

**CAUSES AND THE EFFECTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN CENTRAL  
UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF KAZO  
COUNTY KIRUHURA  
DISTRICT**

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**DECLARATION**

I, declare that the material in this book has been done entirely by my effort and has not been presented else where for any academic qualification.

Signed

.....

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DATE.....

**APPROVAL**

This research report is submitted for examination with my approval as a University Supervisor.

Signed

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**SUPERVISOR**

DATE: .....

## **DEDICATION**

This work is affectionately dedicated to my family especially my wife Lydia, my brothers Gordon and Perezi and my parents Mr. and Mrs. Tumwine for their support patience and understanding during this period of study.

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study to investigate the causes and effects of Gender based violence in Kazo County of Kiruhura District.

The specific objectives of the study were to determine the causes of gender based violence on women in Kazo County, to examine the effects of gender based violence on women in Kazo County and to make policy recommendations for reducing the problem of gender based violence.

The methods used for data collection were questionnaires and interview guides to the respondents who participated in this study.

In chapter four, the findings were presented and interpreted in relation to the study objectives and research questions. While linking to the existing literature, results included demographic characteristics, frequency and percentages. Based on the findings it was observed that the gender based violence affects people negatively and that some thing must be done to stop the practice.

In chapter five, development of solutions to the problem, summary of the findings and conclusions were attempted. The findings suggested recommendations on areas pertaining to the problem of gender based violence.



## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the study

The terms 'gender based-violence', violence against women and 'sexual violence' are often used interchangeably. Violence against women is a type of gender-based violence and includes sexual violence among other forms of exploitation and abuse. (Bunch C, 1997)

Gender-based violence is violence that is directed at individuals on the basis of their gender, and boys and men also be the target (although women and girls tend to be the majority of victims). Although it is acknowledged as a fundamental violence is endemic throughout the Commonwealth and other parts of the world. This is true despite legislative, administrative, judicial, educational and other efforts to address it by governments, regional and inter-governmental agencies, and non-governmental and civil society organizations. (UNAIDS, 2001)

Gender-based Violence is indiscriminate. It cuts across, ethnic, class, economic, religious and cultural divides. It affects women and men, girls and boys of all ages in different ways. However, females are more often the victims than males, with girl-children and women with disabilities facing the most challenges. Many forms of sexual, physical, emotional and psychological violence are hidden, perpetuated in the privacy of the home unseen by the community. Other harmful traditional practices and forms of socio-economic violence are structural and public. (Eliansson, M, 2004)

In all regions, the extent of gender-based violence is difficult to determine. Lack of a clear, the inadequacy of surveys and data collection, and the hidden nature of many of its forms it difficult to document or make public. Socialization processes, shame and self-blame work together to reinforce these difficulties. The Iceberg of Sexual Coercion, a conceptual model developed in South Africa, suggests that forms of violence that become visible and or are reported to the police, such as fatal sexual assault and reported rape, are only the tip of the Iceberg. In Uganda and Kazo County of Kiruhura District in particular a much greater

proportion of gender based violence is never recorded-including forced sex in marriage; battering, deprivation, and verbal abuse, threats or trickery; and the sexual exploitation of children (Jewkes, 2000)

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Gender based violence is a major problem in Kazo County since it contributes to the spread of diseases among other problems. What makes it more complex is that in Uganda it is not recognized and this has made it difficult to be fought. There is therefore need to investigate the causes of gender based violence in regards to its effects on the people of Kazo County.

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

To investigate the causes and effects of Gender based violence in Kazo County of Kiruhura District

### **1.3.2 Specific objectives will be to;**

- i) Determine the causes of gender based violence on women in Kazo County Kiruhura District
- ii) Determine the effects of gender based violence on women in Kazo County Kiruhura District
- iii) Show how the problem of gender based violence can be solved or reduced in society in Kazo county, Kiruhura District

## **1.4 Research questions**

- i)What are the causes of gender based violence on women in Kazo County Kiruhura District?
- ii)What are the effects of gender based violence on women in Kazo County Kiruhura District?
- iii)How can the problem of gender based violence on women in Kazo County, Kiruhura District?

