiple other factors (discussed later) that also significantly contribute to GBV. Changes in the economic status of women may help to reduce GBV, but in some instances may increase it. Kiss et al. (2012) have found that educated, economically independent women are less likely to be abused. This is because they are more confident about leaving such relationships or reporting the abuse to relevant authorities.

Unemployment in South Africa is high, many young men do not work and some are wholly dependent on women for survival. Some men feel that women have usurped the roles that were previously allocated to men, resulting in uncertainty, insecurity and anxiety (Sigsworth, 2009). In this context, GBV becomes a prominent mechanism through which to reinforce male power and authority (Abrahams et al. 2009). In the crisis of male identity, violence is sometimes used as a tool to try to maintain patriarchal power. Some men become frustrated and angry when they can no longer live up to traditional forms of masculinity, such as providing materially and financially, which often leads to them reacting violently to their economically independent female partners (Dolan, 2001)

Changes to social and cultural norms over time as a result of displacement have created fertile ground for exploitation and violence (Otim Gerald, 2014). For example, In Acholi culture for example, where men's identity and pride were based largely on their roles as warriors and protectors, young men no longer have outlets for their sexual aggressions, which were available to them during traditional times. These included warfare, long initiation rituals and formal preparations for manhood, arduous hunting trips and regular courting rituals. These are to be replaced by sexually stimulating and or violent material and to seek an outlet through sexual violence, thus a cause of sexual and gender based violence. In contention with this, (Isabella, 2004) reveals that difficult living conditions associated with low standard of living and high levels of poverty in the Pabbo camp, North Eastern Uganda has resulted most women and girls to depend on others and cannot afford to access other necessities like clothes, soap, and medical care. This results in young girls using sex to barter for these items.

Generally, people in this camp cannot carry out any serious farming activities, from which they could earn money to supplement their budgets. In other words, the high population makes them inadequate to meet all the needs of the people, which results into parents forcing their young girls into marriage so as to get men who can provide for them and their families. The study conducted in Pabbo camp reported that overwhelming distrust of the authorities and the police by the local community who are conservative and prefer to settle the cases of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) themselves, like defilement, rape without the involvement of the police or local authorities. This distrust is as a result of the level of corruption and nepotism associated with the police and local authorities. For example, a parent whose daughter was raped chose to report a case to LC1 or clan leader instead of police. When asked, they said answered. The "ekotosiipolisinisiriginluiwadikaetesitetimentka 'apukoremusago". Meaning that the police

will want bribes, for recording statement and to filling the matter, it is better for the LC1 or clan leader to handle.

The influences of culture, tradition and religion on gender-based violence interacting at different levels of society (Krug et al. 2015) Culturally, males are often placed in a powerful position in relation to women due to practices such as lobola, ukuthwala and Sharia law where women inherently hold a subordinate position to men (Althaus 1997; Ansell 2001; Moosa 1996). This often becomes normalized, with both males and females being socialized into conforming to these cultural and religious practices. Unfortunately, some of these practices implicitly or explicitly condone and tolerate GBV. It is therefore against this background that ‘lobola’ as a cultural practice can be harmful to women. It is therefore important that its implications are discussed and debated relevantly. Female genital mutilation (FGM) for example, involves the ritual removal of some or all of the external female genitalia which may result into health complications to women (Boyden et al. 2012). According to (Gioveti, 2019), Gender stereotypes and are often used to justify violence against women. Cultural norms often dictate that men are aggressive, controlling, and dominant, while women are docile, subservient, and rely on men as providers. These norms can foster a culture of abuse outright, such as early and forced marriage or female genital mutilation, the latter spurred by outdated and harmful notions of female sexuality

Alcohol abuse is one of the causes of GBV in most of the families (Jewkes, 2002). Alcohol abuse is linked with an increased risk of all forms of interpersonal violence, including GBV. Substance abuse has been positively linked to GBV in many studies (Abrahams et al. 2009). More so, Abraham’s study found that 67% of men had consumed alcohol before abusing their partners. Rigid gender norms encourage men to equate the use of violence with manhood and to engage in risk-taking behaviors such as heavy alcohol use. This in turn results in men behaving violently towards their partners. Men often use alcohol as an excuse ‘I was drunk’ –

not to be held accountable for their abusive behavior as (Peralta et al. 2010) notes. Women find themselves trapped in the cycle of violence and even justify their partners' violent behaviors. The cycle of violence continues as a result. Evidence shows that women who lives with men who drink heavily are five times more likely to be assaulted by their partners than those who live with non-drinking partners (Johnson 1996). Men who have been drinking inflict more serious violence at the time of an assault.in contention with this study, (Jewkes, 2002) still asserts that the level of violence increases if both partners are drinking. Alcohol abuse also impacts negatively on communication between partners and increases the occurrence of arguments. In relationships like these, men are more likely to accuse their partner of disrespect or infidelity, depending on the circumstances in which the woman is drinking. The violence meted out against her may escalate if she tries to respond, challenges her partner's authority or fights back while she is drunk.

A study conducted in South Africa revealed that guns remain a significant cause of violent death in the country. It is estimated that about 18 gun-related deaths are recorded daily in South Africa. Most gunshot victims are men (89%). Gun violence affects men and women differently. Young men are more likely to be perpetrators and victims of gun violence according to (Ratele, 2013), while women are more likely to be victims of gun violence in intimate relationships (Mathews et al. 2008). In 1999, 34% of women in South Africa murdered by their intimate partners were killed with a gun (Abrahams et al. 2013). It is also estimated that two out of three women are at risk of being killed by their intimate male partners who own a gun (Abrahams et al. 2009). This shows that ownership of a gun, whether legal or illegal, significantly increases the risk of intimate femicide. A significant proportion of intimate partner murder-suicide perpetrators are employed in the police, army or private security industry where there is easy access to guns. Although there are no reliable statistics,

there are many reported cases in the media of male police officers killing their intimate female partners.

2.2 Role played by gender based violence in violation of rights of women and girls

Violence perpetrated by men against their female partners is wide spread around the world (Benedetta, 2016). It is a fundamental violation of women's human rights, and is also a significant public health problem, with significant economic and social costs. Victims of violence suffer physical and psychological distress, they may suffer isolation, experience a decline in labor productivity and loss of wages, with consequences on children's health and education. The World Health Organization (2013) estimates that more than one third of women in the world have been victims of either physical or sexual violence, with low income countries disproportionately affected.

Heisse (2002) further notes that gender based violence is the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights violation in the world. It is also a profound health problem, sapping women's energy, compromising their physical health, and eroding their self-esteem. In addition to causing injury, violence increases women's long-term risk of a number of other health problems, including chronic pain, physical disability, drug and alcohol abuse and depression. Women with a history of physical or sexual abuse are also at increased risk for unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Klugman (2012) reports that gender based violence also increases women's risk of future ill health. Physical violence and sexual abuse can put women at risk of infection and unwanted pregnancies directly, if women are forced to have sex, for example, or fear using contraception or condoms because of their partners' potentially violent reaction. A history of sexual abuse in childhood also can lead to unwanted pregnancies and STDs indirectly by increasing sexual risk-taking in adolescence and adulthood. Therefore, like tobacco or

alcohol use, victimization can best be conceptualized as a risk factor for a variety of diseases and conditions. However, various government departments also need to work together to implement the Domestic Violence Act. Currently, the Act outlines obligations placed on the police to provide various services to victims of GBV but these obligations are clearly not backed up by other departments, such as health, justice or social development. This negatively affects the implementation of services as envisaged in the Act as indicated by (Vetten, 2007).

Klinger, 2011 revealed that Gender-based violence both reflects and reinforces inequalities between women and men. He continues to say that, at least one in three women around the world is estimated to have been coerced into sex, physically beaten and/or otherwise abused in her lifetime. For women aged 15 to 44 years, such violence 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.

Uganda's police crime report (2016) indicates that defilement cases alone rose by 34 percent, from 13,118 in 2015 to 17,567 in 2016. Defilement is the act of having sex with girls under 18 years of age. Rape cases reported, according to the same report, also increased, from 1,419 to 1,572. A report released last month by researchers from Makerere University College of Health Sciences indicated that one out of five female people with hearing impairments has been a victim of rape in the last 12 months. A 2015 report by the International Justice Mission indicates that 40% of widows experience actual or attempted property grabbing in their lifetime. More than 30% of widows are victims of property grabbing. In many cases the widows spoke of perpetrators (usually relatives of their deceased husbands) threatening and physically assaulting them and sometimes making attempts on their lives and those of their

children. According to statistics from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP), out of 1,594 new rape and 7,618 defilement cases reported in 2015 and 2016, only 57% brought punishment to the perpetrator. Such a low number gives others a sense of impunity, and in so doing exacerbates Gender Based Violence.

Gender based violence associated with land conflicts causes property grabbing. According to a 2008 household survey by the Ministry of Justice covering 20 districts in Uganda, approximately 35% of households report experiencing land conflicts at a household level every year. The nature of land insecurity is frequently violent, and land disputes are listed as the cause of other disputes, including family and domestic violence, assaults and murder. In Northern Uganda, land insecurity has increased dramatically in recent years. According to a World Bank house-hold survey undertaken in six districts in Northern Uganda, 71% of disputes are about inherited land. Women and orphans are among the most vulnerable to land insecurity, due to entrenched sociocultural and gender norms that privilege adult men over women and children.

Similarly, a 2013 Oxfam study estimated that the prevalence rate of property grabbing among female widows in Northern Uganda (West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja) is 30%, and 68% of cohabiting women have experienced property grabbing as opposed to 25% of cohabiting men. In addition, a 2003 study by Deninger and Castagnini revealed that the probability of land conflict is 14% higher for a household headed by a widow and 48% higher for one headed by a separated woman than for a male-headed household. The Ministry of Justice's 2008 household survey also reflected the vulnerability of orphans to property grabbing, reporting land conflict in 41.3% of child-headed households. Property grabbing from widows and orphans is especially common following the death of a male head of household, for example, Peterman (2010), asserts that 48.9% of Ugandan widows receive no

property from their husband's estate after his death, but in only 5.9% of these cases is this because there of limited or no property to inherit. Although they are entitled to the majority of the estate by law, widows and their children reportedly receive property only 36.4% of the time. In the majority of instances, widows and their children are denied their legally entitled share by other relatives who make claims upon the estate property. Indeed, in Gilbourn et al's, 2001 study, 48% of women and 47.8% of orphans responded that property grabbing was a problem in their community, and many of these women and orphans believed paternal relatives to be the most likely to steal inherited property.