### **1.5 Scope of the study**

The study will be carried out in Kazo County found in Kiruhura District. The study was limited to community leaders especially in local NGOs and community members who have experienced Gender based violence or those that have at least witnessed it. The study will comprise of at least 50 members of the community.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

This study will be of great importance both at the macro and micro level;

- i) At the macro level, informed decisions in policy formulations and in the building of the institutions aimed at stopping the practice regulatory framework might be made basing on the findings from research.
- ii) At the macro level, a number of NGOs responsible for the fight against gender based violence may adopt the recommendations put forth, and use the findings to address issues in the report.
- iii) The research will help researchers and academicians to increase on the available literature for further studies

## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature as an account of the knowledge and ideas that have been established by accredited scholars and experts in the field of study. It is guided by the objective of the study outlined in chapter one

#### 1. 1 Causes of Gender-based Violence

Some of the commonly cited causes of gender-based violence include patriarchy and machismo; traditional, cultural and religious beliefs and practices; and a colonial legal legacy that conferred the title of the head of household on men. However, while gender-based violence may be exacerbated by particular social structures, value systems and traditions, it is rooted fundamentally in unequal power relations. Women's lack of social and economic power, accepted gender roles and the low value put on women's work perpetuate and reinforce their subordinate position. A review of the literature that looks at causality indicates that one of the surest predictors of a high level of domestic violence is the economic and decision-making authority of men within the family (Heise, 1998). Early marriage, inheritance of widows and male control of property encourage female dependency, particularly in regions with high underemployment and unemployment of women and limited access to social welfare services.

This can be compounded by political instability and conflict, low monetary exchange and economic hardship. Women are the sole economic providers in a third of households in the developing world, and these households are disproportionately poor. In many countries women's lack of access to education, employment, credit or land means that they have to develop their other strategies to ensure their own survival and that of their children. Sex (usually unsafe) may be the only thing that they have to barter. This is especially so in regions where HIV/AIDS or armed conflict have devastated economies and impoverished families. Women in sex work face many risks, including physical violence and rape, especially where this work is against the law.

The AIDS epidemic has also created a demand for younger and younger female sex partners, because men believe they are less likely to be infected. Some HIV positive men also actively seek out young girls due to the erroneous belief that sex with a virgin can cure them of infection. This has led to an increasing incidence of rape and sexual abuse, and sex procured from schoolgirls in Africa and the Caribbean being pursued for sex by so-called 'Sugar daddies' who help education fees or other family expenses.

## **2.2 Factors contributing to violence against women**

Violence against women is not simply perpetrated by individual men operating within in a vacuum: violence has structural, as well as personal, roots. On a personal level, violence against women stems from the pressures, fears and stifled emotions that lie beneath many of the dominant forms of manhood. Personal experience adds to these factors: individuals experience and learn about violence through the family, the media, the community and/or other institutions. For example, there is a strong correlation between violent men and men who have witnessed violence against their mother as a child or who have experienced abuse them selves. There is also a strong correlation between men's violence and age. Various surveys of different regions of the world have revealed that most violence against women in relationships is committed by men under. (World Bank 1993)

By contrast, men over 60 are much less likely to be violent towards women. However, gender norms are structural: they are defined and maintained across all levels of society. The factors that shape and sustain dominant gender norms – and, therefore, the imbalances between women and men – are the same issues that foster contexts where violence against women is allowed to take place.

These factors can be mapped across the environment in which violence against women occurs, i.e. the context in which men and women use and experience violence. To understand the inter-relationships between the different factors, it is helpful to start by analysing how the surrounding social environment contributes to, and reinforces, men and women's behavior and attitudes.

It is clear that violence against women is rooted in prevailing hierarchical gender norms. However, it is equally apparent that these norms are unavoidable. Gender is shaped by personal behaviours and interpersonal relationships, as well as institutional and societal structures; no matter where you come from, gender is a fundamental part of your life. (World Health Organization 1997)

However, violence against women is all around us too; the sheer pervasiveness of dominant gender norms should not foster a sense of complacency about addressing their negative consequences. Interventions by governments and by nongovernmental actors are possible and they can be encouraged and supported by development cooperation.

## **2.1 Consequences of Gender-based Violence**

Gender-based violence adversely affects victims, family members, perpetrators, communities and states on profound emotional, physical, psychological and economic levels. It accounts for more death and ill health among women ages 15 to 44 worldwide than cancer, obstructed labour, heart diseases, respiratory infections, traffic accidents and even war (World Bank 1993)

Some of the consequences of gender-based violence are feelings of hopelessness and isolation, guilt and depression, or suicide. The more severe or longer term the abuse and violence the greater the impact on women's autonomy, sense of worth and ability to care for themselves and their children. In concrete terms, it may lead to bruises, cuts, broken bones or limbs, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (including HIV/AIDS), permanent disabilities or death. Rape and domestic violence are major causes of disability and death among women of reproductive age in both developed and developing countries. In developing countries, it is estimated that gender-based violence accounts for 5 per cent of the healthy years of life lost to women of reproductive age (World Bank, 1993)

In addition, victims may also suffer from a loss of human potential and wages, resulting in personal economic hardship and depressed overall development. Violence- and the threat of violence- reduces women's and girl's opportunities for work, their mobility and their participation in education and training, community activities and wider social networks. If

women are prevented by violence from developing their full potential, this has serious implications for the development of the country as a whole.