Similarly, a study conducted by (Human Rights Watch, 2017), in Zimbabwe shows that, Zimbabwe is home to around 587,000 widows, and most women aged 60 and over are widowed. Many of these older women are vulnerable to violations of their property and inheritance rights. Every year, in-laws evict thousands of widows from their homes and land, leaving them with no roof over their head, no means of income, and no support networks. Others face persistent harassment from in-laws who often accuse them of being responsible for the death of their husbands. Additionally, more than 250 million widows around the world face multiple abuses, neglect, and social exclusion and too frequently are pushed into extreme poverty; the Loomba Foundation for example, estimated that in 2015, 38,261,345 million widows were living in extreme poverty. For some, the abuses they face as widows continue a lifetime of gender-based discrimination abuse and deprivation that often includes being married as a child, being deprived of education opportunities, abusive marriages, and other violence. The effects of discrimination based on gender and other statuses accumulate across the life course. When confronted with yet another status upon which they might be discriminated their marital status of widowhood older widow ladies face even more heightened vulnerability. Despite these abuses, the rights and needs of widows are not

mentioned in some of the most important policy-setting documents on women, poverty, and development.

Gender based violence leads to physical injuries ranging from bruising to death as a result of assault, for instance wounds, damage to sexual organs which may eventually lead to death either as a result of injuries or disease contracted. Miscarriages and abortion especially among young girls are common: it was reported that there were 18 cases of abortion handled by the health center in Pabbo IDP camp, between the month of April and August 2004 amongst the youth of between 12-17 years, due early marriages, forced marriages, and defilement. There is a high risk of transmission of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infectious STIs due to forced and early marriages, extra-marital affairs and forced wife inheritance especially among the youth. There were 14 cases of STIs reported at Pabbo health center between the month of June and August amongst girls less than 18 years. Pabbo registered 49 births of girls below 18 years out of 80 births. Additionally, GBV results into suicide, for instance in one particularly alarming case of incest a young man had a sexual relation with a woman and committed suicide upon realizing that the lady in question was his mother. Hatred and attitudes of revenge arise, especially in case of rape. When a girl was raped her brother revenged upon the family by raping the boy's younger sister in return.

2.3 Strategies to fight against gender based violence

Addressing GBV in the current context is a lifesaving priority. According to (USAID, 2006), the foundation of the GBV strategy lies in service provision for GBV survivors across affected states. For example, in Northeast Nigeria, the GBV sub-sector aims to ensure that services are accessible, prompt, confidential and appropriate to survivor needs, wishes and decisions, and available in locations where there is need. In addition, caring for survivors of GBV means comprehensively and systematically addressing the various needs of a survivor, which may span different sectors of assistance. Thus, a multi-sectorial model should be used

to ensure holistic interventions that involve inter-agency collaboration and coordination across key sectors, including (but not limited to) psychosocial, health, legal/justice and security.

According to (UN, 2012), a survivor-centered strategy creates a supportive environment in which the survivor's rights and wishes are respected, their safety is ensured, and they are treated with dignity and respect. A survivor-centered strategy of fighting gender based violence is based on the following guiding principles safety, which ensures security of the survivor and others, such as her/his children and people who have assisted her/him, must be the number one priority for all actors, confidentiality which states that people have the right to choose to whom they will, or will not, tell their story. Maintaining confidentiality ensures the survivors, witnesses and information sources are protected, and informed consent is obtained before action is taken, respect which entails all actions taken should be guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and dignity of the survivor, and be guided by the best interests of the child and non-discrimination in which survivors of violence should receive equal and fair treatment regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation or any other characteristic.

Gender based violence in women and girls is rooted in gender-based discrimination and social norms and gender stereotypes that perpetuate such violence. Given the devastating effect violence has on women, efforts have mainly focused on responses and services for survivors. However, the best way to end violence against women and girls is to prevent it from happening in the first place by addressing its root and structural causes. UN (2012) further says that GBV partners in the affected states are responsible for the implementation of the strategy. Partners are encouraged to ensure that all their programmes are implemented in accordance with the guiding principles and the Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs).

However, International Women's Development Agency (IWDA), 2017) asserts that gender-based violence is a complex problem that can't be solved with a quick fix. It's also incredibly common that one in three women globally will experience violence in their lifetime. It therefore requires a variety of responses, with a strong focus on prevention and changing gender norms to cultivate gender equality

Furthermore, UN Women, in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has developed a global non-formal education curriculum as (UN, 2012) notes, to engage young people in efforts to prevent and end violence against girls and women. A first of its kind, "Voices against Violence" is a co-educational curriculum designed for various age groups ranging from 5 to 25 years. It provides young people with tools and expertise to understand the root causes of violence in their communities, to educate and involve their peers and communities to prevent such violence, and to learn about where to access support if violence is experienced.

With the curriculum includes a Handbook for peer educators that helps them deliver age appropriate sessions, as well as age-appropriate non-formal education activities. The youngest groups may start out with storytelling and games that prompt them to think about gender bias and stereotypes, while older age groups can organize poster competitions, visit and volunteer with local shelters, or develop local community-based campaigns and projects to address specific forms of violence against girls and women. In addition, voices against violence is a tool for young people around the world. It can be adapted to national context, translated into local languages, and rolled out in schools and communities in partnership with youth organizations, UN partners and governments.

Furthermore, USAID as an international program, works to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in more than 40 countries worldwide (USAID 2015). Since 2012, USAID has reached more than five million survivors of gender-based violence with potentially life-saving services. And to support and scale-up targeted innovations, USAID has awarded more than \$17 million through its GBV Incentive Funds program for projects in 15 countries. In El Salvador for example, USAID has established and supported seven assistance centres for both juvenile and adult victims of gender-based violence to provide services ranging from medical treatment and psychological counselling to legal representation and vocational training, making these among the first multi-institutional, fully integrated domestic violence service providers in Central America. This has supported efforts to reduce levels of impunity and promote fairness in the treatment of GBV survivors. The result of a sample study to measure the impact in reducing impunity in one of the centres showed that of a total of 99 domestic violence cases received, all were presented in court and 97 of them resulted in convictions. Okello (2011) also observes that in Northern Uganda, USAID's Gender Roles, Equality and Transformation (GREAT) project aims to promote gender-equitable attitudes and behaviors among 10-19 year old adolescents and their communities, with the goal of reducing gender-based violence and improving sexual and reproductive health in post-conflict communities.

Additionally, the GREAT Project includes intervention activities such as a radio serial drama, a toolkit that includes tailored discussion guides, activity cards, and games to help pre-existing groups of married and unmarried adolescents understand and challenge gender norms, and increase understanding of sexual and reproductive health issues. The project also implements training for Village Health Workers to improve sexual and reproductive health services. According to Elizabeth et al (2015), GBV Incentive funds supports programs of screening and identification of GBV victims in India to provide counseling and referral of

survivors to relevant service providers. The project deploys a mobile application for front-line healthcare workers designed to help them recognize the clinical signs of GBV during interactions with women seeking routine services like pre-natal care and family planning. Once identified, the application prompts the trained health workers to provide referral and counseling services for survivors to trusted and tested networks of support organizations. The use of a mobile application improves data collection, cost-effectiveness, and ease of use.

As noted by the centre for the study of violence and reconciliation (CSV, 2010), the South African government has signed various international and regional conventions to protect the rights of women and girls, and passed various laws such as the 1998 Domestic Violence Act, the 2012 Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, the 1998 Maintenance Act and the 2011 Protection from Harassment Act. Despite these policies, GBV had remained a major problem in Katakwi sub-county. However, the Domestic Violence Act and other existing Acts makes the following provisions to protect victims of domestic violence, it is now applicable to women and girls following the findings of this study with the efforts made by societal programs that have provided awareness among women and girls who deserve the right to apply and receive protection order, the police officer has a duty to assist the victim of domestic violence, the police officer has a duty to arrest the perpetrator of domestic violence, the victim has a right to receive psychological and medical help. This Act is clear about things that need to happen to protect victims of domestic violence, but there are problems with its implementation.

According to (Adrienne, 2011), International Labor Organization (ILO) concentrates on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. The ILO uses a rights-based approach to gender-based violence, which violates victims' fundamental human rights as

articulated in the 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These principles are included in Article 1 which provides that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”; in Article 3 which provides that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”, and in Article 5 which provides that “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or de-grading treatment or punishment. Since the 1920s, the ILO has addressed the issue of violence in the workplace, and for decades it has advised on policy and programmes to eliminate sex discrimination in work. Today the Office works more visibly on these two aspects together, as well as engaging in a breadth of activities concerning gender-based violence in the world of work. There is research, policy development and operational activities including capacity building and training activities. In contention with Adriennes, study, Halseth (2015) also asserts that ILO partnerships in line with the UN system emphasis to address gender-based violence. In this case, the ILO policy framework on gender-based violence, is guided by the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work, as well as the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. In addition, ILO field offices conduct training courses, offered to the tripartite constituents on sexual harassment provisions in legislation and specific policies as well as workshops on codes of practice and elements of the workplace violence debate. International training and capacity building courses on gender equality and related violence issues are conducted by the Turin-based International Training Centre (ITC-ILO).

Similarly, Cruz (2015) further adds that a number of technical cooperation projects are currently being implemented by the ILO on issues that are linked to gender-based violence such as child labour, migration, and human trafficking. A Special Action Programme was launched in 2001 to spearhead ILO activities to combat forced labour including human trafficking, bonded labour, and irregular migration. Efforts to eliminate violence against female migrant workers are based on a strategy of preventing exploitation and abuse through

promotion of gender-sensitive regulated and managed migration policies, bilateral and multilateral agreements, and labour standards for migrant workers within a decent work framework. Therefore, ILO constituents play an important role in several regional initiatives to combat gender-based violence and have the potential to support national attention to the issue through their involvement in development frameworks, particularly Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) and, where their involvement can be ensured, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). An ILO analysis of all 2009 UNDAFs showed that one-third make an explicit reference to decent work and concepts such as gender equality.