Children are abused “are wounded in their self-esteem; they feel dirt, ashamed, they lose faith in others” (Piot, 1999). Childhood sexual abuse has also been shown to be a predictor of a number of negative behaviours, including drug and alcohol abuse, early sexual initiation, multiple sexual partners, unprotected sex and prostitution. Girls’ education is often affected as well as they may become pregnant and be expelled from school

### **1.6.1 Health Consequences of Violence against women**

#### **Physical health outcomes**

Injury (from lacerations to fractures to internal organ injury), unwanted pregnancy, gynaecological problems, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS, miscarriage, pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pelvic pain, headache, permanent disabilities, asthma, irritable bowel syndrome, self-injurious behaviour (smoking, unprotected sex), suicide, homicide, maternal mortality (World Health Organization, 1997).

#### **Mental health outcomes**

Depression, fear, anxiety, low self-esteem dysfunction, eating problems, obsessive-compulsive disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder (World Health Organization 1997)

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter explains the methods that the researcher used to select the geographical areas, from which research was carried out and methods of selection of respondents. It also explains the methods that will be used to collect process and analyze data.

#### 3.1 Research design

iv) The study used a case study as a research design. Given the duration of the study, the researcher feels that there was a deeper penetration of the problem if a case study will be used. This is because a case study examined one area which is Kazo County, Kiruhura District.

#### 3.2 Study population

The study was carried out in Kazo County, Kiruhura. This is because Kazo County is densely populated and so the area is very vulnerable to domestic violence. This gave the study a broad coverage and will make it representative enough.

#### 3.3 Sample Framework

##### 3.3.1 Sample size

A total of fifty respondents were used for this study as illustrated by the table 1 in page

12; **Table:** Categories of Sample

Categories of Respondents	Sample
NGO officials (I)	4
Women leaders (I)	6
Community members (Q)	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>



### **3.3.2 Sample technique**

Using a convenient sampling technique, a total of fifty respondents were selected for this study. Convenient sampling technique was used because it is cheap and does not take a lot of time trying to figure out who should be selected for the study.

### **3.3.3 Sample procedure**

Qualitative technique was used to get views from the people and also to gather information on Gender based violence in Kazo County Kiruhura District.

Quantitative sampling was used to come up with the number of respondents who participated in the study.

## **3.4 Methods for data collection**

### **3.4.1 Instruments**

#### **i) Questionnaires**

These were used to collect information from some NGO staff since these respondents are literate and are able to understand the language being used.

#### **i) Interviews**

Interviews were held with community members since they can not be administered with a questionnaire on the topic for the study.

### **3.4.2 Sources of data**

This study used both primary and secondary data.

- i) Primary data was collected using interview guides, which were given to NGO officials and women leaders. These were self administered since these respondents are all literate. For community members, focus group discussions were held using also an interview guide.

- ii) Secondary data was through Document analysis in the form of Reports, training manual, news papers, and journals for the period under study were read and the required data collected from them.

### **3.5 Data processing**

Qualitative data involved three sets of activities which include editing, coding and frequency tabulations. Editing was done by looking through each of the field responses from interview guides and focus group discussions ascertaining that every applicable question has an answer and all errors eliminated for the completeness, accuracy and uniformity.

### **3.6 Data analysis**

Using quantitative technique the researcher went ahead to code the respondents who will participate in the study. Qualitative technique was used to gather information on the views of the people interviewed in the field.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter contains the presentation and discussion of research findings/results and data analysis. It presents data that was collected using questionnaires and interviews. In the same chapter, data is interpreted, discussed and analyzed along the themes namely; forms of domestic violence, key perpetrators of domestic violence, factors for the increased prevalence of domestic violence.

#### 4.1 Socio-Economic background

##### 4.1.1 Age of respondents

**Table 4.1: Age of respondents**

Age	Respondents	Frequency
25-30	5	10%
30-39	40	80%
40- and above	5	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** primary data

The majority of respondents were in the age bracket of 30-39 (80%).

##### 4.1.2 Sex of respondents

**Table 4.1.2: Sex of respondents**

Sex	Respondents	Frequency
Male	10	16.7%
Female	30	83.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** primary data

The majority of respondents were female. This was because women are the ones who suffer from gender based violence especially.