According to (Sanjel, 2013), the Government of Nepal has made significant improvements in the formulations of laws, policies and plan of actions after the end of historical Rana rule incorporating the gender-based violence issue in the first Civil Code 1964 and subsequent formulation and endorsement of laws, acts, action plans, policies and strategies. The efforts are Human Trafficking Control Act 1986; the constitution of Nepal 1990, National plan of action against trafficking in children and their commercial sexual exploitation 2001, National Plan of Action (NPA) against trafficking in children for sexual and labor exploitation 2001 and the National Plan of Action for Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment (Beijing Conference 1995). In addition, constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to constitutional remedy for those whose fundamental rights have been violated as has explicitly prohibited all forms of discrimination on the ground of gender declaring GBV a crime and has commitment to eliminate all forms of GBVs and ensure gender equality by ratifying the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and several other related international instruments but due to the absence of strict implementation of these instruments GBVs recurrently happen. Elizabeth et al (2015) propounds that although Nepal ratified the CEDAW and formulated Domestic Violence Act and a 5-year national

strategy and action plan for ending gender-based violence, and put the GBV in place the strong normative and legal commitments to ending gender-based violence and legal binding itself to put the CEDAW provisions into practice, still there are setbacks in the implementation of these commitments. The latest NDHS 2011 incorporated GBV as an issue of assessment. Furthermore, there are only a few researches conducted on GBVs and no research covering all geographical areas and ecological regions is being held yet.⁵²⁻⁵⁴ Thus, more researches in this area are anticipated.

World Bank (2018) states that the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, 1994 (“Convention of Belem do Para”) provides guiding principles for a treaty on violence against women.¹⁸ It affirms that women have a right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres and holds the state accountable to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women, incorporating a due diligence standard. This was the first Convention directed solely at eliminating violence against women, and the regional court has decided important cases on the subject, as discussed below. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the Rights of Women in Africa, also known as the Maputo Protocol, prohibits gender-based violence as part of women's rights to life, integrity and security of the person, and dignity.

Article one defines violence against women as including “all acts perpetrated against women. The Maputo Protocol addresses violence against women in many of its provisions, and establishes legal obligations. Richards and Haglund (2015) reports that, of the 53 member countries in the African Union, 36 countries have signed and ratified the protocol, and another 15 had signed but not ratified, while three states; Botswana, Egypt and Tunisia have not signed, unlike Latin America. However, the African Charter Court on Human and People’s Rights has never issued a judgment on the merits in a case involving violence

against women. Weaknesses include the follow-up institutional arrangements, in terms of the reporting mechanisms and the absence of a specific committee to monitor implementation.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women was established in 1994. This office reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council and is tasked with “seeking and receiving information on violence against women,” as well as “recommending measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women.” In 1996, Radhika Coomaraswamy, the first such Rapporteur stated that “the international human rights framework could be applied to address discriminatory laws or customs, like (national) exceptions for marital rape or the defense of honor, which exempt perpetrators of domestic violence from sanctions and reflect the consent of the State. Several other major international declarations have recognized violence against women as a violation of human rights. These include the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), the Southern African Development Community's Declaration on Gender and Development (1997) and its 1998 Addendum on the Eradication of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Children (1998). The Beijing Platform for Action, for example, calls on governments to enact and enforce penal, civil, labor and administrative sanctions to punish and redress the wrongs done to victims. It also calls on governments to adopt, implement and review legislation to ensure its effectiveness in eliminating violence against women, emphasizing the prevention of violence and the prosecution of offenders. However, the Beijing Platform is not legally binding.

In October 2016, the World Bank launched the Global Gender-Based Violence Task Force to strengthen the institution’s efforts to prevent and respond to risks of GBV, and particularly sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) that may arise in World Bank-supported projects. It

builds on existing work by the World Bank and other actors to tackle violence against women and girls through strengthened approaches to identifying and assessing key risks, and developing key mitigations measures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and other forms of GBV. In line with its commitments under IDA 18, the World Bank developed an Action Plan for Implementation of the Task Force's recommendations, consolidating key actions across institutional priorities linked to enhancing social risk management, strengthening operational systems to enhance accountability, and building staff and client capacity to address risks of GBV through training and guidance materials. As part of implementation of the GBV Task Force recommendations, the World Bank has developed a GBV risk assessment tool and rigorous methodology to assess contextual and project-related risks. The tool is used by any project containing civil works. The World Bank has developed a Good Practice Note (GPN) with recommendations to assist staff in identifying risks of GBV, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment that can emerge in investment projects with major civil work contracts. Building on World Bank experience and good international industry practices, the note also advises staff on how to best manage such risks according to (World Bank, 2017).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter lays down the methods and procedures used by the researcher to collect and analyze data in order to achieve the objectives laid in the first chapter. This chapter further cover the research design, area of the study, population of the study, sample size, sampling techniques, data collection methods, tools and instruments, quality control methods, data analysis techniques, ethical considerations, anticipated limitations and Delimitations. It is a chapter that gives the roadmap to solving the stated research problem.

3.1 Research Design

Bryman, and Emma, (2003) define research design as plans and procedures for research that span the decisions from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. The researcher used a Case Study design in this study. This is because of its suitability to provide an in-depth analysis and understanding of the interventions used in combating Gender Based Violence in detail as (Etyang, 2018) notes. The researcher conducted a mixed research involving application of both qualitative and quantitative research approaches for purposes of fetching data from proven and non-proven sources. Quantitative research approach was applied in gathering data from the key informants and the top leaders while qualitative research approach was used to collect data from women during Focus Group Discussions through sharing opinions, ideas, perceptions and experience about the study topic according to (Etyang, 2018). Therefore, the researcher intends to use a mixed research approach to allow the collection of more complete and holistic data analysis.

3.2 Area of the study

The study was conducted in Katakwi sub-county found in Katakwi district in the Eastern Uganda, Teso region. Katakwi sub-county is bordered by Toroma in the South, Palam in the East, Ongongoja in the North, Katakwi town council in the South West. The sub-county is 17 km away from Katakwi town and it is 15.9 sq. /km on land. The sub-county has eleven parishes; Abwanget, Olupe, Alukucok, Dadas, Aleles, Katakwi, Getom, Abela, Aliakamer, Alogook and Olela(UBOS, 2014). Generally, Katakwi district is once known for insurgencies for example in 2002 under the attacks of Joseph Kony, historical inter-border conflicts and natural disasters such as prolonged droughts and floods.

The name Katakwi signifies poverty up to date, associated with high teenage pregnancies, school drop-outs, child marriage, poor education, and rampant gender-based violence (District Development Plan, 2017). The local community in Katakwi district is worried about the increasing number of gender based violence victims (Zirimara, 2016). This is blamed on the laxity in the law enforcement where victims of gender based violence are denied justice despite the presence of legal means. Therefore, from this background, the researcher was compelled to conduct a study in Katakwi sub-county about the effects of GBV on the violation of rights of women and girls.

3.3 Population of the study

According to Sekaran and Bougie, (2013), population refers to the entire group of people, events, or things of interest for which the researcher wants to investigate. The population of the study comprised of males, females and youths who participated in the study as fully entailed. (UBOS, 2017) revealed that Katakwi sub-county has a total population of 56,452 people with (females = 27,207 and males =29,245). Katakwi sub-county is primarily rural and most people are either engaged in agricultural activities. Crop husbandry is the leading

agricultural activity followed by livestock keeping. Most commonly grown crops include cassava (staple food), maize, beans, Citrus (Oranges), cotton, tobacco mangoes, ground nuts animals reared include cattle, goats, sheep, pigs (on a small scale), chicken, and ducks. Animals in most parts of the sub-county are communally grazed and their movements are rarely controlled according to (Hazards and Risks Management report, 2016).

3.4 Sample size

A sample is a finite part or subset of participants drawn from the target population (Jeovany, 2016). The sample size is a significant feature of any empirical study in which the goal is to make inferences about a population from a sample (Taherdoost, 2017). In other words, a sample size is the total number of sub elements or individuals randomly selected, established and assigned from the population of study Etyang, (2018). The study was conducted in the eleven parishes of Abwanget, Olupe, Alukucok, Dadas, Aleles, Katakwi, Getom, Abela, Aliakamer, Alogook and Olela that were selected based on their ability to provide enough information relevant for the study to achieve its specific objectives. The sample size for this study comprised of 83 respondents. It was expected that this sample would be enough to produce results for generalization based on the rough, but still useful, ideas and opinions of the population to be contacted as according to the study conducted by (Wilson, 2019).

The target population included 40 women (girls and women) from the respective parishes in Katakwi sub-county as Abwanget, Olupe, Alukucok, Dadas, Aleles, Katakwi, Getom, Abela, Aliakamer, Alogook and Olela also included 15 Key study Informants both at district and sub-county level who consisted of the following: At district level, Gender Officer, Probation Officer, 3 representatives from police, court, health- sexual and gender desk, District women councilor, District youth counselor, district chairperson women forum.

At sub-county level, the researcher engaged Community Development Officer (CDO), Chairperson LCIII Katakwi sub-county, sub-county Woman Councilor, sub-county chairperson women forum and the representative for the Youth in Katakwi sub-county), 5 religious' leaders, 05 cultural leaders, 05 LC1s, 05 Civil Society Organization, 05 male champions, 02 Start Awareness Support Action activists (SASA!), 01 In charge of health centre and 01 sub-county police officer. These were the target population because of their credibility to represent the rest of the population, provide adequate and relevant qualitative and quantitative data for the given study.

3.5 Sampling techniques

Sampling can be defined as the process through which individuals or sampling units are selected from the sample frame (Martínez-Mesa et al 2014). Sampling helped to generate logical and presentable data for new ideas and making inferences of the entire youth group in the community within a given short time (Odiya, Mbabazi 2012). For this study, random sampling and purposive sampling were used.

Random sampling refers to the means by which the elements of the target population (geographic units, households and persons) are selected based on chance and every element of the population has a known, non-zero probability of being selected (Wilson, 2019). Random sampling was used to select 40 women to provide qualitative data through FGDs about the causes of GBV, the role played by gender-based violence on the rights of women and girls and the existing strategies to fight against GBV in women and girls. This technique was also used to select other category of women and girls who were targeted to provide information about the root causes of GBV, effects and possibly the efforts taken to combat the problem in the area.