### 4.1.3 Occupation of respondents

Occupation	Respondents	Frequency
House wife	40	80%
Farmer	5	10%
Business person	5	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: primary data

The majority of respondents were housewives. This was because this is the group that suffers domestic violence mostly.

## 4.2 Causes of Domestic Violence

The study revealed various causes of domestic violence which are social, economic and cultural and others as discussed below.

### 4.2.1 Human Socialization

The researcher found truth as stated in the literature review that human socialization of the sex roles of men and women encourages the use of physical violence. Boys grow up seeing their father's batter their mothers and girls grow up also seeing their mothers battered. This has enhanced the acceptance and the belief of physical violence as a normal norm in the marriage. Also in this study it shows that women who are violated also become violators of children, and those children who grow up in situation of violence group to accept domestic violence as a norm.

Young girls are conditioned from childhood to regard themselves as less important to their male brothers through the roles and status each of them is allocated within their family and society. This creates a power imbalance between boys and girls, where the girls are assigned low status and the boy's higher status. When school fees are inadequate for example, they are conditioned to regard themselves and their education as less valuable and only fully respectable only when married and looked after by man.

Girls are socialized to view men as their legitimate providers who must depend on for economic and social sustenance at whatever level they are in whether educated and self sustaining or not. This is a fact that has left women more vulnerable to HIV infections from men who because of their economic power take advantage to have them into sex for small finance related favors.

#### **4.2.2 Alcohol Consumption**

This is the major cause of domestic violence in the families of Kazo County in Kiruhura. 100% of the respondents interviewed accepted that drinking of local brew as the major cause of domestic violence. Alcohol consumption results in most cases to physical violence against female partners. Most men being physically stronger than women sometimes use this might to batter their women. Drunkenness, drug addiction, frustration and anger, has been blamed for the increased cases of domestic violence. Records from LC 1 and Kiruhura Police Station indicates that the majority of men who drink alcohol and local waragi beat their wives when they are drunk and when asked they always say, "I was drunk." The danger to this behavior is that it has led to so many divorces and hence resulted in the bad upbringing of children.

#### **4.2.3 Polygamy**

This is the marrying of more than one wife which is seen as a prestige and a sense of respect among the Ugandan tribes. According to this study, polygamous homes recorded higher cases of domestic violence compared to the monogamous homes. In almost all the respondents interviewed in this study had this to say,

*"... Before my husband married another wife, we were staying peacefully as a wife and husband, but when he married another wife, I was not seen as a wife at all but rather as property."*

This implies that polygamy leads to human right violation of the woman in case she does not accept the idea of her husband getting another wife.

#### **4.2.4 Sex Outside Marriage**

Information got from interviewing NGO leaders in the area indicate that when a woman perceives that her husband is having multiple partners and therefore likely to infect her, she may be reluctant to engage in sexual relations with him. Her resistance in turn may be met with physical violence and coercion or threats of financial neglect or total abandonment by their partners. As a result of this women end up having sexual intercourse with unfaithful partners well aware of the risks.

#### **4.2.5 Barrenness/Impotence**

The sole purpose of marriage institution is to have children. According to the respondents interviewed, culturally, children are seen as a way of paying back a man's cows he paid as bride price. The failure of a woman to produce children makes the beginning of violence of different kinds. The failure of one partner to perform conjugal rights to satisfy the sexual acts in marriage relation such as man being impotent may result in violence within the marriage.

One of the respondents had this to say, "*The more cows paid the more children are expected from the women,*" according to some of Ugandan culture.

### **4.3 Effects of Domestic Violence on Women**

The study revealed the following effects of domestic violence ranging from the effect on socio-economic development, effects on maternal health, effects on family planning and effects on STDs and AIDS prevention as discussed below.

#### **4.3.1 Effects on Socio-Economic Development**

Domestic violence, affects women's ability to act in the world. This serves as a break on socio-economic development. The development-community has come to realize that such problems as higher fertility, deforestation, poverty and hunger cannot be solved without Women's full participation. And yet women cannot lend their labour or creative ideas fully when they are burdened with physical and psychological scars of abuse.

The research key informants (NGOs) reveals that the scars of victimization can also lead to lower future educational attainment and income levels for women who are abused. Incentives abuse affected income indirectly through its impact on educational attainment and mental and physical health status.

Violence against women can also thwart the development of the wider community through its effects on women's participation in development projects. This study found out why women stop participating in projects, that threats from men were major cause. Men perceived the growing empowerment of their wives as a threat to their control, and use beating to try to revise this process of empowerment

Simply attending a meeting may be dangerous for a woman whose husband does not want her to go. Some husbands prevent their wives from attending meetings by locking them in the house, or by pursuing them to the meeting and dragging them home. Men may use force to divert the benefit of development from women. Victims of domestic violence in Kazo county Kiruhura District reported that men frequently beat their wives to get their earnings.