Purposeful sampling is a technique used in qualitative research for the identification and selection of information-rich cases for the most effective use of limited resources according to (Patton, 2002). It involves identifying and selecting individuals or groups of individuals that are especially knowledgeable or experienced about a phenomenon of interest (Cresswell, et al 2011). Purposive sampling was used to equitably select the Key Informants of district and sub-county informants which include: Gender officer, Probation Officer, court, health gender desk, Police officers from Katakwi Central Police Station, LCIII Chairperson, sub-county woman councilor, Community Development Officer, police officers, Civil Society Organization, District Chairperson Women Forum, male champions, SASA! Activists and the youth representative from district and the purposively proposed parishes in the sub-county, in which the information was obtained through interviews. These were subjected to interviews to allow them respond to the questions with high level of reflection and privacy. Purposive sampling was suitable for the above category of respondents because of its importance to fit their availability and willingness to participate, communicate experiences and opinions in a more articulate, expressive, and reflective manner as (Wilson, 2017) indicates.

3.6 Data collection Methods and Instruments

According to Sekaran, (2003), data can be obtained from both primary and secondary data. Data collection refers to the systematic process of collecting research data on a given phenomenon. The researcher used both primary and secondary sources of data collection for the study. In using primary sources, the researcher used interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Secondary data collection was done by reviewing the records of the existing literature such as books, journals, magazines from internet and libraries. This helped the researcher to access all the relevant information.

3.6.1 Interview method and interview guide

The study employed interview as a method of data collection. Interviews provided the researcher an opportunity to go back to some of the issues that had been an oversight in other tools and yet they were deemed vital for the study (Amin, 2005). Through the use of interviews the researcher was assured of obtaining in depth information from the respective respondents used in further probing. This method was applied to collect data from the Key Informants both from sub-county and district level who comprised of (Probation Officer, Gender officer, Court, Health , Police, district chairperson women forum, community Development Officer , Civil society organization, LCIII Sub-county Chairperson, Woman Councilor of the sub-county and the sub-county youth representative), the method was also be used to obtain information from the religious leaders, cultural leaders, Male champions, SASA! Activists, LC1s. The method was suitable for these categories of people with knowledge and experience about the study.

More so, with this method, respondents were given room to express their personal experience about the questions asked by the researcher with enough privacy. The researcher employed this research method to reveal the hidden emotions individuals attached to their experiences of the respondents in the study area. The interview guide comprised of questions which were designed to encourage respondents answer in-depth and semi-structured questions and were set to establish the very nature of reality, strictness, the illusion between the fact and what fiction is for all the specific objectives (Singh, 2007). The interview guides were properly administered and monitored and were all returned to the researcher.

3.6.2 Focus group discussion and FGD guide

According to (Etyang, 2018), Focus Group Discussion is a data collection method mainly for collection of qualitative data in which manageable group of people of a given study population are carefully selected and engaged into a discussion guided by the

moderator/facilitator (researcher) to freely articulate their perceptions, attitudes, opinions, beliefs, ideas and experiences about a certain topic. For the purposes of this study, the method was applied to the 40 women who were evenly selected from each of the parishes for data collection. More so, 04 groups with 10 members in each group were formulated whose views, ideas, perceptions, opinions and experience about the topic themes were recorded. This method was suitable for intended category of respondents because the researcher believed that it ensures ideological representation from different affected areas of the sub-county without discrimination based on any status quo as (Etyang, 2018) notes.

3.6.3 A document review and Documents review checklist

A document review means reviewing a variety of information sources such as documents, reports, data files and other written artifacts with the intention of collecting independently verifiable data and information (Fortunate, 2007). A document review was used to achieve a contextual understanding of the causes of GBV to women and girls, the role played by GBV in violation of rights of women and girls and the existing strategies to fight against the problem of GBV. Documents such as World Bank reports, UN reports were reviewed to facilitate the checking of the relevant information to apply in this study.

3.7 Quality control methods

This focuses on Validity and reliability of the study. According to Sekaran, (2009), validity refers to the truthfulness of findings or the extent to which the instrument is relevant in measuring what it is supposed to be measured, while reliability measures the consistency of research instruments to come out with the same result each time it is used under the same condition.

3.7.1 Validity

Saunders, et al (2003) define validity as the extent to which data collection tools accurately measure what they were intended to measure. According to Etyang (2018), Validity refers to the extent to which the research instrument correctly measures what the researcher wants to measure. Therefore, he argues that validity is about credibility or trustworthiness or accuracy or correctness of the research instrument. In this study, the researcher ensured validity; through the use of expert validity views, guidance and suggestions of the supervisor as the basis for making valid interview, FGD questionnaire and observation guides.

3.7.2 Reliability

Sekaran, and Bougie, (2013) define reliability as a test of how consistently a measuring instrument measures whatever concept it is measuring. Etyang (2018) defines reliability as the consistency of a research instrument. Therefore, reliability of a research instrument refers to the ability of a research instrument to yield the same results once used repeatedly over a given period of time while measuring the same variables.

For the case of this study, before data collection is done, the research tools were presented to research supervisor for testing and approval to ensure that its reliability takes precedence before anything else on data collection in the field was done. The researcher conducted a min-survey in the area of study with 20 randomly selected sample respondents who helped to test the reliability of the research instruments and results were presented to the academic supervisor for a go ahead.

3.8 Data Analysis

The qualitative and quantitative data was analyzed manually using Microsoft excel. Thematic analysis system was also used whereby data was categorized, cleaned, interpreted and analyzed under their respective themes. The analysis steps were systematically and

consistently done for each one of the three objectives, from objective one to three in order to make informed conclusions. It also involved use of direct quotations and represent the findings for a report (Etyang, 2018). Finally, being a qualitative and quantitative research, content analysis was employed. Content analysis was done through two forms: By pre-determined categories where one decides what s/he needs to know; he/she can look through the data and records the events, findings, perceptions according to categories according to (Etyang, 2018).

3.9 Ethical Considerations of the study

The researcher considered voluntary participation while conducting research in that respondents were allowed to exercise their free will to participate in a research activity. This was helpful to the researcher because respondents gave answers willingly and therefore, they were high chances of the researcher to fetch relevant information.

The researcher was guided by the permission from the University (supervisor) and the introduction letter to the field in conducting the study (during data collection). A letter of consent and/or a form was designed by the researcher where the willing respondents signed and participated in providing responses to the interviews, while the unwilling respondents were allowed to withdraw at their will for the purposes of fetching clear data from the willing respondents and all answers obtained were treated with utmost confidentiality by the researcher and all answered questions kept in a safe place until the time when their use is not required anymore.

The researcher, had to clearly explain the purpose of the study to the respondents before carrying out the research. The researcher also provided assurance to the respondents that the study was beneficial for its intended purposes.

3.10 Limitations and Delimitations of the study

The researcher faced the challenge of delayed appointments by the Key Informants due to their busy schedules. Some respondents delayed in filling and returning the questionnaires, and this compromised the progress of the researcher in completing the report. Although, the researcher ensured constant follow up and contact of different respondents to whom the questionnaires were administered, until when they were all returned.

It was discovered by the researcher that some respondents gave false information when she felt that there were gaps in the information given. The researcher probed for respondents in order to get detailed information, not to compromise the quality of the research findings and this was obtained by creating a good rapport with the respondents.

Heavy costs in transport to and from the area of study, airtime and long distances involved, presidential directives on COVID-19 limited the courage of the respondents to be present for the study participation. To overcome this challenge, the researcher made appointments with respondents through the community leaders.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the collected, organized and synthesized data from the field about “the effects of gender-based violence on the rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district.” The data was collected from 83 respondents with 40 women who were engaged in Focus Group Discussions, 15 Key study Informants, 05 religious’ leaders, 05 cultural leaders, 05 LC1s, 05 Civil Society Organization, 05 male champions who were given interviews. This chapter presents the findings about the study objectives as a way of responding to the research questions in the order of;

- (i) Causes of gender-based violence in Katakwi sub county, Katakwi district
- (ii) The role played by gender-based violence in violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district
- (iii) Existing strategies to fight against Gender Based Violence in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district

The findings about the above objectives are analyzed in the light of the reviewed literature in chapter two of this report as well as the researcher’s experience obtained during the course of collecting data. The researcher managed to acquire both qualitative and quantitative information. The main quantitative information (bio data) was obtained from 36 respondents (District and sub-county GBV stakeholders, police officers, health officers, district women forum, district youth representative and community leaders, as well presented in this chapter.

4.1 Respondent's bio data

Table 1: Gender of respondent

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	25	69
Female	11	31
Total	36	100

Source: Primary data from the field

The table 1 above illustrates gender of the respondents. The highest percentage (69%) of respondents were males, while the least percentage (31%) of the respondents were females. According to the researcher, more males participated in the study than females for they were interested in learning how best they can fight against GBV because females are always the falling victims of gender based violence infringed by males. The moderate number of females that participated in the study also showed their alarming picture that the common GBV happening in Katakwi sub-county in both physical and mental ways, is horribly undermining their rights as women.

Table 2: Age bracket of the respondents

Age bracket years	Frequency	Percentage
25-34	13	36
35-44	17	46
45-54	02	06
55-64	02	06
65 and above	02	06
Total	36	100

Source: Primary data from the field

Table 2 above, is showing the age bracket of the respondents who participated in this study. The highest percentage of respondents was in the age bracket of 35-44 with 46%, whereas the least age bracket of respondents was 45-54, 55-64, 60 years and above with 06% respectively. This implies that respondents with the highest age bracket has already joined the institution of marriage and have either undergone through such experiences and they had high expectations of getting the resolutions towards the fight against gender based violence in Katakwi sub-county.

Table 3: Education level of the respondents

Education level	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	03	08
Secondary	16	44
Graduate	17	48
None	00	00
Total	36	100

Source: Primary data from the field

Table 3 above shows the education level of study respondents. The highest percentage of the education level was the graduate with 48%, while the least percentage of the respondents who participated in the study was only 08% in which they fell in primary level of education, 44% was revealed as the secondary level of the respondents. According to the researcher, the study findings revealed that the given bio data was derived from the Key study Informants who had experience and showed high level of learning and qualification. They included the Katakwi district and sub-county working officials and were able to provide all the key necessary in depths information about the objectives of this study.