#### **4.3.2 Effects on Maternal Health**

Pregnancy should be in a time when the health and well-being of women are especially respected but pregnant women are prime targets for abuse. It is indicated that one of every six pregnant women was battered during her pregnancy. In this study 20% of the respondents interviewed reported blows to the stomach during pregnancy and 60% of the battered women who sought judicial intervention against their partners in Kazo county Kiruhura District reported being beaten during pregnancy and the rest reported miscarriages due to domestic violence.

Unwanted pregnancies due to acts of violence, unsafe abortions, infections with sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS combine with the inadequate health and counseling services, take their toll on the health of women and result in the high rate of mortality among women of reproductive age female lives are cut short sex-selective abortion, female infanticide and neglect of nutrition and health.

Domestic violence may also be responsible for a sizeable share of maternal mortality, especially among pregnant women. Homicide and suicide motivated by stigma of rape, pregnancy outside of marriage, or beatings or dowry problems accounts for maternal deaths. The rise of deaths due to botched abortions included, many of which are like wise related to shame over pregnancies outside marriages. Among all deaths of women aged 15-44 (not just maternal deaths), intentional injuries also accounts for deaths due to homicide and suicide outnumber those due to abortion.

#### **4.3.3 Effects on Family Planning**

Many women limit the use of contraceptives of fear of male reprisal. Many men reject both controls because they think it signals a woman's intention to be unfaithful, based on the logic that protection against pregnancy allows a woman to be promiscuous. And where fathering children is a sign of verunability, a woman's request to use birth control may be interpreted as an effort to her's masculinity. Although the male partner's approval is not always the deciding factor, the study has found that it was the single greatest predictors of women's contraceptive use.

When partners disapprove, women resort to family planning methods they can use without their partner's knowledge. The unspoken reality behind this sabotage is that women can be abused if they do not comply with men's sexual and child bearing demands. The respondents recounted the story of young married mother running away from her husband who beat her regularly. Although he earned a decent wage, the woman's husband refused to maintain her and their two children. To avoid bringing in to the world more children whom she could not feed, the woman began using birth control without her husband's consent. When she failed to bring forth more children the beating began; they became more brutal when he learned that she was using contraceptives hence leading to divorce of the couples.

Although there are no studies to quantify the cost of domestic violence against women, this research reveals that such violence exacts heavy human and economic toll and cost to nations. Loss of productivity resulting from injures, disability being imprisoned, absenteeism from work and pre-mature deaths and the costs for health care, legal fees and police investigations



are mere examples. The study shows that women who are violated also become violators of children those children who grow up in situations of violence grow up to accept violence as a norm.

Loss of self worth, the erosion of women's self esteem and self worth is one of the most devastating effects. 90% of the politicians, opinion leaders and community leaders reported that a lot of victims of femicide (the murder of women by men) are women who have endured other forms of domestic violence for long periods, often escaping and then going back to situation of violence, because of their perceived helplessness.

Women victims of domestic violence such as marital rape, defilement and physical abuse carry physical and psychological injuries for the rest of their lives. With the prevalence of HIV/AIDS, rape and other forms of sexual abuse are essentially a death sentence. The risk of unwanted pregnancies, other sexual transmitted diseases, mental, psychological and physical injuries torments every victim of domestic violence. Consequences include miscarriages or threatened abortion as a result of battling. The social stigma associated with domestic violence also leads to reluctance of victims to seek redress.

#### **4.3.4 Effects on STDs and AIDS prevention**

The research revealed that male violence can impede women's ability to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). Domestic Violence can increase woman's risk through non-consensual sex or by limiting her willingness or ability to get her partner use a condom. Suggesting condom use is even more threatening than raising birth control in general, because condoms are associated with promiscuity, prostitution, and disease. A woman's act of bringing up condom use can be perceived as insinuating her infidelity or implicitly challenging a male partner's right to conduct outside relationships, either way; it may trigger a violent response.

In a home/relationship characterized by fighting, quarreling and abusive exchange between couples, partners are likely to engage in extra marital affairs as a way of seeking solace. In relationships characterized by physical violence, it creates fear among women who may

therefore not be able to negotiate condom use or safe sex for fear of being beaten or abandoned.