The study findings will be presented, discussed and analyzed following the order of specific objectives below;

4.2 Theme one: Causes of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district

In this study, gender-based violence was generally perceived as unequal treatment of women and girls in the community especially with issues concerning violation of their rights. Such treatment is infringed to women and girls out of force without their consent. It was further revealed that in Katakwi sub-county, there are common gender based violations such as forced early marriages in girls, defilement, rape, corporal punishments and fear of responsibilities by men in families. In Katakwi sub-county, there is general poverty among the families associated with low income and productivity, residents have their survival on small scale farming where by food is produced only for consumption and small scale trading which gives less profits, drug abuse associated with irresponsible alcohol consumption in men was also reported as a driver to gender based violence. This makes the study findings contend with the study conducted by (Jewkes, 2002) who asserts that alcohol abuse is one of the causes of GBV in most of the families. He continues that alcohol abuse is linked with an increased risk of all forms of interpersonal violence, and substance abuse has been positively linked to GBV in many studies. More so, Jewke's study found out that 67% of men had consumed alcohol before abusing their partners.

Additionally, unemployment has left families with inability to pay school fees for their children and the end result has becomes forced marriages in young girls moreover by their parents to get compensation with the bride price. Unemployment was also discovered as the major cause of gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county and has resulted into property selling by the husbands without consulting their wives and in turn, the conflicts may rise thus

the wife ends up getting undeserved terrible beatings which should not be the case because in the process, the rights of the woman are being deprived.

In comparison with this study findings reviewed by (Abrahams et al. 2009), based on his study conducted in South Africa, many young men do not work and some are wholly dependent on women for survival due to high level of unemployment. This leads to uncertainty, insecurity and anxiety by men as (Sigsworth, 2009) also indicates in his study. In this context therefore, GBV becomes a prominent mechanism through which to reinforce male power and authority which is also the case with Katakwi sub-county. for this case, one may argue that unemployment in men is a risk factor for the contribution of gender-based violence, the fact that they feel insecure and irresponsible in their families and resort to selling off their life investments like land that would be reused for continuous benefits hence this also widens the chances of increased poverty, the major cause of misunderstandings and conflicts in families over resources according to the findings of the study.

In addition, during the focus group discussion with women and girls in Katakwi sub-county, one woman was quoted saying that;

I happened to leave my husband because of non-maintenance support he was providing for the family, he was unemployed and I also had no job at all, he could only depend on the little profits I was getting from my “Omena” with some petty tomatoes and onions. This later led to marriage breakdown because he was largely depending on my efforts when he was lazy at working for domestic survival and he could abuse me whenever he comes home drunk. She adds that,

husbands who does not want to work, are not worthy collaborative and are unbearable because it is the responsibility of a man to take care of the family but

when he becomes a dependent person on the woman, it becomes worse, that's why I had to leave him.

A 7-member Focus Group Discussions, Omodo Parish, 12/08/2020

Furthermore, poverty was revealed to be the major cause of gender-based violence among women and girls in Katakwi sub-county. The researcher held interviews with the office of gender representative Katakwi district and revealed statistics that shows the rate of gender cases in the years 2016 and 2018, as 842 hospital visits in Katakwi sub-county, injury rates due to GBV were 13.5 per 10,000 population for the year 2016, and 13.6 per 10,000 population for 2017. In 2016, the cases of injuries due to GBV were 1.36 times in females compared to males. The interview findings further shows that mal development leads to deprivation and violation of rights as well. Women and girls in Katakwi have been falling the victims of gender-based violence due to high levels of poverty in the area. Regarding this, the Chairperson LCIII Katakwi sub-county in his views, expressed that;

There is a lot of poverty in this sub-county, we are always appealing to our people that they engage in multiple income generating activities to widen their income base and so engage in introduced government developmental programs, but it is unfortunate that majority are not interested because they have been caught up by abusive behaviors especially men. For example, evils like sexual immorality have spread in this area, we have very many cases of defilement, extra marital sex, early marriages and forced marriages, many of which were unheard of in the past, girls and women want to look smart and to have beautiful things, and therefore are enticed by those with money into having sex. Parents have started forcing their daughters into marriages because they want money. Young people have got to know about sex very

early in life, and also young girls learnt to go for old men simply because a young person would take pride that a man can provide for her needs.

Key Informant Interviews, Katakwi sub-county, 12th/08/2020

In addition, poverty among families in Katakwi sub-county has resulted into girl child education neglect and in turn, there is increased early forced marriages as they feel that it is the next option. The basic needs of girl child are not met by parents hence girls get involved in sexual relationships in order to meet their own basics. According to the findings of the study, a girl child in Katakwi sub-county is still seen as a source of income for the family as long as one clicks the age of fourteen. Parents already lost interest in providing girl child needs and this drove young girls to teenage pregnancies. Worse still, women are perceived as not equal as men, therefore it is assumed that men should carelessly treat women as they want both mentally, physically and socially, while showing overpower to them. Men also assume that all family property belongs to them regardless of who got it and how it was got. The society still believes that education is mainly for boys. This finding aligns with the quotation that was expressed by the Probation Office Katakwi district who, during the interview session had to say that;

“Unbalanced power between men and women has caused the increased gender based violence in this area because the society up bring of children give boy children more power than girls. On the issue of poverty, there is polygamy and in cases where you find a person is vulnerable and poor, men marry many wives and yet they cannot afford to cater for their needs. The end result here is resorting to harassment of his own wives and cannot even bather to fight for a woman’s rights.”

Key Informant Interviews, Katakwi sub-county, 12th/08/2020

For this case, one may argue that early marriages in girls would make sense if at all the husband is fully responsible for the smooth running of the family, this was not the case with the study area. Men have left responsibilities in hands of women due to increased drug abuse as they spend most of their time drinking “Ekanraga” that is made out of sorghum and cassava as their best drink. Early marriage itself is a violation of girls’ rights because they have full rights to education. Therefore, it is the background of one’s family that determines the capacity of girls’ to pursue education in Katakwi sub-county, where there is poverty, there are low chances of educating a girl child instead boys are cared for much more than girls the fact that girls are perceived as income sources, parents have high expectations to get dowry from them and they do not consider how the marriage would be managed if the girl is not educated. More so, if the girl child does not undergo education, she can be misled by the peer groups and these girls can any time fall in violence like rape. It was further noticed that girl children easily ignore instructions given by parents and walk their own displeasing ways that brings violence such as alcoholism that results into rape and defilement among young people or husbands becoming too violent towards wives as (Peralta et al. 2010) indicates.

It is important to note in this study that the cases of gender-based violence against women at household that affected them sexually, emotional, economically and physically were more social, and economic in nature. Physical violence was discovered the most violence infringed on women by men in Katakwi sub-county and it involves beating, slapping, pulling hair, hitting with an object and murder. Economic violence involves denial of access to land, rent and evictions from home while psychological is done through discrimination by sidelining especially women with disabilities and unmarried women.

The study findings further revealed that cultural beliefs among husbands were cited as one of the dominant causes of Gender Based Violence to women. Families in Katakwi sub-county are still culturally rigid whereby they heavily depend on cultural beliefs, norms and practices

that still puts the lives of women in violation and isolation categories. There is patriarchy entrenched in cultural beliefs that put women under men hence undermine the rights of women. Cultural norms such as women supposedly are to be controlled by men, which is not applicable in the 21st century. They also still depend on religious beliefs like women to be submissive to their husbands which is right and just however, men goes beyond and deserve too much respect associated with irresponsibility on the husband side. This finding contends with the study conducted by (Gioveti, 2019) who says that gender stereotypes are often used to justify gender based violence in women. He adds that cultural norms often dictate that men are aggressive, controlling, and dominant, while women are docile, subservient, and rely on men as providers. These norms can foster a culture of abuse outright, such as early and forced marriage or female genital mutilation, the latter spurred by outdated and harmful notions of female sexuality. In this case, one may argue that cultural norms would not be problematic if at all they are considered in a meaningful way that does not harm the lives of women and girls instead would be followed as important societal guidelines. It was challenging that cultural beliefs still holds a lead towards the occurrence of gender based violence in Katakwi sub-county.

Corruption and bribery was cited as a major hindrance to justice for victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV). The study found out that there are a number of cases where men bribe police when these cases of abuse have been reported, but the cases are simply neglected. For example, women in Katakwi sub-county do not disclose gender based violence cases not until they get physically injured and report the cases to police or local council authorities for help. As the study conducted by (Isabella, 2004) asserts, high level of corruption and nepotism associated with the police and local authorities has led to the increased cases of gender based violence in the study area. For example, a parent whose daughter was raped chose to report a case to LC1 or clan leader instead of police. The police demands money for recording

statement and to filling the matter, therefore, it is better for the LC1 or clan leader to handle the issue unless one is a family relative or friend to the police person.

Similarly, this finding is also in agreement with (Vetten, 2007) study results which revealed that victims of GBV raise complaints but these obligations are clearly not backed up by other departments, such as health, justice or social development, which in turn negatively affects the implementation of services as envisaged in the Gender Based Violence Act. In addition, Katakwi sub-county has always been hit by natural calamities especially drought, this has caused the problem of food insecurity which also plays a great contribution towards gender based violence in women. For example, girls have been forced into marriages in search for daily needs and survival as well.

Tribal conflicts in Katakwi sub-county caused as a result of cattle rustling was also revealed as one of the causes of gender based violence in the area. Compared to other regions in Teso, Katakwi district has historically suffered most at the hands of Karimojong cattle rustlers. The acquisition of fire arms by the Karimojong made cattle rustling more sophisticated and more violent making life in Katakwi more pathetic and thereby resulting into internal displacement of hundreds of people. The Katakwi - Moroto border conflict revolves around claims and counter claims of land on both sides of the border by people in the two ethnic groups - Itesots and Karimojongs living in Katakwi and Moroto districts respectively. While the conflict revolves around the border land claims by each side, it has been complicated by cattle rustling by the Karimojong whose motivation besides land seems to include cattle, pastures and water resources found in Katakwi and Teso regions.

Consequently, hundreds of people on the side of Katakwi district have been internally displaced and currently live in Internally Displaced Persons' Camps (IDPs) in worst conditions. These tribal conflicts began in June 2003 between the Karamajong who lives in

Teso region and the Teso group of men. They staged a conflict, and a number of women in Teso region still suffers the wounds of the conflict, especially those whose husbands were engaged in the conflict. The conflict itself created tension between these two tribes, women and girls were bitten up bitterly by the strange people, raped because they were weak to defend for their rights.

4.3 Theme two: The role played by gender based violence in the violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county

Gender based violence has caused violation of rights of women and girls in a way that they undergo denial of relevant and important aspects in their life time. For example, young girls are forced into marriage at an early stage denying their opportunity to take on their studies and reach the level of satisfaction. Women have been denied the right to make personal decisions because they feel undermined under the powers of men and hence their rights are violated. Women are sexually harassed and abused by men when they are forced into sex relations, on top of too much exhaustion due to over working especially domestic work while men enjoys the added advantage that they are family heads, in the process their rights are being deprived in favor of men.