Engaging in multiple/extra marital affairs is sexual violence. It takes away the sexual dignity of the other partner and above all exposes both partners to HIV infection. When a woman perceives that her husband is having multiple partners and therefore likely to infect her, she may be reluctant to engage in sexual relations with him. Her resistance in turn may be met with physical violence and coercion or threats of financial neglect or total abandonment by their partners. As a result of this, women end up having sexual intercourse with unfaithful partners well aware of the risk.

Often times, rape has occurred in relationship where the man is HIV positive and the women are not, which leaves such women vulnerable to HIV infection. Many men who use force/aggression with their sexual partners do it because they believe they have power over their partner's bodies. Some of them feel that they should die with their wives because they cannot bear the thought of leaving her for someone else.

Furthermore, once women test HIV positive, the study shows that they are often at increased risk of violence from their partners. It was found out that HIV positive women were more two and half times more likely to have experienced violence by their partners than HIV negative women. Women are in danger of being beaten, abandoned or thrown out of their homes if they reveal an HIV positive status, a fact that often prevents them from accessing treatment. A woman if found positive may fail to tell her partner for fear of being beaten. This becomes more risky because she may infect or re-infect her partner or the unborn child if she is pregnant, which results into the transfer HIV to even the next generation. Cases have been reported of pregnant women who refuse to take nevirapine for protecting the unborn for the fear of being beaten if the husband finds out that she is HIV positive.

Denial of sex by one partner may lead the other partner to look for it elsewhere thus creating an entry point for HIV infection for such a couple. Due to the unhappiness in the home some women who believe that love charms can help them sort out family problems have ended up

consulting unscrupulous local healers who usually take advantage of their problems and have sex with them as treatment. If the doctor is infected she will certainly bring disease to the home. Sometimes due to the violence in the home couples tend to temporarily separate, and during this time one of them can get tempted into another relationship and may end up with HIV and when they get back together which often times is the case, she/he may infect the other partner.

Exposure to economic violence, many women are profited from work by their intimate partners who often times refuse to provide for their needs. In the process women become further vulnerable transactional sex for economic gains thus increasing the risk of HIV.

Women often times do not have the social and economic power necessary to insist on condom use in relationships. Socially women do not have a say regarding sexual issues. Men have the economic as well as social power to decide how, when and where to have sex. Women therefore cannot freely choose safer sexual practices or refuse sexual activities as such as unable to negotiate for safe sex.

#### **4.4 Factors For The Increased Prevalence Of Domestic Violence**

The research from household interviews found out that domestic violence is the result of complex interplay of individual, socio-cultural and environmental factor. At the individual level, biological factors such as temperament, aggression and impulsivity combined with low education attainment, low self-esteem, substance abuse and socialization are some of the characteristics that increased the likelihood of being a victim of perpetrator of domestic violence.

##### **4.4.1 Socio-Cultural Factors**

The unequal relation between females and males in Kazo County is the root cause of domestic violence (gender based violence). The legitimized subordination of women in society, including the treatment of women as the property of men through the practices such as payment of bride price perpetuates domestic violence against women.

The low status and value generally accorded to women throughout the life cycle is also a key to determining factor for the way they are revealed. Females and males are socialized differently. The females to serve and produce, the men are to lead and be served. Females are perceived and even socialized to believe that they are weak, inferior and needing directions, and discipline. Further, key are socialized to the belief that they exist for the sole purpose of satisfying men's needs and desires. Males are specialised to demand and expect services from women and to treat them as inferior.

#### **4.4.2 Traditions and Customs**

Used to justify the subordination and violation of women's rights, among the Ugandan tribes, girls are trained to kneel before men from childhood and throughout their lives. A married women is expected to kneel before her husband whenever talking to him or serving him. This encourages female subordination; women are the gate keepers of the traditions, customs, practices and attitudes passed on through generation. Those who do not toe to the line are ostracized by the society and endure violence of different types.

#### **4.4.3 Beliefs and Attitudes**

Also the researcher discovered that the powerlessness of women is worsened by her lack of exposure, illiteracy and low education, which also limits their choices to better life. The treatment of domestic violence as a private affair allows, the crime to continue without meaningful intervention from law enforcements.

#### **4.4.4 Legal Factors**

Information from NGO interviews confirmed that lack of access to legal services, justice, protection for the victims and their properties is a major factor in denying women their rights and the perpetrators of domestic violence often go away unpunished. Negative attitudes of prosecutors, magistrate, judges, community leaders and others in the law enforcement sectors leave victims of domestic violence traumatized even further. This is because it is perpetrated under the privacy of the home and family and it should be settled domestically.