Additionally, women are denied the chance of becoming a heir because they are not allowed to inherit property, the rights of girls to make choices according to their own standards have been violated because parents select husbands for them depending on who owns a lot of resources, defilement in young girls deny them continuous education and excellence. It was found out in this study that these factors have been contributed to, by the prevalent poverty levels in the area. The study further revealed that women in Katakwi sub-county have no voice, no self-expression and they are shut down whenever they try to share ideas with others especially in cultural meetings. This still belittles women and lowers their esteem.

Worthy important still, the findings of the study has it that GBV as an act is directly a violation of rights common in women in the study area. It is done against women's will leaving other factors constant like government's failure to fight against the violent act. The rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county have been negatively affected by GBV which is associated with ill health, physical and sexual abuse. Gender based violence has inhibited women from playing a role in decision making within the household, at work, as well as in the political, economic and social spheres and therefore has directly influenced women's and girl's capacity to participate in public activities and hence exercise of their citizenship. The social costs of GBV also include the action of society when it fails to take measures to defend the rights of women and girls since society is also ignoring their voices due to increased dependency on the cultural beliefs that would not appear anywhere as obstacles for women's public participation opportunities.

The study further found out that survivors of gender based violence have suffered sexual and reproductive health consequences, with inclusive forced and unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions and sexually transmitted diseases and death. According to the (District Development Plan, 2017), Katakwi district is once known for insurgencies for example in 2002 under the attacks of Joseph Kony, historical inter-border conflicts and natural disasters such as prolonged droughts and floods. The name Katakwi signifies poverty up to date, associated with high teenage pregnancies, school drop-outs, child marriage, poor education, and rampant gender-based violence. Therefore, women and girls in Katakwi sub-county still suffers the fate of the Katakwi-Moroto border conflicts to survive as a number of people were left displaced and were directly tortured alongside high levels of poverty. One of the persistence denial of rights of women and girls in the area was found out to be reluctance of responsible authorities to formally handle issues concerning gender based violence. This was

supported by one of the women during the focus group discussions at Katakwi sub-county headquarters who in her views expressed that;

“The issues are not being followed up by the assigned leaders in case an issue is raised, it can take like centuries to be worked up on and that is if you are chanced. I once raised a case of girl child torture and neglect but unfortunately the police showed that, it is not ready to follow up the matter unless I was to pay the amount of money they asked for. This was not fair to me, the role of police is to help people settle their issues but still you cannot be helped if you do not present something, I insisted going to that particular police station until when the police person boldly told me that ‘you will keep on coming here not until you touch in your pockets’ and I had to quit the case because I had no enough money for the follow up.”

A 7- member Focus Group Discussion, Katakwi sub-county, 12/08/2020

Death occurring to women and girls due to cases of gender based violence, deprives their right to live. Physical violence infringed on women leads to their death, sexual violence deprives girls’ rights to good health. Girls have ended up contracting HIV/AIDS and sexual transmitted diseases, rape has also denied them a right to education when they drop out of school due to unintended/unexpected pregnancies. In comparison therefore, this finding is similar to the study results of (Klugman, 2012) as he reports that women with a history of physical or sexual abuse are at increased risk for unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Hence, the similarity of findings from different sources, proves reliability of the study. In addition, right to access education in girls has been deprived through forced early marriages by parents pushed by ignorance and poverty, cultural beliefs have also deprived women’s rights through forced sex as it is believed that a man is everything at home and is free to have multiple sex according to his wish which results into sexual harassment

that denies women's rights to peace. Cultural beliefs like when a woman eats chicken will grow a beard or will not get married, still violates women's rights to good food.

Gender based violence has denied women's right to own property especially widows according to the findings of this study. This finding further is similar to the Makerere University College of Health Sciences report of 2015 which indicates that 40% of widows experience actual or attempted property grabbing in their lifetime in Uganda, and more than 30% of widows are victims of property grabbing. Property grabbing in Katakwi sub-county is a common experience following the loss of a husband. In many cases, the widow reported experiencing violent acts that either influenced her decision, or forced her to leave her land or property. These violent acts range from verbal threats to physical and sexual violence to mass destruction of land or property. For example, the Probation Officer Katakwi district reported that 18% of victims of property grabbing have reported a murder attempt on their lives. The study results also revealed three significant protective factors against property grabbing; marriage formalization, the existence of a will for the husband prior to his death, and land documentation. More so, four statistically significant risk factors for property grabbing were found as well; land ownership through "Kibanja", customary/traditional marriage, presence of co-wives and existence of children from the deceased husband with another woman.

Additionally, the findings revealed that widows fear reporting property grabbing cases to justice system officials due to lack of knowledge on the law, fear of the loss of social support and other repercussions of pursuing justice and lack of financial resources to support the case. Widows also lack awareness of their rights, communities' reinforcement of traditional norms disadvantaging women over laws claiming that they are protecting them, and the complexity of the estate administration process. This finding clearly aligns with the study results of Peterman (2010), who asserts that 48.9% of Ugandan widows receive no property from their husband's estate after his death. Widows and their children reportedly receive property only

36.4% of the time. In the majority of instances, widows and their children are denied their legally entitled share by other relatives who make claims upon the estate property. This is not because there is no property to inherit, but the reluctance of the justice and law officials as they are entitled to follow up land grabbing cases because it is illegal in Uganda. Therefore, the findings of Peterson, 2010 correlates with the findings of this study conducted in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district in Uganda.

Gender based violence has also caused physical injuries and emotional torture on women and girls in Katakwi sub-county especially cases of rape and defilement. It was reported that women face physical assaults on their bodies by men being subjected to the refusal of any harmful act especially infringing them with any sharp object in their sexual organs, the anal or genital opening or any other part of the body by force, threat of force, coercion, taking advantage of a coercive environment, or against a person incapable of giving genuine consent. Women have also faced forced or coerced sex trade in exchange for material resources, services and assistance, usually targeting highly vulnerable women or girls unable to meet basic human needs for themselves and/or their children. This is common due to increased poverty and lack of basic needs in the area. Women have also been subjected to physical injuries as forms of gender based violence for example, beating, punching, kicking, biting, burning, maiming or killing, with or without weapons, often used in combination with other forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

The practice of female genital mutilation has left women and girls with injuries that denies them rights to live a health life. FGM as a cultural practice in Katakwi sub-county involves cutting of genital organs for non-medical reasons and is often undergone several times during a woman's lifetime. This was reported as life risking factor to women and girls because it is practiced without their acceptance and those who try to escape this community practice normally receive curses or terrible punishments from the elders. The clan leaders were frank

to discuss FGM as a cultural system done on women and girls several times throughout her life time, it was claimed to be done in order to build the potential of womanhood in all terms although, it is always perceived as a gender based violence case because it is done out of force but with respect to the cultural beliefs. They believe that a woman who has not undergone female genital mutilation after birth, will not be able to marry and to the married women, it is believed that they cannot be able to produce. In this regard, one cultural leader was interviewed and had to say;

“A girl or woman who is not engaged in this cultural practice brings shame to the family, they can easily be neglected by a society because they are considered to be of less value in a society than males. They can be discriminated, goes under exclusion, denial of access to education, health assistance or remunerated employment or property rights, denial of access to services, social benefits or exercise and enjoyment of civil, social, economic, cultural and political rights, imposition of criminal penalties, discriminatory practices or physical and psychological harm and tolerance of discriminatory practices.”

IcheroiIkarebwok clan leader, interviews, 13th/08/2020

For this finding, one may argue that this cultural practice on girls and women is not fair at all because it is only forced on girls as a cultural belief that one can easily live without. Therefore, this type of gender based violence would not be a burden to women and girls since if solved by removing it from the cultural beliefs or be considered unnecessary to human beings or let it be done out of some one’s will.

4.4 Theme three: Existing strategies used to fight against Gender Based Violence in Katakwi sub-county.

According to the findings of the study, education and sensitizing the public about the dangers of gender based violence to women and girls, was found out as a key strategy helping women in the area to cope up with fighting for their rights and be treated as equal as men. Men for example, are taught laws that protects women and girls against violence and their rights as well. Education through media and community outreach, women are emphasized to report cases to the existing organisations in Katakwi sub-county to utilize their presence and make use of them. For example, SAGE and Administrations for Children and Families (ACF) programs whose aim is to promote awareness in women on how their rights must be protected, perpetrators of GBV are reprimanded in accordance with the existing laws. The findings also revealed that women were encouraged by these programs to report their GBV cases to the clan leaders instead of police that is always attempted to ask money for recording the case.

In comparison to this study findings, Adrienne (2014) points out that despite the presence of GBV programs in Katakwi district, GBV had remained a major problem. Important to note, there is Gender Based Violence Act which is clear about things that need to happen to protect victims of domestic violence, although there are still problems with its implementation. Women needed to be educated and sensitized about how their rights should be highly respected and promoted and with that sensitization programs in Katakwi sub-county, it holds a great meaning for having reduced cases of GBV by raising awareness in women and girls in the area. In a similar way, Sanjel (2013) found out in his study that the Government of Nepal has made significant improvements in the formulations of laws, policies and plan of actions after the end of historical Rana rule incorporating the gender-based violence issue in the first Civil Code 1964 and subsequent formulation and endorsement of laws, acts, action plans,

policies and strategies as it was the same story in Katakwi sub-county. In regards to this for example, during the focus group discussions that were held in Katakwi sub-county, one female respondent was quoted saying that;

“Counselling and guidance programs have provided me and my husband reconciliation mechanisms in case of any misunderstanding, ensures that perpetrators are arrested, protection units to handle cases although some of the cases have always been rejected. We have got support although the program runners are also not active but we have noticed some changes in as far as men mistreating women is concerned.”

A 7-member FGD, 13th/08/2020

Therefore, it was noticed that mentioning education as a key strategy to fight against gender based violence in Katakwi sub-county, is not a wastage of time following the achievements and happy responses that were obtained in this study.

Furthermore, the study revealed that Ugandan law provides for relatively equal property and inheritance rights for men and women. However, many of the women have been denied the chance according to the results from the interviews and focus group discussions. However, responding to this still, Human Rights Watch Uganda has struggled to claim those rights for reasons unique to their status as women and girls. In Uganda’s recent history, men traditionally owned all family property, and in case women are widowed, they are often “inherited” as wives by male relatives of their deceased spouse. In Uganda today, wife inheritance is no longer the norm and property can be held by both men and women.

However, few women formally own the property held in their marriage. As a result, their ability to keep the property they shared with their husband upon the death of their husband

becomes dependent both on proving their marriage, which can pose great challenges, and on warding off in-laws intent on property grabbing. Worthy important to note in this study, there are three types of marriage in Uganda; the civil marriage which is registered and recognized by the state, the customary law marriage where by a man may have more than one wife but is registered and recognized, and the most common, the unregistered customary union. These unregistered customary marriages are not registered officially with any government agency or local officials. Without any official record of the marriage, a widow who wants to make a claim to property that was held in the marriage but is formally owned by the late husband or members of his family has to demonstrate that she was indeed married to him. Doing so is tricky because the courts can require confirmation from the widow's in-laws, who are the very people who stand to benefit if the marriage is not confirmed.

Not surprisingly, many of the women who are widows the researcher interviewed, said that their in-laws were unwilling to provide such confirmation. In addition, two thirds of the women who were engaged in the focus group discussions, said they experienced the profound injustice of their in-laws taking over their homes or property, and feeling helpless to stop it. Others simply did not know that they had property and inheritance rights to begin with and were unable to withstand the intimidation tactics used by their in-laws such as daily shaming, harassment, and physical assaults. Others said that they are always jeopardized in the relationships with in-laws with whom they had shared their lives for many years, and whom they had hoped would support them and their children in familial and cultural ways, while others said that they travel long distances to reach government agencies and courts to report their cases. This has also caused fear on them with a perception that their cases would not even be followed up on hence, end up suffering in silence while their rights are being deprived as women.

When the Probation Officer Katakwi district was interviewed, he was proud to say that in Uganda and in the world at large, there has been a step ahead holding efforts to fight against gender based violence to save the lives of women because several reports had showed that this vice is growing at a high rate. He presented that;

“A new Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights that was adopted by the African Union in January 2016, has created new legally binding standards for the rights of all women and girls. Article 4 of the Protocol of people’s rights requires that every human being shall be entitled to respect for his or her life and the integrity. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right.” The protocol calls for states parties to put in place legislation and other measures that guarantee protection of women against abuses related to property and land rights; and adopt appropriate legislation to protect the right of inheritance of women. It also states that all necessary measures should be taken to eliminate harmful traditional practices affecting women and girls. Through this protocol, the African Union recognizes the importance of women and girl’s enjoyment of human rights on an equal basis with others.”

Interviews, Katakwi district, 13th/08/2020

For this, the government of Uganda has been entitled to spread the protocol down to the local residents through their leaders, which has promoted awareness with an aim to protect people’ rights especially women although they still fall as victims of violence due to limited awareness about their rights and reluctance of leaders as well to follow up cases when raised and this has increased the persistence of cases.

An interview that was conducted in Asupet village with the LCI chairperson, revealed that leaders fight a lot to promote equality among women and men, however, cases of gender

based violence still arises. In her response to the strategies against GBV in Katakwi sub-county, she was quoted saying;

“Gender based violence cases are happening at an individual level and most of the victims choose to keep quiet and hide in traditions, sometimes as a result of being unaware of their rights. She also adds that, the battle has been left to women alone and therefore urges men to join the fight. Men should be involved, men who believe in feminism and appreciate gender equality, men who are able to defend and protect the rights of women at all levels should come forward and join the effort”

By Adebo Suzan, interviews, 12th/ 08/2020

This finding also is in agreement with what was revealed in the interviews conducted with one police officer Ocorimongin Police Post Katakwi sub-county, who was quoted saying;

“The statistics, from the whole sub-county, indicates 614 GBV cases that were recorded in 2018. Similarly, for the first three months of 2018 there was also an 8% increase from the previous year to 540. Ocorimongin Police Chief Inspector Echune David says the increase is despite efforts by many stakeholders to end all forms of GBV. Inspector David acknowledged efforts by organizations such as the Justice for widows and orphans who are targeting specific forms of GBV. He has called for enhanced support structures at all levels from individual, household, community, institution and country level.”

The findings further shows that Uganda has taken some important steps to solve GBV in the area following the creation of legal frameworks as a country aiming at protecting the rights of women in general, although further reforms are needed. For example, the Probation officer and the police officer hinted on how the constitution of Uganda prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender and states that all persons are equal before the law.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, conclusions drawn from the findings and the recommendations and areas for further course of action and research interventions. This chapter presents the findings about the objectives of the study, briefly that is; causes of gender-based violence, the role played by gender-based violence in violation of rights of women and girls and existing strategies to fight against Gender Based Violence in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district.

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 Theme one: Causes of gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district

During the collection of data for this study, the researcher considered women and girls, gender based violence district and sub-county stakeholders (probation officer, gender office, police officers, health desk), community leaders (LCIII and LCI chairpersons, religious leaders and cultural leaders, who were engaged in focus group discussions and interviews respectively. The researcher identified that the causes of gender based violence ranged from the social, and economic perspectives. Different forms of gender based violence were also identified in this study which also ranged from physical, emotional and sexual spheres, they included; sexual harassment, rape, defilement, property grabbing, child marriage, female genital mutilation, name it. All the gender based violence cases that were revealed in this study, have undermined the rights of women and girls and are objectively done by the husbands, fellow community men and/or boys and the cultures.

The study revealed that poverty in general has resulted into lack of basic needs or services to women and girls and in order to step out of the tough and demanding situations, they resort to sexual relating activities such as prostitution, forced sex and forced marriage to the young girls ordered by their parents in search for money. Poverty has also denied girl's rights to education due to lack of school fees and other facilities hence they are forced to marry as the following option since girls are still regarded as income sources by the community perceptions. Unemployment has driven men and boys into mal practices like alcoholism, gambling to pass time and in turn, are caught as the victims of rapists and defilers, husbands also apply violent behaviors towards wives when they return home, force them into sexual activities on top of heavy domestic work and husbands were not supporting women at all because of the belief that women are meant to attend to the domestic work denying them rights to public participation. Additionally, unemployment has also forced husbands in Katakwi sub-county to sell off the property without consulting the wives, hence denying them a right to decision making and in a long run they cannot be allowed to own any property for family benefits.

The researcher further revealed that cultural beliefs have left women and girls suffering gender based violence issues in Katakwi sub-county. Cultural beliefs such as putting women under men with irrelevant considerations, claiming that women are not supposed to talk in public and denied a chance to decision making, women are not allowed to eat chicken believing that they will grow beards hence denying them right to health food, the society also enforces more power on men/boys than women/girls in every life aspect. Cultural beliefs also causes sexual harassment because of too much dominance in men over women, to force women into sex because it is believed that man is regarded as everything at home. Furthermore, corruption and bribery has increased the persistence of gender based violence in the area of the study especially is practiced by the local leaders in demand for money through

bribes. Corruption causes gender based violence because men are highly favored in Katakwi sub-county in terms of public participation and property inheritance this is also called discrimination and division among families. Alcoholism was traced as an alarming cause of GBV and majority of women complained about this criminal act as it has forced men to practice rape and defilement to young girls, they also apply physical violence to women when they are drunk for example terrible beatings at times fight them using objects.

5.1.2 Theme two: The role played by gender based violence to the violation of rights of men and girls in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district

Gender based violence is indeed a ‘violent act’ which has also caused ‘violent effects’ to women and girls in Katakwi sub-county. According to the findings of the study, GBV cases including sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, forced marriage in young girls mention a few, left women in the state which defines violation of their rights. Female Genital Mutilation as a GBV form, has resulted into health challenges in women and girls hence the right to good health is violated, sexual violence like forced sex also leave women and girls with infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS and due to high levels of poverty, women have died of these infectious diseases due to inability to support themselves curing the diseases. Physical violence in form of beating, kicking and use of sharp objects, hair pulling and many others cause injuries on women. There is denial of property in women and girls because they are not regarded as part of family members, it is claimed that any time a man can send a way the wife and engage with another wife. Defilement, rape (forced sex) have all violated the rights of girls to education especially when they get pregnancies they are forced out of school hence their future end up being affected by the harmful acts committed on them. In Katakwi sub-county, young girls have been denied basic requirements for education and forced into marriage because parents are in search for money in form of dowry.

This unpleasant GBV act is common in the area of the study due to increased rate of poverty and unemployment associated with low incomes and productivity, reluctance and over dependence on others. Women and girls in Katakwi sub-county wins no respect in the society and their right to make decisions has been violated in social and political affairs. With social aspects, they are always forced by the cultural beliefs to practice Female Genital Mutilation which they are un comfortable with, while in political views, women are always denied a chance to participate in decision making they are not allowed to hold any societal leadership position because of men's dominance over them as the culture entails that a woman must work under the position of a man and are not recognized as powerful individuals in a society which is a false perception held in local area of Katakwi sub-county.

The rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county have been violated, for they undergo forceful acts, without their acceptance. This study further revealed that the violation of rights of women and girls in area of the study is also done due to poor leadership associated with discriminative leaders who are still hungry for money therefore, there is persistence of GBV due to reluctance of these leaders to respond to the cases which would need serious attention. Unfortunately, these leaders still practice corruption, as they only consider who pays for the case. This was a big challenge to women in this area, although they would not afford the follow up of the cases due to limited financial support and fear. For example, a woman fears to report the case for formal reconciliation because she has fear that the husband can murder her for reporting him.

5.1.3 Theme three: Existing strategies used to fight against Gender Based Violence in Katakwi sub-county

The study results indicates that empowering women and girls has been a focus to learn not to be exposed to gender- based violence as victims but rather be seen as survivors and agents of change. This has been a strong urge by ACF, UNICEF and SAGE programs in Uganda

aiming at strengthening prevention strategies against gender based violence. In Katakwi sub-county, these programs reach out to women, form village groups and create awareness about how to fight for their rights. It was discovered that some women and girls in local areas undergo cases of GBV because they have lacked knowledge and awareness that their rights need to be protected and equality must be the order of the day. Therefore, having experienced increased cases of GBV in the area, the government has largely allowed the intervention of both national and international programs to stand for women and girl's rights protection although their service implementation is still low to curb down the persistence of GBV.