#### **4.4.5 Lack of Commitment by Government**

Lack of commitment by government to implement the International Instruments (UN Declaration of Human Rights) is also a key factor leading to the unfair treatment of the victims. Views from NGO informants reviled that government failed to pass the domestic relations bill which was supposed to protect women from domestic violence. Inadequate legal provision to meet the commitment and women's ignorance of their rights and responsibilities of a government and society in combating domestic violence as the contributing factors.

#### **4.4.6 Economic Dependency**

The denial of the rights to work, forced surrender of women's incomes to husband, grabbing of widow's property by relatives of the deceased husband, women's lack of economic references, deprivations of necessities such as food and basic like clothing are manifestation of economic violence. Men take advantage of their control and women lack access to economic resources to inflict emotional violence on them. This makes them dependent to their husbands for each and everything they desire to have in life.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the conclusions from the study and the recommendations made are presented. The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis.

#### 5.2 Summary of Findings

A study conducted to assess the causes and effects of gender based violence on women in Kazo County as a case study was intended to examine and analyze agency issues like how women's decision can be best handled so as to set free women from all forms of gender discrimination. The study covered age bracket from 20 and. The results indicate that the majority of the total respondents are victims of domestic violence as a result of low status accorded to females compared to male and the unequal power relation between females and males.

The totals of 50 respondents were interviewed in this study whereby 30 were female and 10 were male. This is because the male were not willing to take part in this particular research; finally, policy recommendation were drawn that the researcher saw necessary in respond to the evil of domestic violence that has for long corrupted the rights of gender especially on female

#### 5.2 Conclusion

Basing on the case study of Kazo County, it has been found out that Gender based violence as shown above has diverse effects for not only the intimate partners but their children, men who these women are engaged to, community and nation as well. It posses strong health as well as economic challenges, it is due to such glaring gaps that the abstinence, being faithful and condom use (ABC) strategy of HIV prevention has failed to protect women especially from HIV infections. For example how can a woman abstain in a potentially marriage, initiate relationship when they can easily be coerced or forced into sex? How can being faithful prevent a woman from getting AIDS when her partner is engaged in multiple sexual relations?

How can using condoms protect women from HIV when they cannot even negotiate for safe sex?

Gender based violence and HIV/AIDS are therefore strongly inter-related. Addressing one in isolation of the other will not translate into reduced rates of infections especially among women and the next generation. The issues presented above therefore present numerous challenges for the HIV/AIDS prevention campaign in Uganda today. It calls for other approaches that essentially change the gender based power inequalities between women and men and should be focused on addressing domestic violence and HIV/AIDS among the young people of the future of our country is to be secured.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

The following are the recommendations that I see as necessary to make response of the government to domestic violence more pragmatic than what is the theoretically portrayed today. There is need to implement or to do the following:-

Pay increased attention to the needs of rural women and eliminate all forms of discrimination with respect to the ownership, co-sharing and inheritance of land; introduce measures to address negative customs and traditional practices, especially in rural areas, which affect full employment of the right to property by women.

The government must continue to include women from all ethnic groups affected by armed conflicts in national reconciliation and peace building initiatives and peace negotiations. The government must include in peace negotiation, measures of accountability, redress and rehabilitation of women and girls who have been victims of violence including enslavement in those conflicts.

Introduce a comprehensive program of gender mainstreaming in all government ministries and a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign, including for civil servants with regard to the constitutional provisions and the International Conventions to which Uganda is a party.

Widely disseminate literature and policies relating to gender equality and discrimination to the population in their local languages in order to make the people and public authorities aware of the steps that have been taken with regard to *de jure* and *de facto* equality for women and the future steps that are required in that regard, the government must also disseminate widely, and in particular to women's and human rights organizations, the said policies as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, International Convention and the results of the twenty third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2002: Gender, Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty First Century." The women organizations and human rights groups in particular help in assessing the implementation of government's commitment to its international obligations as well as to its own domestic legal requirements.

Accelerate the law reform process to harmonize domestic legislation with the constitutional principles related to non-discrimination and equality between women and men; undertake the speedy enactment of the Domestic Relations Bill and the sexual offences Bill; introduce public education and legal literacy campaigns relating to the convention and the international and national commitments on the elimination and discrimination against women.

The government should carry out an assessment of the extent to which all its gender policies have impacted on the ordinary women in the rural areas, by way of uplifting her from the subject of poverty she is facing, or the policies have empowered all the women, most importantly the rural ones. This is the only way to find out if the government response to domestic violence and gender discrimination has been effective. There should be an assessment of these policies in particular, the National Action Plan on Women 1999 and the National Gender Policy, 1997. The Action Plan on Women was a five-year policy, meaning that it ended in 2003, however there is no record of its effectiveness in addressing the issues that it was intended to solve. I recommend that it be revitalized.