The findings further revealed that addressing the needs of GBV survivors including interventions to disrupt the gender-based violence cycle is common in Katakwi sub-county through shelter provision and case handling. However, it is also common to see women and girls of all ages in safe houses. But, it is rare to see anyone working with these women, who have experienced a traumatic event. There was still lack of trained professionals to work with women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence, especially when the perpetrators are husbands or other family members. Additionally, some programs have effectively structured participatory activities that guide the examination of gender norms and their relationship to power inequities, violence and other harmful behaviors. They work with multiple stakeholders across the socio-ecological spectrum and across multiple sectors. Although, there is a need for clan heads to do a better job of evaluating these programs to align with their intentions for societal change towards fair treatment of women and girls on cultural perspectives. More so, local leaders are highly influencing the national bodies in exerting pressure to ensure the implementation of GBV prevention mechanisms, for example, funding more money needs to flow toward supporting women's rights protection.

5.2 Conclusion

Gender based violence is a turn oil practice in the lives of women and girls on a global, regional, national and local settings. The study concentrated on the causes of gender based violence to women and girls, the role played by GBV to the violation of rights of women and girls and the existing strategies towards the fight against GBV cases in Katakwi sub-county, Katakwi district. As the study revealed, gender based violence is a common unpleasant song in families especially committed by men on women, (husbands on wives) or fellow men and boys on girls, parents on their own daughters forcing them into marriage affairs at a young age in hunt for money. All the revealed causes of gender based violence in Katakwi sub-county appeared to be contributed by the families, environment and society as well.

Katakwi sub-county is ranked among the local poor areas with low levels of income and productivity, poverty has largely contributed to the occurrence of the vice (GBV) in different ways; men are forced to sell off the family property without consulting women and this in turn results into conflicts that drives violence, girls lack support for education services and the next option is forced marriage, rape and defilement cases due to engagement in peer idle groups, poverty also makes men violent because they feel guilt depending on women. Societal norms and cultures enforces female genital mutilation on women and girls, which develops questions along such as “why not boys or men being forced into circumcision?” and one may conclude that the cultural practices are only in favor of men against women which also needs serious revision in the study area.

Gender based violence has played a big role in the violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county. Women and girls have been exposed into unnecessary experience that has actually contributed to the deprivation of their rights as would be deserved. Families and the society at large, contributes to the women’s rights violation because the factors revealed

in this study explains how women and girls suffer the fate of violence due to the influence of family and societal orders. For example, a poor family with limited financial support and basic needs such as education becomes a driving agent of the girl's failure to access education services and later be forced into marriage, because the family seeks for dowry payments for survival. Whereas the society of the study area was still respecting cultural beliefs embedded with unpleasant practices to women and girls for example, men's dominance over women with a claim that women must abide by all rules applied by men, women are not allowed to express their ideas in public hence denying them right to participate in decision making, women are not supposed to own property for they are not regarded as family members. However, the study revealed that women also lack awareness about how to fight for their rights and they are not even informed that they deserve equal rights as men.

Preventing GBV, to stop it from happening in the first place, is a key priority. Given that GBV is based on gender norms and gender-based power inequalities in both families and societies, GBV prevention strategies are intrinsically linked to efforts to increase gender equality more generally. Much progress has been made in addressing gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county. Women were to some extent better at defining their issues, although despite the advances made by different organizational programs in promoting awareness and women empowerment, gender-based violence remains a local problem in Katakwi sub-county with same root causes; family and societal influence. Unless and until these fundamental inequality influences are addressed, while recognizing that women's rights are human rights, gender-based violence will not end.

5.3 Recommendations of the study

Local leaders for example, police was still reluctant in following cases of gender-based violence in Katakwi sub-county, it was therefore recommended that the police and the Local Councils should put facilities in place to help women and girls experiencing gender based violence in the area. Such facilities should include; counseling centers, funds that will help victims get rehabilitated, and government should invest in institutions like police so that victims are assisted. The community should also establish community social structures such as community groups of both men and women provide a sensitization platform for people to share experiences related GBV and remedies so as to solicit support from fellow community members.

Institutions which receive complaints and reports of GBV (community leaders and the law enforcement officers) must be properly, extensively and repeatedly trained covering wide range of issues on GBV by the Gender Department in partnership with the existing working programs in the area.

Women and girls still lack knowledge about fighting for their rights as individuals, therefore the study recommends that counseling services should be strengthened to victims and their family members. Counseling services should be carried out at individual, family, and community level. Family and community counseling will improve acceptability and integration of victims within their respective families and societies.

Girls are the most vulnerable groups of GBV, owing to their development needs as well as their health, educational, and socio-economic needs. Therefore, they should be specifically targeted for assistance. Assistance should be channeled to their families towards their health, social needs and welfare. For example, they should be assisted to attend school and scholastic

materials for formal education; while those out of school be given vocational training to help them not to fall victims of forced marriage and forced sex for property gain.

There was no proper management of violent committed acts, the study recommends formation of a committee that is concerned with issues of gender based violence in each village and parishes. This will make the process and procedures more understandable and help to ensure that all are trained and receive training updates. It also increases perceived credibility and makes reporting and follows up easier. Strategies for continued awareness campaigns should also be developed, become integrated into the health, educational and community service programs in the affected villages and sub- counties. The sub-counties and the district councils should therefore develop appropriate policies to mainstream GBV related activities into the district plan of activities.

The study also recommends that girls should be facilitated and motivated by Non-governmental Organisations and the gender department for example, through sensitization campaigns on the importance of the girl child and her education, on gender issues. This will help the girl child realize her importance and thus stay longer in school and discourage early marriages and early motherhood. Strengthening awareness creation/sensitization activities in the sub-county was not serious. It should be highly encouraged right from the sub-county officials down to the parish and village leaders.

5.4 Areas for further study

- The study applied both qualitative and quantitative approaches but was largely qualitative, there is a need for a quantitative study to calculate and measure the percentages at which gender-based violence has gone in Katakwi sub-county.

- The study revealed that people in Katakwi sub-county depends much on cultural beliefs which contributes to GBV cases, there is a need to study about the contribution of cultural beliefs towards social development in Katakwi sub-county.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: An Interview Guide

An Interview Guide for District and Sub-county gender based violence Stakeholders (Probation Officer, Gender Officer, Police Officers, Health Officer gender desk, Court, District Woman Councilor, District women forum, District Youth Representative and Community Leaders such as Chairman LCIII, Community Development Officer, Religious Leaders, cultural leaders, LC1s malechampions, SASA! Activists and Representative Sub-county women forum) and others.

Introduction

I am **SARAH Agiro**, a Student of Uganda Martyrs University pursuing a Master of Arts in Local Governance and Human Rights. Thank you for showing interest in participating in this study about the “**The Effects of Gender Based Violence on the Rights of Women and Girls: A Case of Katakwi Sub-County**”. You have been specially selected for an interview in order to meet that purpose and your contribution is highly well-come. And whatever information you will provide, will be treated with a lot of confidentiality and shall only be used for academic purposes.

Your participation in this study is highly honored.

SECTION A: BIO DATA

1. Please, could you tell how you perceive yourself in terms of gender?
 - i. Male
 - ii. Female
2. May you please help in identifying your age bracket from the following?
 - i. 25-34 years
 - ii. 35-44years
 - iii. 45-54 years
 - iv. 55-44 years
 - v. 65 and above years

3. Please could you identify your level of education in the following?

- i. Primary
- ii. Secondary
- iii. Graduate
- iv. None

SECTION B: What could be the causes of Gender Based Violence in Women and Girls in Katakwi Sub-County?

1. Do you understand the term Gender Based Violence?

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2. If yes, please explain Gender Based Violence in your own understanding?

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3. Have you had victims of Gender Based Violence in this sub-county? Yes/No

4. If yes, could you please mention the forms Gender Based Violence issues common in women and girls?

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5. Have you identified the reasons to why such Gender Based Violence issues arise in women and girls in Katakwi sub-county? Yes/No

6. If yes, kindly explain the reasons why such issues arise in women and girls and why?

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SECTION C: What could be the role played by Gender Based Violence in violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi Sub-County?

1. Is Gender Based Violence responsible for the violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi sub-county? Yes/No

2. If yes, could you please explain how responsible is Gender Based Violence in violating the rights of women and girls?

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3. Have you received issues from women or girls concerning violation of their rights due to Gender Based Violence? Yes/No

4. If yes, kindly explain how rights of women and girls have been affected by Gender Based Violence?

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SECTION D: What could be the existing strategies used to fight against Gender Based Violence in Katakwi Sub-County?

1. Could there be strategies put forward to address the problem of Gender Based Violence?

Yes/ No

2. If yes, please explain them and how they work?

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3. Apart from gender-based violence, is there other factors that have led to the violation of rights of women and girls in this sub-county?

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4. If yes, could you please mention them, and how have you managed to fight them with the effort to promote the rights of women and girls?

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APPENDIX II: Focus Group Discussion Guide for Women and girls.

I am **SARAH Agiro**, a Student of Uganda Martyrs University perusing a Master of Arts in Local Governance and Human Rights. Thank you for showing interest in participating in this study about the “**The Effects of Gender Based Violence on the Rights of Women and Girls: A Case of Katakwi Sub-County**”. You have been specially selected for this discussion group in order to meet that purpose and your contribution is highly well-come. And whatever information you will provide, will be treated with a lot of confidentiality and shall only be used for academic purposes.

Your participation in this study is highly honored.

SECTION A: What could be the causes of Gender Based Violence in Women and Girls in Katakwi Sub-County?

1. Have you ever experienced any Gender Based Violence as a woman? Yes / No
2. If yes, how did/does it happen and what was/is the reason for that?

SECTION B: What could be the role played by Gender Based Violence in violation of rights of women and girls in Katakwi Sub-County?

1. According to your opinion, is Gender Based Violence undermining your rights as a woman? Yes /No
2. If yes, please discuss how Gender Based Violence has undermined your rights as a woman?

SECTION C: What could be the existing strategies used to fight against Gender Based Violence in Katakwi Sub-County.

1. Have you ever experienced any Gender Based Violence as a woman? Yes/No

2. Is there anything that has been put in place as an effort to address the problem of Gender Based Violence? Yes / No

3. If yes, kindly discuss what and how it is working to address the problem of Gender Based Violence?

4. Apart from the efforts made by the leaders in your area to fight against Gender Based Violence, do you know other strategies that have been put in place by the government to curb down the problem? Yes /No

If yes, please discuss the strategies?

Thank you