Adopt an accessible complaints procedure to enforce constitutional guarantees; introduce literacy campaigns to make women especially in the rural areas, aware of their constitutional



rights and of the means to enforce them; this can be developed in cooperation with women's groups, aid programs to enable women to demand the enforcement of their rights.

Strengthen efforts to address attitude about the roles and responsibilities of women and men. To ensure that these efforts are effective, there is need to include education measures at all levels, the revision of school textbooks and curricula, and awareness – raising and public education campaigns directed at women and men to eradicate the stereotype attitude. The government must also undertake an assessment of the impact of these measures in order to identify shortcoming and to improve them accordingly.

Place high priority on comprehensive measures to address violence against women and girls. This can be done through enactment of legislation on domestic violence, including marital rape, as soon as possible in order to ensure that violence against women and girls constitutes a criminal offence that women and girls are victims have access to immediate means to redress and protection and that perpetrators prosecuted and punished.

Undertake gender sensitive training for all public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel, the judiciary, and health workers; establish counseling services for victims of violence against women; enhance efforts to address genital mutilation in order to eradicate this practices.

Intensify efforts to encourage women to take up leadership positions through further temporary special measures aimed at making women stand in their own individual capacity, as women and not on the current affirmative action policy which makes women look incapable of pausing a political force to reckon with without the support of men. There is need to offer or support programmes for current and future women leaders and undertake awareness raising campaigns on the importance of women's participation in decision making.

Take urgent steps to reconcile passport regulations to comply with the provisions of the constitution and the International Conventions to which Uganda is a party.

Enact a national employment policy and special measures to create employment opportunities for women. Introduce specific legislation, with accessible procedures and compensation for victims, and penalties for perpetrators, to address sexual harassment in the workplace.

Develop programs of action relating to prostitution and introduce legislation to ensure the prosecution of and stronger penalties for, those who are engaged in the exploitation of female prostitutes, expand national programs for women's economic empowerment; pay full attention to the provisions of health services for prostitutes so as to curb the rise in HIV/AIDS.

Design and implement national health programs, including reproductive health programs, to prevent early pregnancies and induced abortions in rural and urban areas. This can be through a reinforcement of programs for sexual and reproductive health education for both girls and boys.

Continue to intensify the implementation of gender-sensitive, poverty reduction programs in rural and urban areas. The government should continue to develop targeted policies and support services for women aimed at alleviating and reducing poverty.

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## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE COMMUNITY

**Dear respondent,**

I am a student of Kampala International University carrying out an academic research on the topic "Causes and effects of gender based violence in Kazo County." You have been randomly selected to participate in the study and are therefore kindly requested to provide an appropriate answer by either ticking the best option or give explanation where applicable. The answers provided will only be used for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

NB: do not write your name anywhere on this paper.

### A) Personal Information

1. Sex

(a) Male

(b) Female

2. AGE

(a) 25-30

(b) 31-35

(c) 36-40

(d) 41 and above

3. Education level

(a) Not sure

(b) primary

(c) Secondary

(d) college

4. Occupation

(a) Farmer

(b) Teacher

(c) Business man

(d) House wife

(e) Layer

6. What are some of the causes of domestic violence in your area?

.....  
.....

7. Who are the victims of domestic violence in your area?

.....  
.....

8. What are some of the reasons why children are abused in your area?

.....  
.....

9. Have you or any of your relative ever suffered any form of domestic violence?

Yes

No

10. If yes what form of violence have you suffered?

.....  
.....

11. Did you report the abuse you or your relatives suffered?

Yes

No

12. If yes where did you report to?

.....  
.....

13. What has the community leaders in your area done to stop domestic violence?

.....  
.....

14. What are some of the measures that you think government can take to stop domestic violence?

.....  
.....

## INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR NGO OFFICIALS

- 1) How many cases of domestic violence reported in your constituency?  
.....
- 2) State the types and forms of domestic violence mentioned above  
.....
- 3) What do you think are the major causes of domestic violence?  
.....
- 4) Of what impacts/effects is domestic violence to women in your constituent or in your society?  
.....
- 5) What do you think the people in the area should do to eliminate domestic violence?  
.....

**INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS**

1) How many families/homes in your community?

.....  
.....

2) (a) Have you ever had cases of domestic violence in these families?

Yes                      No

(b) If Yes, state the types of domestic violence

.....

3) What do you think are the major cause of domestic violence in your community?

.....  
.....

4) What are the effects/impacts of domestic violence in your community?

.....

5) What do you think the people in the area should do to eliminate domestic violence?

.....